

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of House Resolution 335, honoring the commitment of our Nation's Catholic Schools to excellence. Catholic schools continue to enrich the lives of our children by providing excellent education as well as spiritual enrichment.

The numbers speak for themselves. Catholic schools boast a 95 percent graduation rate, with 83 percent of students continuing on to higher education. But the Catholic school experience fosters more than just scholastic excellence. Catholic schools provide spiritual guidance to students, instilling in them fundamental values that are crucial to the overall development of these students. Catholic schoolchildren gain an appreciation of the importance of family values, community service, and faith in their lives. This, in turn, shapes Catholic school students into leaders of tomorrow.

I am proud of the Catholic schools in my district that continue to establish such high standards—Saint John LaLande in Blue Springs, Bishop Hogan Memorial in Chillicothe, Saint Andrew the Apostle in Gladstone, Saint Patrick and Saint Therese in Kansas City; Saint James in Liberty, Saint Gregory Barbarigo in Maryville, Saint Charles Borromeo in Oakview, Bishop LeBlond High School, Co-Cathedral, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint James and Saint Patrick in Saint Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the contributions of our Catholic schools and look forward to their continued achievement.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE SIXTIETH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE CIVIL AIR PA- TROL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution honoring the Civil Air Patrol for sixty years of service to the nation.

Founded on December 1, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol was originally charged with mobilizing civilian pilots in domestic defense and rescue missions under the Office of Civilian Defense during World War II. CAP pilots would serve with distinction logging over 500,000 hours of flying time, sinking two German U-boats, and performing hundreds of search and rescue missions.

With the end of hostilities, CAP's responsibilities only grew. On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed Public Law 476, incorporating CAP as a benevolent, nonprofit organization. And on May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 which permanently established CAP as the Auxiliary of the newly created U.S. Air Force. For the next fifty-four years CAP would mobilize its resources to fulfill its Congressionally mandated mission of providing aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services to the American public.

The CAP cadet program has trained over 750,000 youth in leadership and life skills over the course of the past sixty years. During that same period, CAP pilots have flown over one million hours on search and rescue missions, saving several thousand lives. In 1951, CAP initiated its aerospace education program which has since trained over 300,000 teachers in math and science, as they relate to aviation. These teachers have, in turn, taught over 18 million students.

I humbly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Civil Air Patrol on this, their sixtieth anniversary.

HONORING NURSE EXECUTIVE LORNA BONYHADI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lorna Bonyhadi on the occasion of her retirement as Nurse Executive for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Bonyhadi has served veterans for the past 38 years and has been an advocate for both patients and nurses.

Ms. Bonyhadi completed her bachelor's degree at Ohio State University in Columbus and graduated Summa Cum Laude. She received her master's degree from California State University in Fresno with distinction.

Ms. Bonyhadi's career working in VA hospitals has taken her all across the country. The majority of her career however, has been spent in Fresno. From 1967–1973 she served in the VA Medical Center in 1990 as the Associate Chief of Nursing Service for the Ambulatory and Critical Care units. Since 1997, Ms. Bonyhadi has been the Nurse Executive of the VA Central California Health Care System. Outside Fresno, Ms. Bonyhadi served as Head Nurse, Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Specialist, Educational Coordinator, and other positions in a variety of VA Medical centers in Ohio, San Francisco, Minnesota, Georgia, and Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Bonyhadi on her retirement and thank her for her tireless service to our nation's veterans. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Bonyhadi for a job well done and wishing her many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD W. ADAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Jerry Adams, who recently retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he served as Executive Officer of the Kansas City District. He has distinguished himself, the Corps and our nation with dedicated service.

Mr. Adams began his career with the Corps in 1966 in the drafting section, where he worked with draftsmen and mathematicians on channel stabilization projects. Soon he became leader of this group. In 1975, Mr. Adams served as supervisor and project manager of the Corps' part in the celebration of the nation's bicentennial. In this role, Mr. Adams directed the operation and manning of the *Sergeant Floyd* and two mobile displays. The *Sergeant Floyd*, a 1932 channel reconnaissance boat, was converted into a floating museum telling the 200-year history of the Corps. Its 13-man crew traveled more than 20,000 miles over 18 months. The *Floyd's* multimedia theater was duplicated in two mobile displays that traveled America for 14 months, visiting many of the country's landmarks. Under Mr. Adams' leadership, the Corps won the Silver Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society for the bicentennial effort.

