

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN
HEART MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day—a day when we celebrate matters of the heart. It is, therefore, quite appropriate that we recognize February as American Heart Month.

Over 61 million Americans—1 in 5 adults—have one or more types of cardiovascular disease (CVD). CVD is a leading cause of long-term disability. Since 1990, CVD has been the number one killer in the United States every year but one. Every 33 seconds an American dies of cardiovascular disease. Forty percent of all deaths in the United States and in my home state of Illinois are due to CVD. Although we used to think of CVD as a man's disease, it is now the leading cause of death for American women—and in 1999, more women than men died of CVD—over one half million deaths. This is a terrible health crisis that demands immediate attention.

According to American Heart Association President Dr. David Faxon, "For each minute that passes without defibrillation and CPR, the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim decreases by 7 to 10 percent. In order to battle this disease, more Americans have to arm themselves with the knowledge that is crucial to saving lives."

Let's mount a public awareness campaign so that Americans can reduce their individual CVD risk factors, and recognize and respond promptly to cardiac emergencies. If we can do this, we can really have a Happy Valentine's Day.

STEEL 201 REMEDY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Ms. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day. But for thousands of American steelworkers whose jobs have been lost, this is a day filled with bitterness. I stand here today in protest of the low-priced steel imports that have ravaged the American Steel industry and the 3,800 LTV steelworkers in my district whose lives have been devastated as a result of these imports.

Today I urge the administration to take decisive action against the cheap imports that are destroying the U.S. steel industry. This is an industry that has been a cornerstone of our economy and national security over the last 100 years.

The administration, as part of its steel plan, has taken the important step of initiating a section 201 investigation to examine the devastating impact that steel imports have had on

the American steel industry. The International Trade Commission found, unanimously, that American steel companies and thousands of American workers and their communities have been seriously injured by these imports. I say, and know firsthand, that they have been devastating. The ball is now in the President's hands. He must decide what measures his administration will take to correct the wrong that has been caused by low-priced imports. I urge the administration, in the strongest possible terms, to impose strong and effective tariff-based relief. The President must impose a tariff of at least 40 percent against all foreign low-priced steel imports.

I urge the President to impose this tariff for at least 4 years, as the law allows. Most importantly, I urge the President not to waiver from his commitment to the American steel industry and its workers because strong tariff-based relief is the only remedy that can realistically assist the industry.

It is no secret that low-priced imports are due to excessive global steel production. The Department of Commerce has released a study showing that global steel overcapacity results from subsidization and anticompetitive practices around the world. We must not allow steel imports that originate from such distorted markets to destroy a vital component of our economy. We must not allow those foreign producers to destroy thousands of good American jobs and the financial security that those jobs represent. Families depend on these jobs. Cities and communities depend on these jobs. Workers in my district depend on these jobs.

Thousands of American steelworkers are anxiously awaiting a trade remedy decision in the current 201 investigation. Their future depends on strong and effective trade relief and an administration that will be unrelenting in reducing global excess steel capacity. I urge the President to impose a strong tariff-based remedy against all foreign steel imports over the next 4 years.

DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the status of the domestic steel industry.

Our domestic steel industry is currently in a crisis situation. The fundamental cause of this crisis is massive foreign overcapacity, which has caused the United States to become the dumping ground for world excess steel products. As a result of this, since 1997, 31 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, affecting over 62,000 American steel workers.

In my home State of Illinois, four steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, including Laclede Steel, which is in the congressional district I represent. Approximately 5,000 steel workers have lost their jobs in Illinois alone.

Last year, I joined my colleagues on the Congressional Steel Caucus in urging the President to implement a section 201 investigation by the International Trade Commission to determine if our domestic markets had been harmed by illegal dumping. In the fall, I testified before the ITC to express my concerns regarding the steel crisis. The ITC ruled unanimously that the steel industry had indeed been harmed.

While the ITC's decision was welcome, it didn't guarantee relief for the domestic steel industry. The ITC recommended the highest tariff rate of up to 40 percent for 4 years on all subject steel categories; however, it is up to the President to determine what type of remedy should be afforded to the industry. It is imperative that the President imposes the highest possible tariffs, rather than quotas, which will not be as helpful to the industry.

Without strong, decisive and quick action from the President, thousands more steel workers are at a very real risk of losing their jobs, at an economic time when our nation can least afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the President to help our domestic steel industry by implementing tariffs on foreign steel. Anything less would be a disservice to the hardworking men and women who are counting on the President to stand up for them.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS
AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing February as American Heart Month.

Heart disease is the nation's leading cause of death. It is estimated about 1 in 5 American adults suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease, or CVD. Before I even finish this statement, two Americans will die of cardiovascular disease. By the end of the hour, we will have lost 120 friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers. By the end of the day, more than 2,600 Americans will die from CVD.

While heart disease is a problem for all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups, certain groups are disproportionately affected. For example, while heart disease affects only thirty percent of white males, forty percent of African American males will suffer. Minority women also have higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Mr. Speaker, as troubling as these statistics are, there is great hope that we can win the battle against heart disease. Some of the major causes of heart disease—tobacco use, physical inactivity, obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure—can all be treated or prevented. According to the World Health Organization, one year after quitting smoking,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the risk of heart disease decreases by fifty percent. Study after study concludes that moderate-intensity physical activity such as walking can substantially reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. And new and improved pharmaceutical treatments can help people control their blood pressure and lower their cholesterol.

Mr. Speaker, by recognizing February as American Heart Month, we are raising awareness about heart disease, including its symptoms, its treatments, and ways to prevent it. The more Americans know about heart disease, the more likely they will seek treatment when they need it—before a heart attack strikes.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on this day devoted to affairs of the heart I want to remind my colleagues that February is American Heart Month. Right now, over 61 million Americans are suffering from cardiovascular diseases. And by the time I finish this statement, another two Americans will have died from those causes.

This is why I introduced the community Access to Emergency Defibrillation Act with Representative SHIMKUS and the STOP Stroke Act with Representative PICKERING. The Community AED Act would provide funding to localities for them to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators and place them in public buildings, so that emergency care for cardiac arrest is only seconds away. And the STOP Stroke Act will help states develop better stroke treatment programs because immediate treatment can make the difference between nearly total recovery and death.

Both of these bills were passed by the other body recently without objection and I hope that the House can also do so quickly. I urge my colleagues to support these and other efforts to address the scourge of cardiovascular diseases. Let's have a heart! Happy Valentine's Day!

STATEMENT REGARDING CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for initiatives to prevent cardiovascular disease.

While Valentine's Day gives us the chance to think about the people we love, it also is a good time to focus on the health of our hearts. Unfortunately, the hearts of Americans are a major source of illness, and we can expect 1 million of our citizens to suffer a heart attack this year. Approximately one in five Americans suffers from some form of cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease is both painful for families affected and costly for society: heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular dis-

eases cost the United States nearly \$330 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity in 2002, more than any other disease. Preventing these diseases could save families from loss and could save public resources by keeping people in the workplace and minimizing medical costs.

I applaud both the work of health care providers and researchers who fight these diseases and the efforts to raise awareness of cardiovascular diseases during American Heart Month. I strongly support initiatives to educate Americans about cardiovascular disease and to encourage healthy lifestyles that will prevent or limit the incidence of these illnesses. We can do no less for the people we love.

THE KIDNEY DISEASE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS ACT OF 2002

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with 15 of my colleagues to introduce the Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act of 2002. This legislation is designed to improve patient outcomes by providing appropriate education before Medicare eligible kidney patients undergo dialysis.

Each year, approximately 80,000 Americans develop chronic kidney failure, or end stage renal disease (ESRD), and require either regular kidney dialysis treatments or a transplant to survive. Medicare covers dialysis for most Americans and requires that kidney patients receive information on treatment options, but not until the patient is under the care of a dialysis clinic. Studies have shown that earlier access to information about kidney failure and treatment options can reduce complications associated with dialysis and can improve patient outcomes and potentially reduce costs over the long term.

The Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act provides reimbursement for up to six educational sessions performed by kidney care professionals. These educational sessions will consist of an overview of kidney function and complications that accompany kidney failure; information on hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and transplantation; discussion of payment for dialysis treatment and transplantation; and information regarding vascular access options.

Providing earlier access to educational services by qualified kidney care professionals will help ensure that Medicare eligible kidney patients receive critical information prior to undergoing dialysis or transplantation. This will improve the lives of those suffering from kidney disease. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act.

RANDY GERBER: A MAN TO CALL IN AN EMERGENCY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Gerber for his many years of

hard work, initiative and dedication to the advancement of rural emergency medical services in the Thumb of Michigan as Vice President of Mobile Medical Response, Inc., in Tuscola County.

