

From the day they begin their active duty, members of the National Guard and Reserves must deal with the difficult challenge of paying their bills and extra living expenses while serving their country.

To help ease this burden, soldiers placed on active duty are entitled to a Basic Allowance of Housing, which pays for their housing costs. Soldiers receive it when they do not live on a military base. The exact amount depends on grade, dependency status, and geographic location.

If members of the National Guard and Reserves serve less than 140 days, they receive Level II Basic Allowance of Housing. If they serve more than 140 days, they receive Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

Level II Basic Allowance of Housing is similar to the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing, but it does not include adjustments for expensive housing markets, such as Honolulu or New York City.

This policy hurts soldiers placed on short tours of duty in expensive housing markets. For example, an O-1 officer in Honolulu will receive \$410.70 per month under Level II. Under Level I, that same soldier would receive \$953.00.

The current law costs soldiers hundreds of dollars every month. Soldiers should not have to wait 140 days before receiving the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

On November 13, 2001, I introduced H.R. 3280 to correct this. It will reduce the number of active duty days required for the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing from 140 to 60 days.

We ask members of the National Guard and Reserves to serve without hesitation to defend our nation. We must ensure that all soldiers in the military are paid enough money to cover their housing costs.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and support H.R. 3280.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MAGUIRE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Cathy Maguire as she completes her tenure as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).

Fifty-two years ago, when VICA was founded, the San Fernando Valley was a predominantly rural and agricultural area north of Los Angeles; today, the Valley is a vital part of our nation's second-largest metropolitan area—thanks in part to the leadership of VICA.

Since Cathy Maguire was elected Chairman of VICA in 1999, the Valley business commu-

nity has benefitted from having a tenacious, committed and vocal advocate with representation at all levels of government from L.A. City Hall to Capitol Hill.

Cathy Maguire has led two delegations of business leaders to our nation's capitol to meet with United States Senators, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and senior staff of both the Clintons and Bush Administrations.

VICA has taken a leadership role on Social Security reform, small business development, aviation and airports, water quality and reliability, a patient's bill of rights and telecommunications issues under the keen leadership of Cathy Maguire.

As California faced an energy crisis this year, VICA played an important role in discussing solutions with the Administration as well as with our colleagues in Congress—working to ensure that California had reliable, affordable supplies of energy.

And while our nation mourned the losses of September 11, 2001, VICA and its Chairman have worked to minimize the impacts on Southern California's economy, convening the region's first Economic Impacts Summit and advocating in Washington on behalf of an economic stimulus for local businesses impacted by the tragic events.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join us in honoring Cathy Maguire for her leadership and accomplishments as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2001, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call number 465, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 2299, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2002.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 465.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DAVID PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, David Peoples serves as a Police Officer in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has been named "Police Officer of the Month" by the National Law Enforcer's Memorial Fund for his unmatched service to his community; and;

Whereas, Mr. Peoples is helpful, honest, active, hardworking and dedicated to both his department and law enforcement; and,

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has received the "Exceptional Service Medal," the "Life Saving Medal" and the "Silver Torch" for his efforts in saving and protecting the citizens of Ohio;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing David Peoples for his commitment and dedication to making lives better in

our area. I am honored to call him a constituent.

HOMELAND EMERGENCY RE- SPONSE OPERATIONS (HERO) ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, Tim Grimmond, the Police Chief of El Segundo, a small town in my district, came to me with a little problem called "public safety radio interoperability."

Basically, he explained, police departments are organized by city and county jurisdictions. Criminals are not.

And the radios carried by the police in El Segundo were not always compatible with the radios carried by the L.A. County sheriffs or police departments in neighboring towns like Redondo and Manhattan Beach.

As a result, law enforcement agencies pursuing a suspect couldn't talk to each other on the radio. They sometimes resorted to hand signals out car windows to communicate. Or they used a jerry-rigged system of radio-patching and multiple radios to make it work.

The problem was not with the equipment. The problem was the shortage of spectrum—the airwaves used for radio and TV.

Police and fire departments had not been allocated enough of the spectrum for their radios to be interoperable.

In response to Chief Grimmond's concerns, I introduced legislation that directed the FCC to license unused frequencies to public safety agencies. This bill became law.

The same year, Congress took another major step towards interoperability. It directed the FCC to allocate to public safety users 24 megahertz of spectrum licensed to analog television stations. Congress set a deadline of 2006 for that transition.

Unfortunately, that law also left a big loophole. It said the TV stations don't have to move to new spectrum until 85 percent of the household have a TV that can receive digital TV signals.

Currently, only 1 percent of homes in the U.S. meet that criteria.

So unless we act now, public safety agencies will *never* be able to use the spectrum that Congress promised them back in 1997.

That means * * * fire departments will continue to have problems talking at the scenes of major fires. Police and sheriff's departments chasing a suspect across city and county jurisdictions will still not be able to communicate by radio. Police officers on the beat will still worry about hitting a "dead spot" where their radios don't work because of interference or poor signal penetration.

The HERO Act that I and my colleagues, Rep. WELDON of PA, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MORAN of VA, Mr. MCINTYRE, BALLENGER, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN are introducing here today eliminates that 85 percent threshold requirement—but only for channels 63, 64, 68 and 69, which the FCC allocated to public safety at Congress' direction in 1997.

Our bill directs the FCC to assign the frequencies Congress promised to public safety agencies by *the end of 2006*.