Following the bicentennial project, Mr. Adams was appointed chief of the District's Emergency Management section. During his 12 year tenure, the one-person office became a stand-alone division with six full-time employees. Mr. Adams office was regarded as the premier emergency management office in the Corps. Mr. Adams established associations with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army which brought great credit upon the Corps and the District.

In 1989 Mr. Adams assumed duties as the Executive Officer. In this position Mr. Adams was an active member of the senior staff and participated in numerous organization and events. He helped to organize employees' donations to the combined federal campaign. Mr. Adams was also involved in supporting the creation of Day of Caring, today a nation wide volunteering event. Mr. Adams is a member of the Society of Government Meeting Planners, having served as president, the Mid-America Regional Council, chairing the Emergency Preparedness Committee, and is active in the Boy Scouts. He is the holder of the Bronze deFleury Medal and numerous other awards from local commanders, community leaders and members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Adams has dedicated over 35 years to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As he prepares for this next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Jerry all the best.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform you that I was unavoidably detained during two votes:

H. Res. 330—rollcall 3—Expressing the Sense of the House Regarding the Benefits of Mentoring. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

S. 1762—rollcall 4—Extending the Current Index for Student Loan Interest Rates and Extending Current Law with Respect to Special Allowance for Lenders. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DEREK E. BROOMES,
CPA**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Derek E. Broomes, CPA, an esteemed administrator and public policy expert who is being honored on February 1 by the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) and The Friends of Derek E. Broomes at a Special Black History Month Tribute program in the Bronx.

Mr. Broomes is an influential leader in the Bronx's economic business development, particularly in the area of minority business. Since 1995, when he became the first Chief Financial Officer of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), Mr. Broomes has been the key component to the bolstering of economic development programs and small business initiatives for the Bronx. Among his many accomplishments is the role that he played in the establishment of the first SBA 504 Certified Development Company in the Bronx, the Bronx Initiative Corporation (BIC). The revitalization of the Bronx is also significantly due to the organizational and financial structure that Mr. Broomes developed for the Bronx Empowerment Zone. The Bronx Empowerment Zone is one of approximately 9 such Zones in the United States. The Empowerment Zone initiative aims to bring communities together through public and private partnerships in order to attract the investment necessary for sustainable economic and community development. Mr. Broomes took this initiative and made it a reality in the Bronx. He helped Bronx leaders identify the specific problems that the community's businesses faced and acted as a consultant to the Bronx borough president to actively address and alleviate these problems.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Broomes has held myriad important positions throughout his illustrious career. He has served as the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Contracting Officer for the New York City Human Resources administration. He also held the position of Inspector General with the New York City's Department of Investigation. Beyond Mr. Broomes' extensive professional feats, he also possesses a distinguished list of honors and credentials.

Originally from Guyana, Mr. Broomes spent his young adulthood being educated at London's esteemed institutions. He received a diploma in Economics and Finance from London's School of Economics and diplomas in Mathematics and Physics from the University of London. Mr. Broomes continued his education in the United States by earning a Masters of Science/CPA degree in Public Accounting and Finance from the Graduate School of the City University of New York and also attending New York University Graduate School of Business.

In 2000, I presented Mr. Broomes with the Congressional Outstanding Achievement Award to commend and thank him for all that he has done to promote economic progress in the Bronx. I feel it necessary to honor him once again for all of the work that he has done in the past two years and for being recognized by the reputable CACCI, an organization that also elected him as Chairman of the Board in 2000. He was also recently appointed Finance Chairman for the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts of Lehman College of City University of New York.

There is no question in my mind as to why Mr. Broomes is being honored by his colleagues and neighbors this February 1. I urge my esteemed colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Derek E. Broomes for his outstanding achievements and invaluable contributions to the Bronx.

HONORING MR. HENRY BROWN,
BROWARD COUNTY'S TEACHER
OF THE YEAR AND STATE OF
FLORIDA'S TEACHER OF THE
YEAR 2002**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Henry Brown, Broward County's Teacher of the Year 2002 and the State of Florida's Teacher of the Year 2002, being named a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown is one of only four teachers from around the United States named as a finalist for the title of the nation's top teacher! This is the first time in Broward's history—and only the seventh time for the State—that a Florida teacher has made it to the national level.