Randy began his career in 1983 as a volunteer ambulance attendant with the Vassar Area Ambulance Service and soon became a licensed emergency medical technician and paramedic. During that time, Randy's superior work in treating the victims of emergencies was recognized on numerous occasions by the Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority.

While Randy's top-notch skills on the front lines of emergency response earned him high praise, it has been Randy's leadership and innovation in his managerial positions, first as Assistant Director of Vassar Area Ambulance Service and the former Saginaw Mercy Ambulance and later as Regional Director and now Vice President of Mobile Response, Inc., that have cemented his unparalleled reputation in the field. Moreover, Randy's role as a state evaluator and instructor for new emergency medical technicians has further improved rural emergency medical services throughout Michigan.

Throughout his career, Randy has successfully and consistently identified needs and taken fast action to improve emergency services. He was instrumental in upgrading emergency medical services from basic life support units to advance life support units and in putting at least one paramedic and one emergency medical technician on each of the two units in Cass City and Caro. He also led efforts to bring automatic external defibrillators to Tuscola County for use by the fire and police departments, which significantly improved the odds for survival for cardiac arrest patients. Additionally, Randy has been a leader in expanding educational programs on child safety, injury prevention and other vital issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Randy and his entire staff at Mobile Medical Response, Inc., for going the extra mile for the residents of Tuscola County. I am confident Randy and his staff will continue to answer the call.

THE DATE CERTAIN TAX CODE REPLACEMENT ACT

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, since I have come to Congress, bringing fundamental tax reform has been one of my top priorities. While the tax reform community is free to debate what the best policy solution is, we all must come together and agree that the first step is to scrap the current tax code. In the 105th Congress, I introduced the Tax Code Termination Act to sunset the tax code which was passed in the House. In the 106th Congress, I introduced a similar bill which was again passed, this time by a vote of 229-187. The purpose of the legislation is to spark the debate and force Congress to take reform proposals seriously, and at the very least reauthorize the current tax code. In this Congress, I continued the effort by introducing the Date Certain Tax Code Replacement Act (H.R. 2714). With an Administration in place that is

considering real tax reform, it is more important now than ever that the House pass this bill again to demonstrate consistent support for bringing common sense to our tax system. As I retire from Congress to run for Governor of Oklahoma, it is my hope that this legislation will be passed again, and to that end I am turning over sponsorship of this bill to a long-standing activist for tax reform, Representative JIM DEMINT. I urge all reformers to join with Representative DEMINT in advancing the cause of reform by working to pass this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN BRIGANCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, after over 61 years of federal service, an icon of an exemplary, dedicated civil service has just retired. Mr. John Brigance, the former Director of Contracting for all of Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, known as "Mr. Procurement" for his valued expertise in contracting, was recognized throughout the Corps. Underlining his commitment is the fact that in addition to his 61 years of federal service, he retired with over 5,100 hours of unused sick leave, about two and a half years' worth.

During his career, Mr. Brigance has been called upon to accomplish many significant projects for the Corps of Engineers. A former Chief of Engineers dubbed him "Mr. Procurement" because he said Brigance quite literally wrote the book on contracting. That is a true statement. Between 1982 and 1995, he chaired a Headquarters task force and penned many of the regulations governing Corps contract procurement procedures. He has risen from an under clerk typist in the Corps' Galveston District, when he started on January 6, 1941, to a GS 14 in charge of all contracting for the Southwestern Division. In the late 1970s, he was a guest lecturer on small business contract administration at Syracuse University. In that same time frame, because of his reputation in emergency contracting procedures, he also prepared and taught the first-ever Corps contracting course on emergency management operations. Called to duty on November 27, 1942, Brigance served 3 years with the Army—18 months Stateside in training, and 18 months in the Pacific Theater working with an engineer parts supply outfit.

Mr. Brigance has also been noted as a wonderful coworker and fellow human being. A former colleague called him "a role model for courtesy, civility, and professionalism. He is, quite simply, the most decent man I have met in my career, and a living example of what has made the Corps of Engineers a great organization." Col. Carla Coulson, former Deputy Division Commander, called Brigance's career "a lifetime of selfless service," commended his personal courage and commitment, and acclaimed him as "a dedicated professional with wisdom to spare." Former coworker Hector Vela, retired Division Counsel said, "I've never known John to lie about anything, even his golf game." Vela described Brigance as one who "never speaks bad about anybody" and added, "John made working for the Corps a pleasure." Brigance has been called a "whirlwind" for fast action and

for wearing multiple hats—contracting, small business advisor, inspector general and equal employment opportunity officer. Those people he has mentored have echoed the same sentiments. All speak admiringly of John Brigance.

His life has been well rounded by the many avocations he enjoys—from a love of golf, to annual deer hunts in the Texas hill country, collecting stamps, coins and proof sets, and dancing with his wife of 60 years, Peggy. He shows enthusiasm for each and every activity he pursues, his pronounced activity inspiring others to greater accomplishments.

For his farewell luncheon, his friends and colleagues recognized him with numerous awards and mementos. Among those were the congratulatory letter from President Bush and a presentation by Texas Governor Rick Perry making Brigance an "Admiral of the Texas Navy," an honorary position to recognize his contributions. Perry also named Peggy Brigance a "Yellow Rose of Texas," an honor bestowed only on native Texans.

None of that outdid what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave Brigance after 61 years of service. The Corps' Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting made the first-ever presentation of the highest Corps award for contracting, the A-F-I-R-E, which stands for "Adaptive, Flexible, Innovative, Responsive and Effective/Efficient", to Brigance. Brig. Gen. David F. Melcher, Southwestern Division commander, also hung the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment Silver Order of the de Fleury medal around Brigance's neck. Honoring John as the 35th inductee into Southwest Division Gallery of Distinguished Civilians rounded out the retirement accolades made in recognition of his commitment, leadership and esteem.

Other awards he received throughout his career include the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service award granted by the Secretary of the Army, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Assistant Secretary of the Army Coin and others much too numerous to mention.

Mr. John Brigance and his daily contributions to the United States as a loyal, outstanding and dedicated federal civil servant serve as an inspiration to us all.

EXEMPLARY HONORS FOR SOUTH TEXAS SCHOOLS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the incredible pride in my heart, pride for two schools in my hometown of Robstown, TX, the biggest little town in Texas.

The Solomon P. Ortiz Intermediate School and the San Pedro Elementary School in the Robstown Independent School District were chosen by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as "Exemplary" schools under the State analysis of individual schools in each school district in the state.

Each year, the TEA ranks the state's schools as: low-performing, acceptable, recognized, or exemplary—based on performance on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS, the test given to students in Texas) and on attendance and dropout rates.

Both the Ortiz Intermediate School and San Pedro Elementary are schools with large Hispanic student populations. Since largely Hispanic schools often have to do more with less money, their challenge is greater to compete on a more difficult playing field.

These two schools have found the secret to success. They know that students cannot just up and pass a difficult test—it takes the whole effort of every person who works at each school. It takes teachers, counselors, cafeteria workers, teacher's aids, and school administrators to make the very most of a child's educational experience.

I want to thank each and every staff member for their vision on helping students on their journey to higher education.

These schools capitalized on every single opportunity, every strength, they had to build a team that helped the children of Robstown find the very best in them. Let's not underestimate the stress associated with the TAAS. There is great pressure on the children, on the schools, on the employees—judgements on the school staff is based on the results young people achieve on TAAS.

Teaching children what they need to know to pass the tests, inspiring them to come to school every day, inspiring them to stay in school when they despair, is a monumental task. So the House of Representatives should know that these schools have achieved a great deal.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the Ortiz Intermediate School and San Pedro Elementary School of Robstown, TX, for excellence in education.

TRIBUTE TO SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the finest universities in the great State of California as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Located in the heart of the Wine Country, Sonoma State University has over 7,500 students and 1,600 faculty and staff members. Originally established in 1956 as a satellite teaching campus of San Francisco State University, SSU became a member of the California State College System in 1961 and attained University status in 1978. The idyllic campus, set at the base of Sonoma Mountain, now offers over 41 baccalaureate and 14 master's degree programs.

The small liberal arts university has made Sonoma County proud many times over the years. It has been home to Mario Savio, a leader of the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley and a professor in the Physics Department until he passed on in 1996. For the past 25 years, Project Censored, the yearly publication that covers the top underreported news stories of the year, has brought national acclaim to SSU's Sociology department. Most recently, the unveiling of the Environmental Technology Center brought international praise. "The Building That Teaches" combines state-of-the-art energy efficiency and environmental responsibility and is one of only a few like it in the world.

Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the reasons that I am pleased to pay tribute to Sonoma State University. The most notable reason, however, is the pride I take in the students and the contribution they will make to our future.

Congratulations Sonoma State University on your 40 years and best wishes for many, many more.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION SECURITY ACT

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by many of my colleagues in the introduction of the Pension Security Act. President Bush has sent a clear message to Congress that he is committed to addressing the Enron collapse by calling for new safeguards to help workers preserve and enhance their retirement savings. I am pleased to introduce his proposal today.

One of the tragic realities of the Enron collapse is that it has rattled the confidence of American workers in the country's pension system—a system that by and large has served employees and their families well. Even more tragic is the possibility that much of it could have been avoided. At least some of Enron's workers might have been able to preserve their nest eggs if Washington had taken some basic steps to update our nation's pension laws. For example, many Enron workers might have had access to a professional investment advisor who could have warned them they had too many eggs in one basket. Current law, enacted more than a quarter-century ago before the advent of 401(k) accounts, denies workers this opportunity.

That is why today, my colleague SAM JOHNSON, chairman of the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee, and I are introducing the President's proposal as the first step toward a consensus product that can be signed into law on behalf of America's workers. Workers must be fully protected and fully prepared with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings.

Specifically, the Pension Security Act includes new measures that give employees the freedom to diversify their portfolio and better information about their pensions. Under the bill, employees may sell company stocks and diversity into other investment options after they have participated in a 401(k) plan for three years. In addition, it requires companies to give workers quarterly benefit statements that include information about accounts, including the value of their assets, their right to diversify, and the importance of maintaining a diverse portfolio.

In addition, as part of his proposal, President Bush has called upon the Senate to pass the Retirement Security Advice Act (H.R. 2269), which passed the House last November with a large bipartisan vote. The bill encourages employers to make investment advice available to their employees and allows qualified financial advisors to offer investment advice only if they agree to act solely in the interests of the workers they advise. The Senate has yet to act on this legislation, though it

passed the House with the support of 64 Democrats.

Current law continues to needlessly deny rank-and-file workers access to quality investment advisers to help them make sound investment decisions. Some of Enron's employees could have preserved their retirement savings if they had access to a qualified adviser who would have warned them in advance that they needed to diversify their investment portfolio.

When senior executives face no restrictions on selling stock held outside the 401(k), it is likewise unfair for workers to be denied the same authority to sell company stock in their 401(k) accounts during blackout periods. The Pension Security Act ensures parity between senior corporate executives and rank-and-file workers by prohibiting executives from selling company stock during "blackout" periods when workers are unable to change investments in their plans. The bill also requires companies to give 30-days' notice before a blackout period begins.

Lastly, the bill clarifies that companies have a fiduciary responsibility for workers' investments during a blackout period. Under current law, employers are not responsible for the results of workers' investment decisions. This "safe harbor" from liability will no longer apply during a blackout period. Under the Pension Security Act, employers will be responsible for the consequences of the workers' inability to control their investments if they violate their fiduciary duty to act in the interests of the workers during blackout periods.

Congress has taken some positive steps in the recent past to update our nation's pension laws, and this committee has been central to those efforts. We passed the landmark reforms authored by my friend and colleague, Representative ROB PORTMAN, that gave workers more pension portability, faster vesting, and a host of other needed changes. We passed the Retirement Security Advice Act to give rank-and-file workers the same access to professional investment advice that wealthy executives have. But in spite of these efforts, a lot of work still lies ahead. And in the aftermath of Enron, Congress must now confront this modernization effort with a new urgency.

I am optimistic that common ground can be reached with Democrats because there is bipartisan support in Congress for the reforms I have just outlined. All are key elements of President Bush's proposal. The nation's private pension system is essential to the security of American workers, retirees, and their families. Congress should more decisively restore worker confidence in the nation's retirement security and pension system, and President Bush's reform proposal will do just that. I urge my colleagues to respond to the needs of America's workers by supporting the Pension Security Act.

RECOGNITION FOR THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER, CLARENCE "GATOR" JONES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the service of Clar-

ence "Gator" Jones on recently being honored as Dania Beach, Florida's first African-American firefighter. Mr. Jones became the first African-American firefighter in Dania Beach in 1975 and continued to serve this city for more than two decades. Of course, serving as Dania's first African-American firefighter was no easy task. During his tenure, Clarence Jones braved a burden that few would accept and less would bear. A bitter sweet burden of disparities and degradation, while simultaneously becoming a trailblazer in his craft, establishing the standard for all firefighters to follow.

While serving the city of Dania Beach, Mr. Jones received many accolades, some of which include a Medal of Honor and the prestigious Firefighter of the Year Award. Mr. Jones was also recognized for the care and compassion he exhibited when performing rescue calls, working above and beyond the call of duty, and participating in charitable activities. I am sure that when Mr. Jones became a firefighter at the age of 21, he simply saw this as a way to sustain his livelihood after serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Not realizing that by doing this, he did so much more, he saved lives. He became a hero.

Most people take for granted those brave few that walk amongst us. The brave few that put concern for others before themselves. It is these few people that we must honor and celebrate for they are the ones that truly make the difference. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my appreciation and respect for Clarence Jones' commitment to the community of Dania Beach, FL. Mr. Jones has served the noble profession of fire rescue for 26 years. Twenty-six years of fortitude and selfless sacrifice that the Dania Beach community and I will always remember.

IWAKURA MISSION

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I had a wonderful opportunity to be present at an event honoring the 130-year friendship between the State of Utah and Japan. As many know, during the Meiji Revolution in the 1870's, the Japanese government sent the Iwakura Mission throughout the United States to gather information and ideas for use in modernizing Japan.

One of the less well-known stories of the Iwakura Mission took place in Utah. While unexpectedly stranded while awaiting the melt of a heavy winter snow, the 111-person delegation stayed in Salt Lake City, UT. They met the people, learned the culture, and experienced the American West. On February 10, I was able to celebrate that 1872 winter with Japanese Consul-General Koichiro Seki, members of his staff, officials from the State of Utah, and historians. At the conclusion of the program a memorial plaque, which will be hung at the place where the Japanese entered the city, was unveiled.

Although the Iwakura Mission moved on to Washington, DC after the snows melted in 1872, its member's presence was felt long after they left. The Japanese toured Utah

schools and hospitals; they visited Salt Lake City's Temple Square and met with religious and government leaders. The strong cultural and political relationship between Utah and Japan has its roots in the positive impression that the Japanese gave Utah, and the Utahns gave Japan.

Mr. Speaker, as the world grows closer and closer together, it is my hope that the relationship between the United States and Japan will continue to be strengthened. As the world visits upon Utah during the 2002 Olympic Games, I cannot help thinking that we are not only improving our relationship with the Japanese, but also building new friendships with other nations of the world. The Games thus far have been a tremendous success. It is my hope that in the months and years to come, people from throughout the world will come to Utah to visit, to study, to work, and perhaps to stay. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO MOIRA ANN (REDDY)
SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young woman who gave her life to save others on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City, Moira Ann (Reddy) Smith. Moira Ann (Reddy) Smith, age 38, was a New York City Police Officer, a 13-year veteran assigned to the 13th precinct, when she was killed while assisting victims of the terrorist attacks on our nation.

When the initial plane carrying the terrorists hit the World Trade Center Tower, Moira Smith was the first officer to call in the incident and one of the first on the scene. She took statements from witnesses and then rushed back to the towers to assist with the evacuation of civilians from the burning towers. Survivors from the WTC and fellow officers gave accounts of having seen Officer Moira Smith rescue and assist victims from the tower. She was credited as having ushered out of the building hundreds of civilians and remaining calm and compassionate, yet forceful when directing the scared masses. She was last seen in the stairwell of the burning tower, assisting down the stairs, a woman who was having trouble breathing.

Just minutes before her death, Moira Smith was photographed in action, while she led a blood-splattered, wounded man out of harm's way. The New York Daily News later published the photo evidencing Moira Smith's bravery, selflessness, heroism and professionalism.

Moira Smith was the only female New York City Police Department officer to die in the September 11th attacks and the first female New York City Police Officer to die in the line of duty in the history of the NYPD. She leaves behind her husband, James and daughter, Patricia Mary, age two.