Considered an at-risk student when he was in elementary school, Mr. Brown experienced many of the same problems today's students face. It wasn't until the day when a teacher saw a spark in young Henry and took an interest that he turned his life around.

Because Mr. Brown has "been there, done that," he understands how to connect with students. It's his ability to reach students and provide a rich learning environment that makes Mr. Brown an outstanding choice for National Teacher of the Year 2002.

Mr. Brown's career began eight years ago as a mathematics teacher at Hallandale Adult/Community Center. Over the years, Mr. Brown has learned that the best way to reach students is to give them a sense of industry rather than a sense of inferiority.

Having a classroom filled with students facing a wide variety of challenges, Mr. Brown

learned early on that he needed different ways of teaching different students. Some of the "real world" activities he uses include resume writing, practicing interviewing skills and calculating sales tax and sales prices using newspaper ads. His approach has proven successful, with his students increasing standardized test scores by an average of 22 percent.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is clear. Mr. Brown is a shining example that no student is a lost cause and that every student can learn and turn their lives around, given the opportunity. All it takes is a good teacher to see a spark and nurture it until it becomes a fire.

HONORING HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN MAR ENOCH**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Eminence Mar Enoch on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of his Episcopacy. Mar Enoch serves the Fresno area and the entire Central Valley in his position as Metropolitan Mar Enoch of the Mar Thoma Orthodox Church.

The Mar Thoma Orthodox Church is associated with the Diocese of Thoziyur, India, and the Indian Orthodox Church. Mar Enoch has devoted his life to his faith and the pastoral service of those in the Orthodox Church. However, Mar Enoch's service extends beyond members of his own faith, to his community and the entire nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate His Eminence Mar Enoch on this anniversary of his Episcopal elevation. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mar Enoch for his community service and wishing him many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO LAFAYETTE COUNTY
C-1 MIDDLE SCHOOL**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I take this means to honor Lafayette County C-1 Middle School for raising \$8,500 for the victims of the tragedy on September 11. These patriotic students and teachers designed, produced and sold t-shirts to honor the victims in New York City and Washington, DC.

After the attacks of September 11, Rhonda Boedeker and Paulette Augustine, teachers at Lafayette County C-1 and Cassie Schmidt, owner of Special Tees decided they wanted to do something to help their fellow Americans. With the help of fifteen local art students, the group worked tirelessly to make their project successful. The students and volunteers donated over 180 hours of their time and sold 2,700 t-shirts. These efforts raised \$8,500 that was donated to the American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, these philanthropists dedicated their time and efforts to help those in need in New York City and Washington, DC. I know that Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to their outstanding commitment to public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health emergency, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote number 5 on Tuesday, January 29, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 355, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. I am pleased to have voted for this bipartisan resolution when it was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives on January 29, 2002.

The successes of Catholic schools can be seen around the country and particularly in my home district. They traditionally have a stronger academic curriculum, greater parental involvement, and few disciplinary problems. Catholic schools teach students not only of the importance of academic achievement, but also provide them with a perspective on life that promotes justice, responsibility and social service. Moreover, catholic schools have considerable ethnic and racial diversity with 25 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities. More children in Catholic schools, go to college, and give back to the community through volunteer service.

While we are honoring the achievements of Catholic schools, we must also look at the reasons that students in Catholic schools are succeeding at greater rates than children in public schools. Dr. Maureen Hallinan with the Institute of Educational Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame is working to do just that. Dr. Hallinana is conducting a comparative analysis of public and non-public schools and their effects on student achievement. This research will identify the characteristics of those schools that successfully promote student achievement, especially for at-risk students. The results will provide immediate and practical input for school personnel in both the public and private sector in helping them design and implement educational reforms to improve the academic performance of all students.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I support this important resolution and encourage catholic schools to continue contributing to the development of strong moral, intellectual and social values in America's young people.

THE INDEPENDENT INVESTMENT
ADVISORS ACT OF 2002**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Independent Investment Advisors Act of 2002.

The sudden and unexpected bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation has raised a multitude of questions and concerns regarding current auditor independence laws. Furthermore, it highlighted the obvious conflict of interest that arises when an auditor has a financial interest in the company he or she is auditing.

In November, 2001, days before filing for Chapter 11, Enron disclosed to the public that it had overstated its profits by more than \$580 million since 1997. This means that for five years, the Enron Corporation lied to its investors and employees about its earnings. At the same time, the company's auditor, Arthur Andersen, entrusted with the responsibility of providing investors with an accurate and honest evaluation of Enron's financial situation, failed to expose Enron's ongoing lies. Though Congressional and judicial investigations may yield otherwise, it is, nonetheless, fair to assume that the millions of dollars Enron was paying Arthur Andersen undoubtedly played a role in the firm's decision not to expose Enron's ongoing lies. In 2000 alone, Enron paid Arthur Andersen more than \$55 million for its audit work and consulting fees.

The most stirring fact surrounding the investigation of Arthur Andersen's failures with Enron is that concerns about auditor independence is nothing new. In a 1984 opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court stated, "It is . . . not enough that financial statements be accurate; the public must also perceive them as being accurate. Public faith in the reliability of a corporation's financial statements depends upon the perception of the outside auditor as an independent professional." Former Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Arthur Levitt, echoed the need for auditor independence during a Senate hearing on January 24, 2002. He noted, "Any reforms must recognize the importance of gatekeepers (auditors) in safeguarding the interests of investors and the fundamental need to preserve and enhance these gatekeepers' independence."

Using the model that Mr. Levitt proposed to a Congressional oversight committee in 2000, I come to the floor today to introduce the Independent Investment Advisors Act of 2002. My bill instructs the SEC to, within 60 days, revise current auditor independence laws to require that investment advisors (individuals or firms) provide full public disclosure of any financial ties to any company he, she, or it, is auditing. In addition, it also bans auditors from purchasing, selling, or engaging in any financial transactions with respect to the company being audited 30 days prior to and 30 days following the release of any financial statement regarding that company.

Mr. Speaker, as the American public continues to deal with the economic affects of September 11 and the ongoing recession, it is essential that Congress do everything it can to restore the public's confidence in the ability of an auditor to provide an independent, accu-

rate, and reliable evaluation of publicly owned enterprises. The Independent Investment Advisors Act of 2002 is a good start in accomplishing this difficult task, and I urge the House to pass it quickly.

HONORING JEFFREY DONALD
GWARTNEY**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Gwarty on the occasion of the end of his term as President of the Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gwarty has served on the Chowchilla Chamber since 1998. Prior to taking office as President in 2001, Mr. Gwarty first served as the Vice President in 2000.

Mr. Gwarty demonstrated his commitment to his community by returning to where he was raised to serve as a professional photographer. He participated in and studied photography and journalism during his years at Chowchilla Union High School and California State University, Fresno, and on into the business world. While his management positions in the photo labs of Wal-Mart took him to Southern California for a time, Mr. Gwarty moved back to Chowchilla at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Gwarty opened his own photography studio in Chowchilla in 1998. He continues to be actively involved in his community. His service on the Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce is a testament to his professionalism and commitment to the community. Jeffrey Gwarty and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of three sons, Jonathan, Jordan, and Joshua.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeffrey Gwarty, for his contribution to Chowchilla and the San Joaquin Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him many more years of continued success.

FOXBORO HAILS PATRIOTS SUPER
BOWL WIN**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we get blamed for things that are not our fault. This is however often offset by occasions when we can bask in the reflected glory generated by the great deeds of others.

As the House Member representing Foxboro where the New England Patriots play their home games, I am in that happy latter situation today. So I express my congratulations to the Patriots for their incredible season, topped off by their dramatic last-minute examples of how to perform under the greatest pressure. The people in the Fourth Congressional District appreciate being the home of the Super Bowl Champs.

DISABILITIES

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention a valuable report on the state of the union for Americans with Disabilities.

As a quadriplegic since the age of 16, I believe that the Americans with Disabilities Act has not only helped me and others with disabilities, but has also enabled society to benefit from the skills and talents of the 54 million individuals with disabilities. The landmark legislation has also provided people with disabilities the chance to lead more productive and satisfying lives that include integration into America's social infrastructure.