Mr. Speaker, for this valiant effort and her great sacrifice, the House of Representatives honors Moira Smith today, February 14, 2002, a day that would have been her 39th birthday. Her sacrifice will always be remembered by the people of America.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I stand here today in support of H.R. 2356, the Bi-Partisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

Over time, Americans have become a group very skeptical of politics, pleading for reform—reform that would enable them to participate in the political process. While there are many opinions on how to fix our system, what is clear is that Americans need reassurance that they have a voice in our political process. A perfect illustration may be that which has become a major headliner in today's news—Enron. I am not advocating that if campaign finance had already been implemented the Enron debacle may not have occurred, but I will say that the recent collapse of Enron has only further illustrated the extent of corporations' political spending and furthered people's cynicism about big money and politics. Today, I am glad to say after a long fight, we are able to offer the American people an opportunity to once again become involved in a political system that promises a vote and voice for everyone.

H.R. 2356 takes so many steps to improve the current political process. It invites all American voters to participate in the political system by completely banning soft money contributions to the national political parties, prohibits federal officeholders and candidates from soliciting soft money in connection with Federal elections, and requires state and local parties to spend hard money on activities that influence federal elections. Not only does this legislation stop the ever increasing and powerful flow of money, but it also reins in sham issue ads by requiring hard money for broadcast communications that mention a Federal candidate within sixty days of a general election or thirty days of a primary and are targeted in the candidate's electorate, among other provisions—such as allowing state parties to use funds to conduct voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. Finally, we, those who are chosen to represent the American people, are able to offer the American voters a reform bill that strengthens our nation and allows all its citizens to actively participate.

Now that we have made considerable steps in providing all Americans with an opportunity to participate in the political process, no matter their income, it is important that we continue this fight for the right of all Americans to have a guaranteed protected vote. Americans must be reassured that what occurred in the 2000 elections will not occur again. Not only will they have an opportunity to actively participate in the election process, but also a right to have their voices heard when it is time to cast their votes. Mr. Chairman, reforming our campaign laws is an important step toward renewing people's belief in our American system and now we must continue this fight and ensure them that their right to vote is just as great.

During this vote on final passage of H.R. 2356, we, my colleagues, have an opportunity to inevitably shape the course that we follow as a nation. Now is the time to make change, now is the time to offer opportunity, now is the time to engage those who have been disengaged for far too long. Remember, when people go to the poles, they cast one vote, when we vote on the House floor, we vote for all those we represent. My dear colleagues, I urge you to represent them now, represent all those who are so often unheard, let them know they soon can and will be heard—today, tomorrow, and forever. I urge my colleagues to support final passage of H.R. 2356, the Bi-Partisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

A TRIBUTE TO A YOUNG HERO,
WILBERT GILLASPIE

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the heroic deeds of a young hero from Walker County, Texas, who displayed enormous courage and capability in the face of danger.

Wilbert Gillaspie, a 4th grader at Stewart Elementary School in the Huntsville School District, saved himself and his elderly grandmother from a burning fire that might have destroyed his home had it not been for his quick thinking.

On Sunday, January 13, Wilbert noticed smoke coming from an electrical ceiling box where his uncle was planning to put a ceiling fan. After seeing the smoke, Wilbert led his grandmother out of the building and called 911. Wilbert helped the emergency dispatcher find out what electric company serviced his home so the power could be shut off. When Wilbert noticed smoke coming from his roof, he grabbed a water hose and sprayed the roof from the outside.

Because of the distance between Wilbert's home and the Huntsville fire station, it took firefighters nine critical minutes to get to his house. Wilbert was told by a firefighter on the scene that if it had not been for his quick thinking and know-how, the house would have burned to the ground.

Wilbert learned about fire safety from members of the Huntsville Fire Department, who teach thousands of children and adults about fire safety every year. I commend the hard-working men and women of the Huntsville Fire Department for sacrificing their lives everyday and serving as community leaders to teach our children about fire safety.

Young Wilbert Gillaspie is a true hero and we join in thanking him for his courage and bravery in the face of danger.

THE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING TRIP
TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (PRC)

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that President George W. Bush will be

making a state visit to the People's Republic of China in late February. As Secretary of State Colin Powell said, the United States and China have many common interests and also many disagreements, one of which is Taiwan.

I hope that President Bush will stand firm on the issue of Taiwan in his discussions with the Chinese. The United States and Taiwan have been maintaining strong relations for decades. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Taiwan, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of the United States in all areas. In the wake of the Twin Towers tragedy, Taiwan went into deep mourning and its government ordered all flags lowered at half-staff for two days.

Taiwan stands with the United States on nearly all issues including safeguarding human rights and fighting terrorism around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is not an issue that divides the United States from China. As long as we stand firm on our principles of providing what Taiwan needs militarily, there will be stability in the Taiwan Strait and that is in everyone's best interests. I wish President Bush the best of luck in his journey to China.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues, what are we doing here? We are playing games, and I, for one, did not come to this body to play games.

America is being misled. We are being misled. Who is telling the truth?

To those of you outside this hall that think this is reform, I say to you it is as bad as the current situation—and that makes it worse, doesn't it? It's worse because you truly believe that this bill represents real reform. It doesn't.

And to those of you who stand in the way of real reform, I say to you, move aside.

All of these arguments on the "process" are lost on the American people who just want reform, pure and simple. We are playing a game with those who have more vested in the "process," than they do in principle. And when principles loses, what does that say about us?

Never did I think that my vote on dearly held principles would doom reform. But that is the conundrum that has been handed to me—those who would choose to kill reform and those who would choose "less reform" as "good enough" have boxed me into a corner. Who would have ever thought that "doing the right thing" may be the wrong move?

Many of my colleagues and my constituents alike know that I am a long-time supporter of campaign finance reform. I have been a strong supporter since we first began this struggle for real reform three years ago, and my party's opposition then and since has never stopped me from voting my conscience, holding to my principles.

I have always, and will continue to believe that a total ban on soft money is necessary to reform our campaign financing system, and I will cast my vote to ban soft money again. Likewise, I believe that we must practice what we preach, and so I will vote to make these reforms effective today, not more than two years from now. They are needed now, they were needed when we first began this reform movement.

This issue is not about winning elections, it can't be. It is about restoring the public's faith and confidence in what we do . . . it's all principle. It is about cleaning up a flawed system, where whether true or not, the perception is we are all bought and sold! I reject that thinking—I reject that label. I am not, and neither are far too many of my colleagues in this House, to let that label stand. We, as a collective body, are too good to let that perception be taken for granted by our fellow Americans.

For my votes on principle today, I will no doubt be raked over the coals by editorial boards, and people on both sides of the issue, and that's fine. I can take the heat because I know I am fulfilling the obligation I've been given by the good people of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, and that is, to vote my conscience, in their best interests, all the while holding fast to principle.

My votes today will be principle over politics. I won't play games. How easy it would be to do what is "popular." To look the other way, and vote the way editorial boards want me to, or the way my leadership wants me to, or the way Common Cause wants me to. But what is popular, and easy, is not always what is principled, and that, for me, is an easy decision to make.

Today I vote for real reform. And with those votes, I stand on principle. Mr. Chairman, I hope I do not stand alone here today. But if need be, stand alone, I will.

H.R. 3733, THE VETERANS' CLAIMS CONTINUATION ACT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 3733, the Veterans' Claims Continuation Act. This important measure would allow the families of veterans to continue claims for benefits which are pending at the time of a veteran's death. This measure would also allow for continuation of other claims, such as a claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by surviving spouses or claims by children eligible for benefits because of birth defects attributable to their parent's military service during the Vietnam War. This important legislation would assure that families receive the full benefits which would have been paid, if the claimant had survived.

Currently, if a veteran or other claimant dies while a claim is pending, the claim is extinguished. Under some circumstances, a new claim can be filed for "accrued benefits." However, payment of accrued benefits is extremely limited. Benefits can only be paid to a limited category of survivors and only if all of the evidence supporting the claim is in the claimant's file at the time of death. No more than two years of retroactive benefits can be paid.

The need for a change in law has been recognized by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims. In a particularly egregious case, *Marlow v. West*, 12 Vet. App. 548 (1999), the court noted that the daughter of a combat wounded World War II veteran who had been erroneously denied benefits between 1946 and 1980 was precluded from pursuing his claim because the claim terminated at the veteran's death. In its decision the Court noted that the original decision in the case was a clear and unmistakable error, but because of the veteran's death, benefits otherwise due were not paid. The Court stated: "This is a case that causes one to understand the frustration of Charles Dickens' character Mr. Bumble, when he proclaimed, 'The law is an ass, an idiot.'" 12 Vet App. At 551. Veterans and their families are not served well by idiotic laws.

Currently, the Veterans' Benefits Administration has a backlog of almost 600,000 claims and another 100,000 appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals are awaiting action. While efforts are underway to reduce this backlog, it is inevitable that some claimants will die while their claims or appeals are pending. In some cases, veterans' families have incurred substantial expenses and suffered financial hardship while the claims have been pending. If benefits are justified, these families should be made whole.