However, there is still much to be done so I am pleased to highlight the efforts of the National Organization on Disability, which celebrates the progress of the nation and works to increase access, opportunity, and inclusion for people with disabilities. I would like to submit for the RECORD a copy of the National Organization on Disability's State of the Union 2002 for Americans with Disabilities which provides benchmarks for the current state of disability life in America, and calls for action on improvements that have still to be made:

THE STATE OF THE UNION 2002 FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

The State of the Union Address that President George W. Bush delivered on January 29, 2002, focused on the terrible attacks on the country just over four months ago, and the overwhelming national and international response to them. The President also spoke to the country about the core issues of the nation and his presidency, especially the economy; employment; education; access to the goods and services people want and need; and strengthening the social fiber, commitment to service, and protection of civil rights that are core elements of our national pride.

One large segment of the population that is directly impacted by the issues raised in the President's speech, and the country's approach to those issues, is the disability community. As many as one in five Americans—54 million men, women and children—live with disabilities, as of course do their family members, friends, and service providers. Disabilities run a wide gamut, including mental and physical conditions; visible and non-visible ones; conditions that people are born with, or develop during their lifetimes as a result of illness, age, accident, or attack; and ones that have varying degrees of severity. But all fall within a common definition: They in some way limit people's ability to participate fully in one or more major life activities. Nobody should dismiss disability issues as unimportant to them, for any person can join the disability community in an instant.

As detailed below, Americans with disabilities remain pervasively disadvantaged in all aspects of American life. In his second week in office, President Bush sent a strong message of concern about this situation when he announced the New Freedom Initiative. Coming a decade after his father signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the New Freedom Initiative lays out an ambitious agenda for assuring the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of American life. The New Freedom Initiative holds much promise. We look forward to

working with the government and the American people to bring it to fruition.

The Disability Community in a Changed World

September 11 and its aftermath stunned, shook and saddened the nation. The terrorist attacks made all Americans, especially those touched by disabilities, reevaluate our lifestyles, and consider what we could change to better protect ourselves and our loved ones.

The nation was moved to learn of wheelchair users who perished while awaiting rescue when the World Trade Center towers fell. We also were inspired by the stories of several people who had severe disabilities and survived. One man escaped after walking down dozens of flights of stairs on his artificial leg, and another with the aid of his guide dog. Two wheelchair users were carried to safety by their colleagues.

These survivors, like many of the others who escaped before the towers collapsed, benefited from intensive emergency drills that had been conducted since the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. Their survival is testament to how critical emergency planning and preparedness is—whether the emergency is natural, man-made or terrorist-driven. This has inspired a new focus in the disability community on disaster preparedness.

According to a late 2001 Harris Poll survey released by the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.), 58 percent of people with disabilities say they do not know whom to contact about emergency plans for their community in the event of a terrorist attack or other crisis. Sixty-one percent say that they have not made plans to quickly and safely evacuate their home. Among those who are employed full or part time, 50 percent say no plans have been made to safely evacuate their workplace.

All these percentages are higher than for those without disabilities. The country as a whole has much catching up to do to be prepared, but people with disabilities lag behind everyone else. This is a critical discrepancy, because those of us with disabilities must in fact be better prepared to not be at a disadvantage in an emergency.

Intense national planning for emergencies is needed. This requires the enthusiastic cooperation of the government, business, and communities. People with disabilities should not be considered only as beneficiaries of emergency preparedness plans devised by others—they belong at the table, contributing their unique perspectives, insights and experiences, so the resultant plans will be the best for all Americans. People with disabilities must be included on community preparedness committees across the nation and at the highest levels of government planning. We are pleased that Office of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge has pledged to appoint at least one person with a disability to a high-level position in his organization.

Employment

The slowing economy was a significant issue before September 11, and this situation became more critical after the terrorist attacks. This is not an easy time for anyone to enter the workforce, but that is what many people with disabilities are desperately trying to do.

Only 32 percent of Americans with disabilities of working age are employed full or part time. That number is in contrast to 81 percent of other Americans, according to the comprehensive 2000 N.O.D./Harris Survey of Americans with Disabilities. It is a national tragedy that, nearly a dozen years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the vast majority of Americans with disabilities remain unemployed. This is not by choice; two out of three who are not employed say they would prefer to be working. Any efforts that lead to their becoming em-

ployed are good investments that will benefit these individuals, the workforce, and the economy.

President Bush has demonstrated a commitment to greater employment for people with disabilities in the New Freedom Initiative. We now call on the President and the Congress to keep employment a priority and work together toward a national goal of 38 percent employment for people with disabilities by 2005, with continuing progress toward 50 percent in the decade to follow.

Indeed, employment numbers should be increasing, if for no other reason than there are new ways for people to be employed. Technology offers real hope. Computers and the Internet are opening doors. People who are deaf use "instant messaging" to have real-time conversations; people who are blind use voice-synthesis technology to write and read documents and website information, and people with limited ability to get to an office have new ways to work from home. Use of the Internet by people with disabilities is growing rapidly, in fact at twice the pace of other Americans.

Too often, even when people with disabilities find jobs, they are low-level, low-paying jobs. Yet it is well documented that employers find employees with disabilities excel at all levels. In the healthcare and education sectors, for example, there is room for many more people with disabilities.

The disability community is troubled by two recent employment-related Supreme Court decisions that undercut this group's primary civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act. Last February's *Barrett v. Alabama* decision threatened the implementation of the ADA. This month's decision in *Toyota v. Williams* continues a disturbing trend by the Court to narrow the ADA's protections, and caused one of the 1990 law's Congressional authors to suggest revisiting the statute so that it meets the goal of expansive, not restrictive, coverage for workers with disabilities. People with disabilities belong in the workforce, and Congress must indeed make it a priority to strengthen and defend the legislation that affirms employment as a natural expectation. The Supreme Court will hear other cases that test the ADA. The Court must recognize that when it interprets the will of Congress and the Constitution, it has the opportunity to strengthen rather than weaken the ADA—and strengthening it reflects the will of the vast majority of Americans.

Income Levels

It is not surprising, given the lower rate of employment for people with disabilities, that a significant income gap exists between those with and without disabilities. People who have disabilities are roughly three times as likely to live in poverty, with annual household incomes below \$15,000 (29 percent versus 10 percent). Conversely, people with disabilities are less than half as likely to live in households that earn more than \$50,000 annually (16 percent versus 39 percent). This income gap contributes to and compounds the disadvantages that people with disabilities face.

Access to Transportation

People who have disabilities often have insufficient access to transportation, with 30 percent citing this as a problem—three times the rate of the non-disabled. This creates a catch-22 situation: How can one have a job if one cannot get to it? How can one afford transportation if one does not have a job? There is an urgent need for more and better disability-friendly transportation in the cities and towns of Americans.

Access to Health Care

Health care is also less accessible to Americans with disabilities, who often are the

citizens needing it most. Due in large part to their limited employment and reduced discretionary income, people with disabilities are more than twice as likely to delay needed health care because they cannot afford it (28 percent versus 12 percent of others).

There is a critical need for further legislation to protect people with disabilities who need medical treatment, and aid them in getting their needed medications. Congress and the Administration must pass the patients' bill of rights; expand health insurance coverage to cover all Americans, including those who are not employed; and ensure that peoples' opportunities to fully participate in life activities are not artificially restricted by their limited access to healthcare.

Education

Opportunity begins, in so many ways, with education. Currently, young people with disabilities are more than twice as likely to drop out of high school (22 percent versus 9 percent), and only half as likely to complete college (12 percent versus 23 percent). Education for students with disabilities is a critical priority. Students with special needs must be given the chance to develop their skills and their minds so they can be prepared for the workforce of the future. In the first decade of the new millennium, America should dramatically close these gaps in opportunities for students with disabilities.

It does well that Congress has increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 19 percent this year to \$7.5 billion. This investment will pay huge dividends for the students and families impacted by the IDEA, and for the country.

Tremendous progress has been made in "mainstreaming" students with disabilities since the IDEA was first introduced nearly three decades ago. Mainstreaming is a win/win situations that increases opportunities for those students, and also acclimates other students to peer interaction. Youngsters who have friends and acquaintances with disabilities learn to move beyond the disability and judge the real person. They grow up expecting to interact with diverse people in the workforce and in their communities, dissolving prejudices and stereotypes in the process.

Community Life

It is in the communities of this nation that its 54 million citizens with disabilities go about their daily lives, and this is where these citizens need to be involved. Great progress has been made; commitments from mayors and other leaders have transformed many communities. Disability advocates, no longer willing to be separated from the rest of society, have pushed their communities into becoming more accessible and welcoming places. There is much work still to be done.