Older veterans have expressed concern that VA uses delaying tactics, hoping that the veteran will die before the claim is allowed. I have no evidence that this is so. However the inability of family members to continue the claim and the limitation on any benefits payable to a two-year period in current law, may erroneously give veterans this impression. Claims for other government benefits, such as Social Security benefits are not extinguished when a claimant dies. The families of veterans, who have served our Nation honorably, deserve no lesser rights than Social Security claimants.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that the Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 had called upon Congress to eliminate the restriction on payment of accrued benefits. The Veterans' Claims Continuation Act will accomplish that end and I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and support H.R. 3733.

WORKER RETRAINING INCENTIVE ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, America's workers are facing tremendous pressures. Import competition continues to erode vital industries that are the economic foundation of communities across the country. At the same time, new jobs are increasingly hard to come by in the midst of a recession, especially jobs with good wages.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program was designed to help workers who are caught up in these forces and lose their jobs. It provides assistance so that these workers may seek training to gain new skills, and launch themselves onto a more stable and prosperous career path. This program serves a

wonderful purpose: it helps people to help themselves. It is not a handout, but rather a helping hand for anyone who had had a tough break, and wants to take charge of their future. Providing training opportunities is the best way to educate our work force, and help assure them better jobs and better lives.

Unfortunately, retraining is not always as attractive as it should be. The job placement rate for retrained TAA recipients is only 79 percent. The wage for those who do find jobs is only 81 percent of their previous salary in the first year. Under these circumstances, it is hard to convince a displaced worker that he or she is better off investing in a retraining program when getting a job in a new field appears to be a gamble, and a gamble with a low reward at that.

The shame of this situation is that the long-term prospects for retrained workers are much better than initial outcomes would make it appear. While the Department of Labor does not compile systematic data on job outcomes, state placement agents say that both wages and job stability are greatly enhanced within two to three years of retraining. What workers need is a bridge across that initial rocky period when wages are low and job placement is uncertain. That bridge leads to a better future, if only we can help them cross it.

This bill would create that bridge. It would implement an income tax credit equal to the Social Security payroll tax—OASDI—for both employers and employees, after workers have completed training through TAA. Both employees and the companies that hire them could claim the credit for the first year of employment for any worker whose salary is below \$60,000.

This bill would provide a crucial incentive for companies to hire retrained workers. Tying the income tax credit to the amount of the payroll tax makes the cost savings easily identifiable and attractive to businesses. At the same time, workers would get a badly needed salary supplement. This bill would make the prospect of retraining much more attractive for someone who has lost his or her job: they would know that businesses would be looking to hire them, and at a salary that is worth seeking.

I have always believed that the surest way to help our workers, and to help our economy, is to give people the best possible opportunity to compete and improve their lives. This bill helps businesses to invest in people, and helps people to invest in themselves.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSIDER
TRADING FULL DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Insider Trading Full Disclosure Act of 2002. This measure would ensure that consumers have adequate information about affiliate security transactions made by officers, directors, and board members with public companies.

As we have learned through the recent Enron collapse, it is critically important that in-

vestors have sufficient information about trades made by officers and directors of companies. With this information, investors will better understand the fiscal health of public companies in which they are investing.

Under current law, these insider trades can be disclosed many days after a transaction has occurred. I believe we must act to reduce the time frame in which these disclosures are made to the public. In fact, some of these transactions can be reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission up to 45 days after the calendar year in which the transaction occurred. In this Information Age, we should require better, real-time disclosure of these transactions.

My legislation would require these specified individuals to electronically file their disclosures one day after the transaction into the electronic database maintained by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This database called EDGAR will be searchable and would permit investors to quickly ascertain whether officers and directors are making trades related to their public company. These disclosures include all types of affiliate security transactions, including stock sales by an officer and inside trades of securities by an officer to their respective company. With better warning, I believe that the public will be better served and we will be able to restore investor confidence in public companies.

Yesterday, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed new steps to reform corporate governance rules. As a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, I believe it is necessary for the Congress to act to make these requirements mandatory. Without required disclosures, I believe many officers and directors will simply wait to inform the public about the transactions made on their own behalf.

In order to prevent conflict-of-interest actions, we need to provide full disclosure about affiliate security transactions to protect investors and restore investor confidence in our public companies. I urge my colleagues to support this effort to require new timely disclosures of affiliate transactions related to public companies.

MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DARLENE LUTHER, WHO
PASSED AWAY JANUARY 30, 2002

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to express our family's most sincere thanks to the hundreds of people who have sent cards, flowers, memorials, e-mails and so many other demonstrations of sympathy. This tremendous outpouring of affection and love for Darlene has genuinely touched us and we deeply appreciate all of the memories, feelings, and prayers that help to make this difficult time more bearable.

This outpouring of affection has, I believe, also been appreciated by the public at large, people who maybe didn't know Darlene but who have seen the news coverage. We con-

tinue to get comments from people who never knew her but are obviously struck by the way in which a public official can be admired, respected and loved.

I often said that to meet Darlene was to immediately like her, and to get to know her was to love her. The truth of that became so clear in talking with the many people at the visitation and funeral. Everyone loved Darlene and they let me know it. It really was a wonderful, wonderful outpouring of love and support.

Losing a cherished member of a family is something all of us have in common and the shared experience of grief unites us as human beings. Darlene would probably be embarrassed by all of the attention she has received. She was both a private person and a public servant, but she would be pleased that so many different people form all political persuasions have honored her. It would be her hope that this would be a small step forward in her life-long effort to unite people.

Our family has lost a daughter, sister, mother, and wife. Our lives, though they will never be the same, have been tremendously enriched by having Darlene with us for as long as we did. In fact, out of all of the campaigns for office in which I've been involved, my favorite was when Darlene was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives. I was in the Minnesota State Senate then, which included the district where she was running, and I was also up for reelection. While campaigning, people would tell me, "I just love your wife," and of course, the best part of the campaign was when she got more votes than her husband. I always joked with her that if she ran against me, it would certainly end my political career.

Darlene was especially blessed with a generous spirit. Her favorite time of the year was the holidays because that gave her an additional reason to give gifts. She always had a little something during the holidays for anyone who touched our family during the year. We would tease her when we heard a car drive by that they must be coming for their Christmas gift. But her generosity encompassed so much more than gift giving. Darlene was generous with her smile, with her time, and with her love for her family, friends and her community.

God gave Darlene the gift of physical beauty, but she possessed other qualities even more lovely within her—kindness, generosity, a passion for justice and a commitment to helping others. Darlene was truly a beautiful person in every sense of the word. Her life has impacted so many people, and I hope and pray that her example continues to touch and guide each of us.

As we look to the future it is my hope that we will all remember the things that Darlene's life was truly about—family, friends, faith, the pursuit of opportunities for all and the understanding that a life committed to public service is one of the highest callings. Losing Darlene is immensely difficult, but we know that we do not grieve alone. Our state has lost a genuinely compassionate public servant—someone who was absolutely committed to helping those who need help and to creating equal opportunities for all.

There's a saying: "It matters not how long a star shines, what is remembered is the brightness of its light." Our children, Alex and Alicia, and I thank everyone who helped make Darlene's light shine very bright.

AMERICAN HORSE SLAUGHTER
PREVENTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. CHRIS SMITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. LANTOS to introduce the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. This bill will prevent the cruel and senseless slaughter of American horses simply to satisfy the culinary desires of consumers in Canada, Europe, Japan, and elsewhere. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 55,776 horses were slaughtered in the United States last year for their meat, which was then sent overseas for human consumption. Thousands more were shipped live across the borders to Canada and Mexico for slaughter there.

The American public is largely unaware that our horses are slaughtered for human consumption, and the three foreign-owned slaughterhouses operating on U.S. soil would like to keep it that way. As Canadian slaughterhouse operator Claude Bouvry said, "People in the horse-meat industry don't like talking about slaughtering horses for food because of the horse's almost mythical place in Western culture."

Horses have played an important role in American history, and continue to do so through their use in agriculture, transportation, law enforcement, military service and as companion animals. American culture is peppered with famous equines, including Paul Revere's Brown Beauty, General Robert E. Lee's Traveler, and General George Armstrong Custer's horse, Comanche—the sole surviving member of Custer's 7th Cavalry at Little Big Horn. Other cultural icons of the equine persuasion include the Pony Express, the Lone Ranger's faithful mount Silver, Roy Rogers' Trigger, famed Triple Crown winners Citation and Secretariat, Flicka of My Friend Flicka and Mr. Ed, to name a few.