Thirty-five percent of people with disabilities say they are not at all involved with their communities, compared to 21 percent of their non-disabled counterparts. Not surprisingly then, those with disabilities are one and a half times as likely to feel isolated from others or left out of their community than those without disabilities.

The current efforts for disaster mobilization are one example of an opportunity for the disability community to remind civic leaders of their responsibility to plan for all citizens. This work may open dialogue in many new and productive directions with regard to overall community efforts.

Religious Life

Faith and religious life are important for many Americans. Churches, synagogues and

mosques need to be accessible to all who wish to worship. With the theme "Access: It begins in the heart," thousands of houses of worship have enrolled in the Accessible Congregations Campaign. Hopefully many other congregations in the country also will commit to identifying and removing barriers of architecture, communications and attitudes that prevent people with disabilities from practicing their faith.

Political Involvement

Citizens with disabilities want to vote, and are doing so at increasing rates. What had been a 20 percentage point participation gap—31 percent versus more than 50 percent—in the 1996 Presidential election was halved when 41 percent of voting-aged citizens with disabilities cast ballots in 2000. This followed a national get-out-the-disability-vote effort. But many polling places remain inaccessible to wheelchair users and others with limited mobility. Once inside the building, others encounter voting machines they cannot use. Persons with limited vision or hand strength are particularly disadvantaged at the polls. People with disabilities want to vote on election day, at the polls, just like everyone else.

Technological improvements now available could make voting at the polls possible for nearly all people with disabilities. All that is needed is the will, or a legal requirement, to put such voting machines into use. The contested 2000 Presidential Election showed that every vote counts. The disability community is determined to have full enfranchisement.

Late in 2001, the House of Representatives passed a bill that did not adequately address the above issues. The Senate's version of the bill, currently under review, is far more promising. Millions of voters and potential voters will be tracking this legislation in the hope that it will improve the voting system for all Americans. None of the barriers that have kept citizens with disabilities from voting should be allowed to remain by the time of the 2004 Presidential election, and the disability community calls on the government at all levels to ensure these obstacles are removed.

The Overall Picture

A clear majority of people with disabilities, 63 percent, say that life has improved for the disability community in the past decade. But when asked about life satisfaction, only 33 percent say they are very satisfied with their life in general—half as many as among those without disabilities. There is much room for improvement, and the disability community looks to the President and his Administration, the Congress, and all those in a position of community leadership to work proactively and productively with us to ensure that no person with a disability is left behind.

Anyone with a disability perspective who travels abroad returns impressed by the way America is, in many ways, the world leader in access, opportunity, and inclusion for people with disabilities. Much progress has been made, and many walls of exclusion have been leveled. People with disabilities celebrate the progress of this nation, and also remain dedicated to the vision of a day when all people, no matter how they are born or what conditions they acquire, will be full and equal participants in American life. This is our dream for the State of the Union.

TRIBUTE TO MANHATTAN BEER DISTRIBUTORS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Manhattan Beer Distributors, the first private, non-utility company in the Bronx to use heavy duty Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks to make deliveries. Manhattan Beer Distributors will roll out its first CNG delivery trucks at a ceremony on Monday, February 4, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Manhattan Beer Distributors first established a facility in the Bronx in 1979. The Bronx site is located on Walnut Avenue, in the industrialized and heavily trafficked area of the Bronx known as Port Morris. Today, the company employs 468 people at its Bronx facility, operates 95 vehicles and has an estimated 30 percent share of the beer market in the New York metropolitan area.

Under the leadership of its President, Simon Bergson, and Vice President Mike McCarthy, Manhattan Beer Distributors will begin the transformation of its fleet with 15 heavy-duty vehicles that will operate exclusively on CNG. The dispatch of these first fifteen could be the ground-breaking catalyst for changing the infrastructure of the South Bronx, from one where pollutant emissions from multitudes of vehicles threaten the delicate health of our children to one where commercial operations can harmoniously co-exist with adjacent residential communities. Manhattan Beer Distributors deserves tribute for its initiative in this project and I hope that many other companies will do the same.

Mr. Speaker, Manhattan Beer Distributors' use of alternative fuel contributes toward several local, regional and national interests. By reducing pollutant emissions through the use of CNG to power delivery trucks, Manhattan Beer Distributors helps improve our air quality. In addition, using CNG helps reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, which strengthens our nation's energy security and reduces our nation's trade deficit. Because it has installed a permanent CNG station, it is likely that the Manhattan Beer fleet will evolve into a total clean fuel fleet. The success of this project will demonstrate that other truck-based businesses in the Bronx can make similar improvements. These are the kinds of contributions to environmental quality and economic development that inspired me to introduce legislation providing tax incentives for businesses that use alternative fuels in federal empowerment zones.

Mr. Speaker, our nation must do all that it can to support businesses like Manhattan Beer Distributors, who willingly exercise good corporate citizenship. I heartily urge all of my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring this bold, conscientious and innovative enterprise.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 6

- 9 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeanette J. Clark, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. SD-342
- 9:30 a.m.
Aging
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Aging Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine women and aging, focusing on long term care. SD-106
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 1766, to provide for the energy security of the Nation, focusing on the effects of Subtitle B, amendments to the Public Utility Holding Company Act on energy markets and energy consumers. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To continue hearings to examine the state of financial literacy and education in America. SD-538
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine accountability issues surrounding the fall of Enron Corporation. SD-226
- Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003. SD-608
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine the status of ongoing U. S. trade negotiations. SD-215
- Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine issues surrounding world threats. SH-216
- 10:15 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine a new strategic framework, focusing on implications for U.S. security. SD-419

- 2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy options in Somalia. SD-419
- Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine issues surrounding world threats. SH-219
- FEBRUARY 7
- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the conduct of Operation Enduring Freedom; to be followed by closed hearings (in Room SH-219). SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Department of Transportation. SD-124
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-226
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the fall of the Enron Corporation, focusing on protecting pensions of working Americans. SD-106

- Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on legislative proposals relating to the statute of limitations on claims against the United States related to the management of Indian tribal trust fund accounts. SR-485
- Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003 and revenue proposals. SD-608
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the analysis of the failure of Superior Bank, FSB, Hinsdale, Illinois. SD-538
- 10:15 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the future of the War on Terrorism. SD-419
- 10:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 1867, to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. SD-342
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on the nomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr., of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. SD-226
- FEBRUARY 8
- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on the nomination of Nancy Dorn, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-342
- 10:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on the nomination of John L. Howard, of Illinois, to be Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals; and the nomination of Dan Greg-

ory Blair, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management. SD-342

FEBRUARY 12

- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine multilateral non-proliferation regimes, weapons of mass destruction technologies, and the War on Terrorism. SD-342
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003 for the Department of the Interior, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Department of Energy. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine accounting and investor protection issues raised by Enron and other public companies. SD-538
- 3 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues surrounding the U.S. Refugee Program. SD-226

FEBRUARY 13

- 9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on the nominations of Thomas C. Dorr, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, and Nancy Southard Bryson, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture; and the nominations of Grace Trujillo Daniel, of California, and Fred L. Dailey, of Ohio, both to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, both of the Farm Credit Administration. SH-216
- 2 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. SR-485

FEBRUARY 14

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2003 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the results of the Nuclear Post Review; to be followed by closed hearings (in Room SH-219). SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003 for veterans' programs. SR-418
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 202 and H.R. 2440, to rename Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts as "Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts"; S. 1051 and H.R. 2440, to expand the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument; S. 1061 and H.R.

1456, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Fern Lake and the surrounding watershed in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee for addition to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park; S. 1649, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve and for the preservation of Vancouver Barracks; S. 1894, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park; and H.R. 2234, to revise the boundary of the Tumacacori National Historical Park in the State of Arizona.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on rulings of the United States Supreme Court affecting tribal government powers and authorities.

SD-106

FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

345 Cannon Building

2 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the management of Indian Trust Funds.

SD-106

MARCH 5

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003 for Indian programs.

SR-485

MARCH 7

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Of-

ficers Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

345 Cannon Building

Indian Affairs
To resume hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2003 for Indian programs.

SR-485

MARCH 14

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Gold Star Wives of America, the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Retired Enlisted Association.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 20

2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Retired Officers Association, the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and AMVETS.

345 Cannon Building