Pet horses, workhorses, thoroughbreds, Premarin® foals (who are a byproduct of the female hormone replacement drug industry), old and unwanted horses, horses purchased under false pretences and federally protected wild horses go to slaughter. Most arrive at the slaughterhouse via livestock auctions where, often unknown to the seller, they are bought by middlemen working for the slaughter plants.

These so-called middlemen better known as "killer buyers" travel from one auction to the next collecting young, old, sick and healthy animals until their trucks are full. Some are shipped for more than 24 hours at a time without food, water or rest. Increasingly, stolen horses are included on the killer-buyers' trucks. As the article *Horse Theft: A Victim's Story* so aptly puts it "Rustling horses is quick, profitable and dirty work. Most horse thieves swiftly unload their stolen animals at auction, where most of the creatures end up at slaughter."

While the transport of horses to slaughter is itself horrific, callous handling at the slaughterhouse often results in additional suffering. Improper use of stunning equipment, designed to render the animal unconscious, means that horses sometimes endure repeated blows to the head, and remain conscious through the

last stages of slaughter, including throat slitting.

There are human health reasons to be concerned about horse slaughter, too. Because they are not raised for food or fiber, the flesh of many horses going to slaughter is likely to be contaminated with medications and other substances unfit for human consumption.

Americans do not eat horses. We do not raise them for food. The vast majority of Americans, when told that our horses are being slaughtered for dinner in Europe, are horrified. In fact, a recent survey indicated that the American public would overwhelmingly support a ban on the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is a strong bill, which will end the slaughter of our horses for human consumption for good, rather than simply sending the practice over the border. This bill has the support of the American public, the animal protection community, horse owners and prominent members of the horse industry. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the Year of the Horse I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important and long-overdue legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO SANTA CLARA
BRONCOS WOMEN'S SOCCER
TEAM, 2001 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2001–2002 Santa Clara University women's soccer team. The SCU Broncos, headed by coach Jerry Smith, took home the first-ever national title in women's sports for Santa Clara University.

Santa Clara University's athletic program, under the leadership of Athletic Director Cheryl Levick, has a rich history of dedicated and talented athletes, who work hard on and off the field, and always maintain a strong commitment to teamwork. Santa Clara University has a strong reputation in the athletic and academic fields, has proven successful in recruiting student athletes, and has provided these athletes with an excellent education and a great athletic experience. Santa Clara's student-athlete graduation rate is the highest in their league.

Though the SCU women's soccer team has been a dominant force in women's collegiate athletics, the 2001 season has proven to be their best. In 2001, with a season record of 23 wins and only 2 losses, they went on to defeat North Carolina for the national title in a 1–0 victory on December 9, 2001, in Dallas, Texas.

Santa Clara University, through its educational and athletic programs, fosters the development of scholar-athletes into outstanding leaders. The leadership skills that these scholar-athletes develop through the mentorship of Head Coach Jerry Smith, Assistant Coach Rich Manning, Assistant Coach Eric Yamamoto, and Assistant Coach Sean Purcell was strongly evident during the championship game and throughout the season. Players Danielle Slanton and Aly Wagner both took the initiative to provide their team with the

calm and confidence that only a peer can provide. Aly Wagner has earned the distinction of being named 2001 Female Collegiate Athlete of the Year by the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

It is with great pleasure that I honor all of the members of the Santa Clara University Women's Soccer team: Erin Sharpe, Taline Tahmassian, Zepeda Zepesa, Alyssa Sobolik, Kerry Cathcart, Jaclyn Campi, Aly Wagner, Anna Kraus, Lana Bowen, Leslie Osborne, Jessica Ballweg, Emma Borst, Devvyn Hawkins, Bree Horvath, Katie Sheppard, Allie Teague, Danielle Slanton, Chardonnay Poole, Kristi Candau, Holly Azevedo, Erin Pearson, and Ynez Carrasco. The teamwork and dedication of these athletes has made the Santa Clara University community, and the entire State of California, proud. I would also like to acknowledge the Santa Clara University Bronco's Athletic Staff, Lisa Eskey, Carrie Rubertino, Jonathan Clough and Cheryl Levick.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend and congratulate the Santa Clara University Women's Soccer Team, 2001 National Champions. Go Broncos!

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, last night, the House passed H.R. 2356 as amended, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002.

I would like to speak today to provide guidance to the Federal Election Commission regarding its future interpretation of one of the provisions of H.R. 2356.

H.R. 2356 sets forth a definition of "electioneering communications" in Title II. Certain exceptions to this definition are set out in Section 201(3)(B) of the bill, and include (i) news distributed by broadcast stations that are not owned or controlled by a candidate, (ii) independent expenditures, (iii) candidate debates and forums and (iv) "any other communication exempted under such regulations as the Commission may promulgate . . . to ensure appropriate implementation of this paragraph."

Specifically, I wish to address some questions that have been raised about the purpose of the fourth exception.

The definition of "electioneering communication" is a bright line test covering all broadcast, satellite and cable communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate and that are made within the immediate pre-election period of 60 days before a general election or 30 days before a primary. But it is possible that there could be some communications that will fall within this definition even though they are plainly and unquestionably not related to the election.

Section 201(3)(B)(iv) was added to the bill to provide the Commission with some limited discretion in administering the statute so that

it can issue regulations to exempt such communications from the definition of "electioneering communications" because they are wholly unrelated to an election.

For instance, if a church that regularly broadcasts its religious services does so in the pre-election period and mentions in passing and as part of its service the name of an elected official who is also a candidate, and the Commission can reasonably conclude that the routine and incidental mention of the official does not promote his candidacy, the Commission could promulgate a rule to exempt that type of communication from the definition of "electioneering communications." There could be other examples where the Commission could conclude that the broadcast communication in the immediate pre-election period does not in any way promote or support any candidate, or oppose his opponent,

Charities exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are prohibited by existing tax law from supporting or opposing candidates for elective office. Notwithstanding this prohibition, some such charities have run ads in the guise of so-called "issue advocacy" that clearly have had the effect of promoting or opposing federal candidates. Because of these cases, we do not intend that Section 201(3)(B)(iv) be used by the FEC to create any per se exemption from the definition of "electioneering communications" for speech by Section 501(c)(3) charities. Nor do we intend that Section 201(3)(B)(iv) apply only to communications by section 501(c)(3) charities.

But we do urge the FEC to take cognizance of the standards that have been developed by the IRS in administering the law governing Section 501(c)(3) charities, and to determine the standards, if any, that can be applied to exempt specific categories of speech where it is clear that such communications are made in a manner that is neutral in nature, wholly unrelated to an election and cannot be used to promote or attack any federal candidate.

We urge the Commission to exercise this rulemaking power consistent with the time frame specified in the bill for the promulgation of new regulations to implement the provisions of H.R. 2356. We also expect the Commission to use its Advisory Opinion process to address these situations both before and after the issuance of regulations.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITIANS' RESPONSE TO OUR RECENT ICE STORM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of Kansas City-area residents who over the past two weeks rose to the challenge posed by the worst ice storm to hit the Kansas City metropolitan area in decades.

The storm, which struck our area with unprecedented fury on January 29th and 30th, cut electric power to over 450,000 area residents and caused more than \$50 million in damage in Missouri and approximately \$47 million plus worth of damage in Kansas. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm.

As the Kansas City Star described it, the storm "blasted through [and] left most of the metropolitan area a dangerous tangle of downed trees, felled power lines and snarled traffic . . . During an intense 12 hours, from 7 p.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday, [for example,] Johnson County emergency dispatchers took 420 calls, mostly from people reporting tree limbs pulling down overhead lines. The Kansas City Fire Department dispatchers took 1,100 emergency calls in a 12-hour period; ordinarily they receive 1,400 in a month."

Mr. Speaker, our constituents dealt heroically with this unexpected calamity and we want to take special note of the outstanding contributions made by those whose job it was to respond to this crisis: police, firefighters, 911 operators, KCI airport employees, and members of the Missouri and Kansas National Guard, to note just some of them.

Medical teams dealt with cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, exposure, and injuries due to falling tree limbs and falls on ice. Homeless shelters opened their doors to neighbors left without heat and electricity and church groups, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and municipal emergency services worked overtime and went the extra mile to help those in need during this time of crisis. Countless community volunteers including AmeriCorps, the Boy Scouts, and United Way gave their time to assist in the recovery process. Whether you were in Rosedale or Brookside, Independence or Overland Park, the "Kansas City Spirit" was prevalent with neighbors helping neighbors to cope with the devastation.

Most notably, hundreds of repair crews from area utilities—including Kansas City Power and Light, Missouri Public Service, the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities, Independence Power and Light, Westar Energy, and SBC—worked around the clock, along with 400 out-of-state repair crews and 350 out-of-state tree trimming crews, to replace lines, repair blown fuses and clear ice-laden trees that had cut off power lines and created fire and injury hazards. In fact, it is estimated that of the 450,000 trees that line Kansas City's streets, 10 percent of them will be gone when the cleanup is complete and over 10 percent of the city's privately owned trees also will have perished. To these utility workers, the people of the Kansas City area owe a special debt of gratitude.

We also applaud the leadership of our Governors Bill Graves of Kansas and Bob Holden of Missouri along with the countless local elected officials who worked in tandem with state and federal emergency management officials in compiling the damage assessments so that our Governors could request the Federal Emergency Disaster Declaration. The President and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acted quickly to start the process of bringing federal relief to our community so that now the full recovery can occur.

Mr. Speaker, we have proven once again Kansas City truly is the heartland of America—when our friends and neighbors are in trouble, our community comes together to address the crisis and to get the necessary job done—quickly, efficiently and effectively. We have never been prouder to represent the Kansas City metropolitan area.

THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB:
FINANCING OUR FOREIGN POLICY

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in a recent hearing with Secretary of State Colin Powell, I raised concerns about how we are financing the War on Terrorism. While there is no doubt that there is a need for increased defense spending, I worry that necessary resources are not being made available to finance our diplomatic and development programs overseas. As this war proceeds, it will be our responsibility to establish stable democracies to fill the vacuum left by fallen regimes. It is therefore necessary to properly fund related assistance programs.

Dr. Michael McFaul wrote an article entitled "The Other Half of the Job" in the February fifth edition of the Washington Post that deals with this very issue. He contends that if we intend to urge governments to promote liberty and freedom, it is our responsibility to provide assistance to those nations to establish stable democracies, and thereby create friendly allied states. He cites the examples of Germany and Japan. Just sixty years ago they were the greatest security threat to this nation, and today, after sustained support, they are among our strongest allies.

Dr. McFaul is an expert in the area of international relations and deserves recognition for his work in promoting world peace. He is a professor of political science at Stanford University and a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His outstanding scholarship has raised awareness and given light to this, among other important issues. His insights are valuable and worthy of consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read Dr. McFaul's thought provoking article and I request that it be included in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2002]

THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB

(By Michael McFaul)

The United States is at war. President Bush therefore has correctly asked for Congress to approve additional resources to fight this war. The new sums requested—\$48 billion for next year alone—are appropriately large. Bush and his administration have astutely defined this new campaign as a battle for civilization itself, and have wisely cautioned that the battle lines will be multifaceted and untraditional.

So why are the new supplemental funds earmarked to fight this new war largely conventional and single-faceted—i.e., money for the armed forces? Without question, the Department of Defense needs and deserves new resources to conduct the next phase of the war on terrorism. The Department of Defense may even need \$48 billion for next year.

What is disturbing about President Bush's new budget, though, is how little creative attention or new resources have been devoted to the other means for winning the war on terrorism. The Bush budget is building greater American capacity to destroy bad states, but it adds hardly any new capacity to construct new good states.

We should have learned the importance of following state destruction with state construction, since the 20th century offers up

both positive and negative lessons. Many have commented that our current war is new and unprecedented, but it is not. Throughout the 20th century, the central purpose of American power was to defend against and, when possible, destroy tyranny.

American presidents have been at their best when they have embraced the mission of defending liberty at home and spreading liberty abroad. This was the task during World War II. This was the objective (or should have been the mission) during the Cold War. It must be our mission again.

The process of defeating the enemies of liberty is twofold: Crush their regimes or the regimes that harbor them and then build new democratic, pro-Western regimes in the vacuum.

In the first half of the last century, imperial Japan and fascist Germany constituted the greatest threats to American national security. The destruction of these dictatorships, followed by the imposition of democratic regimes in Germany and Japan, helped make these two countries American allies.

In the second half of the last century, Soviet communism and its supporters represented the greatest threat to American national security. The collapse of Communist autocracies in Eastern Europe and then the Soviet Union greatly improved American national security. The emergence of democracies in east Central Europe a decade ago and the fall of dictators in southeast Europe more recently have radically improved the European security climate, and therefore U.S. national security interests. Democratic consolidation in Russia, still an unfinished project, is the best antidote to a return of U.S.-Russian rivalry.

The Cold War, however, also offers sad lessons of what can happen when the United States carries out state destruction of anti-Western, autocratic regimes without following through with state construction of pro-Western, democratic regimes. President Reagan rightly understood that the United States had an interest in overthrowing Communist regimes around the world. The Reagan doctrine channeled major resources to this aim and achieved some successes, including most notably in Afghanistan. State construction there, however, did not follow state destruction. The consequences were tragic for American national security.

So why is the Bush administration not devoting greater capacity for state construction in parallel to increasing resources for state destruction? Bush's pledge of \$297 million for Afghanistan for next year is commendable, but this one-time earmark does not constitute a serious, comprehensive strategy for state construction in Afghanistan or the rest of the despotic world that currently threatens the United States.

On the contrary, in the same year that the Department of Defense is receiving an extra \$48 billion, many U.S. aid agencies will suffer budget cuts. Moreover, the experience of the past decade of assistance in the post-Communist world shows that aid works best in democratic regimes. Yet budgets for democracy assistance in South Asia and the Middle East are still minuscule. Strikingly, the theme of democracy promotion was absent in President Bush's otherwise brilliant State of the Union speech.

It is absolutely vital that the new regime in Afghanistan succeed. Afghanistan is our new West Germany. The new regime there must stand as a positive example to the rest of the region of how rejection of tyranny and alliance with the West can translate into democratic governance and economic growth. And the United States must demonstrate to the rest of the Muslim world that we take state construction—democratic construction—as seriously as we do state de-

struction. Beyond Afghanistan, the Bush administration must develop additional, non-military tools for fighting the new war. To succeed, the United States will need its full arsenal of political, diplomatic, economic and military weapons. Bush's statements suggest that he understands this imperative. Bush's budget, however, suggests a divide between rhetoric and policy.

RECOGNITION OF MR. BOB BAKER

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob Baker of San Diego, California. I would like to join with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in honoring him as the recipient of the inaugural Joseph L. Hertel Memorial Award. Joseph Hertel, Mr. Baker's son-in-law, inspired this award. It is a tribute to his exceptional life and his courageous battle against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

The Bob Baker Auto Group, one of the largest automobile dealerships in San Diego County has earned a stellar reputation for its fair treatment of both customers and employees. Mr. Baker has been recognized by the industry on numerous occasions with professional commendations for his success and his contributions to the industry. Mr. Baker is also recognized for his community involvement, some of his civic duties include being a Trustee of the University of San Diego, Director Emeritus at Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation, Advisory Board Member for Scripps Hospital Trauma Board, and Advisory Committee Member for Saint Vincent de Paul.

I would like to wish Mr. Baker continued success as he joins his family and the Muscular Dystrophy Association to fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE A. CACHADINHA

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 13, a celebration will occur that honors a man most deserving of our praise, respect and congratulations. Reverend Monsignor Jose A. Cachadinha of Danbury, Connecticut will be honored for his Golden Jubilee in the Priesthood.

Monsignor Cachadinha was ordained into the Priesthood in Luanda, Angola on January 13, 1952. After being ordained, Monsignor Cachadinha served the Diocese of "Nova Lisboa-Huambo" where he played an instrumental role in meeting the community's pastoral needs. In addition to his pastoral duties at the Diocese, Monsignor Cachadinha served as a Chief Chaplain in the Portuguese Army.

Monsignor Cachadinha emigrated to the United States in 1978. Since then he has been active in organizing numerous religious and cultural services for Danbury's Portuguese Community, culminating with the Inauguration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and Community Center in 1982. The parish and community center play a pivotal role in main-

taining and celebrating Portuguese language and culture, as well as serving the spiritual needs of the community.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 50 years Monsignor Cachadinha has dedicated himself to his church, the Lord, and the preservation of the Portuguese Catholic community.

On behalf of the 5th District of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Monsignor Jose A. Cachadinha on his continuous religious, spiritual, cultural and civic leadership of the people of Danbury.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF DEL HANSON

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a law enforcement professional that is retiring after 28 years of dedicated public service. Police Chief Del Hanson, Woodland Police Department, in a career that began as a sworn patrol officer and ended as a police chief, will be honored by his department and the citizens of Yolo County on March 1, 2002 in Woodland California.

Chief Hanson began his law enforcement career in 1974 in Waukegan, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago and joined the Woodland Police Department in June of 1985 as a sworn patrol officer. Since then, Chief Hanson was promoted through the ranks of the Woodland Police Department and was sworn in as Police Chief in June of 1999.

Chief Hanson's belief in continuing education can be seen in his impressive educational achievements. Chief Hanson graduated with honors from St. Mary's College with a bachelors degree in 1991 and in 1995 received a masters degree from Cal-Poly Pomona. In addition, Chief Hanson graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1988. He is also a graduate of the Command College, which is sponsored by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

As a peace officer, Chief Hanson's career has been marked with great success. As a strong supporter of the School Resource Officer Program, Chief Hanson worked to acquire funding for two officers and created a very successful program that establishes prevention and intervention techniques on school campuses to help curb juvenile criminal behavior before it becomes more serious. Recently, Chief Hanson spearheaded the effort to acquire funding to construct a new state of the art police facility to meet the needs of the growing city of Woodland. The voters approved the funding in 2000 and the new facility will be open in late 2003 or early 2004.

Chief Hanson's law enforcement colleagues have recognized him with many awards and commendations including being named the Yolo County Bar Association's Officer of the Year in 1998 and was selected Chairman of the California Police Chiefs Association's Standards and Ethics Committee for 2001.

Chief Hanson is more than a peace officer, he is also a community leader. Chief Hanson serves as a board member for the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center. In addition, he serves as a member of the

Woodland Beautification Committee, which is a volunteer organization formed to facilitate murals in places previously plagued with graffiti.

I am honored to recognize an individual who has committed his life to the protection of his fellow citizens. Men and women who put their lives in harms way everyday on our streets and cities merit our admiration, and deserve our appreciation. Please join me in congratulating Chief Del Hanson for a lifetime of hard work and a job well done.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CHINA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as the President makes his first state visit to China later this month, I wish him well and a productive trip. The United States and China will have many issues to discuss, such as counter-terrorism, human rights, arms proliferation, Tibet and Taiwan. It is my hope that President Bush will stand on his principles regarding Taiwan. As a long time observer of the Republic of China on Taiwan, I have noticed that Taiwan is a country that has taken great strides towards democracy. With U.S. assistance, Taiwan is now a major economic power in the world, and a member of the World Trade Organization. Although it has embraced democracy, it faces a formidable adversary—the People's Republic of China. From time to time, China threatens Taiwan militarily. It is important that Taiwan has the capability to defend itself against outside forces. Therefore, I consider President Bush's trip to China vital, but believe that Taiwan's interests must not be compromised.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Shays-Meehan Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001. This legislation will close the soft money loophole which currently allows unlimited and regulated funds from corporations, labor unions, and wealthy individuals to be funneled into Federal election campaigns. In addition, it will require the clear and full disclosure of those who sponsor election-related advertisements.

As a member of the Government Reform Committee, I have watched with growing concern the insidious influence that soft money plays in our Nation's election process. The questionable fund-raising activities of the 1996 election and the record levels of money spent in 2000 points toward a disturbing trend that should be addressed and brought under control.

It has been nearly 30 years since Congress last corrected the abuses of the campaign finance system. In those 30 years, political loophole artists have learned how to exploit the shortcomings of our Nation's current campaign laws. It is therefore our duty to revise and adapt those laws to current realities and ensure that the intentions of our laws are upheld.

The Shays-Meehan bill is our best hope for true and meaningful campaign reform. It is time for the Congress to act in the best interests of our Nation. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the Shays-Meehan bill.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY MODERNIZATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Insurance Industry Modernization and Consumer Protection Act. This legislation will give insurance companies the ability to overcome the cumbersome inefficiencies of the current system through an optional Federal insurance charter. Companies that choose the optional federal charter will be able to bring new, innovative insurance products to our national markets much more quickly, giving consumers and businesses more choices in insurance products. It will also introduce strong federal oversight and consumer protections that should be required for an industry of such economic importance.

Importantly, for the first time in over half a century, the Insurance Industry Modernization and Consumer Protection Act will make the Federal antitrust laws generally applicable to the business of insurance, something I first called for in the 1970s. This will greatly enhance the ability of consumers and regulators to ensure a fair and evenhanded insurance market.

The domestic insurance industry, with assets of over \$4 trillion held by both life and property and casualty insurers, plays a major and central role in the U.S. economy. All businesses depend on insurance for protection from both known and unknown hazards. Without insurance, banks and other lenders would have to bear the risks of the hazards that befall their customers. Credit would be both harder to obtain and more expensive.

The events of September 11th underscore the crucial part that insurance plays in ensuring U.S. domestic economic security and stability. Without an estimated \$40 to \$70 billion in insurance benefits, the businesses and individuals affected by the terrorists attacks could not begin to rebuild their financial lives.

The health of the U.S. insurance market has a significant global impact as well. The U.S. represents over one-third of the world insurance market. In the year 2000, U.S. consumers and companies paid \$840 billion of the world's \$2.4 trillion in premiums.

Despite the industry's central role in the national and global economy, the business of insurance is regulated solely at the state level, with absolutely no federal oversight. Since 1976, I have called for giving the Federal government a role in the regulation of the insur-

ance industry. The Insurance Industry Modernization and Consumer Protection Act will strengthen the competitiveness of the U.S. insurance industry and provide the national government a voice in regulating an industry that is so vital to our national interests.

The current state-by-state regulation of the insurance industry does not reflect either the economic centrality of the industry or the reality of today's market. Many of the domestic insurance companies are heavily engaged in interstate commerce, and sell insurance products to a global, national or, at the very least, a multistate market. However, in the United States, we subject insurance companies to the burden and cost of being licensed in every jurisdiction in which they choose to sell policies. This checkerboard of inconsistent and inefficient regulation impairs strong regulatory oversight and increases the costs of doing business. It also has the potential of putting U.S. domestic insurance companies at a serious competitive disadvantage in what is an increasingly global insurance market. The current system unnecessarily increases costs, impedes the efficient delivery of products and services and, too often, inadequately protects consumers.

Over 50 different insurance departments, each with its own peculiar laws and procedures, regulate insurance companies that operate on a national basis. This current regulatory system adds to the cost of operating insurance companies in two ways. First, an insurance company is required to invest considerable resources to comply with the laws of each of these jurisdictions and to interact with all of these regulators. Secondly, the delay in approving insurance products results in lost profits. Insurance companies have testified before the Financial Services Committee that they can experience delays of up to 18 months in obtaining the approval of the 50 plus state insurance departments. One national life insurance company estimates that it loses \$50 million per year in lost profits because of these delays.

Consumers also suffer from the inability of insurers to bring their products to market quickly. Regulatory delays often translate into consumers' inability to obtain the best price or the most favorable product features. A well-designed regulatory scheme will create efficiencies and creativity that will benefit both consumers and insurance companies.

The Insurance Industry Modernization and Consumer Protection Act also benefits consumers by establishing a strong regulatory scheme to combat unfair and deceptive practices. Currently, some states do a very good job in protecting consumers. But, unfortunately, other states do not have a tradition of vigorous protection of consumers.

To raise the standards of those states with inadequate consumer protections and to prevent a competition in laxity between the Federal insurance regulator and the state insurance regulators, my legislation will require that all state-regulated insurers meet certain standards that the Act applies to federally chartered insurers. The Insurance Industry Modernization and Consumer Protection Act currently requires all state-regulated insurers to meet the same market conduct standards that the Act applies to federally chartered insurers. It is my intention to expand these minimum standards to other areas, including adequate information disclosure and effective means of redress for

consumers who have been harmed by illegal practices.

I do not view optional federal chartering as a means to escape vigorous state regulation of the insurance industry. The last thing I want is to encourage a "race to the bottom," as state and federal regulators compete for the participation of insurance companies by progressively weakening the quality and effectiveness of their oversight. I have indicated to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners that this bill should not be used as an excuse to weaken existing state consumer protections, or to scuttle attempts to improve these protections.

Establishment of an optional federal charter is intended to provide for a strong, efficient, and effective insurance regulatory system. Providing for Federal oversight of the insurance industry will lead to a healthy regulatory competition that can enhance efficiency, spur innovation and expand consumer protection in a way that will benefit both the insurance industry and its customers.

Mr. Speaker, the current, state-based system of insurance regulation is inadequate—and it is in the best interests of insurers and their consumers that it be augmented. Failure to enhance insurance regulation will keep in place a system that could threaten the viability of the insurance industry in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking this important step toward facilitating the modernization of the insurance industry. It is decades long overdue.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO
CHINA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that President Bush will be making a state visit to the People's Republic of China in late February.

As Secretary of State Colin Powell has said, the United States and China have many common interests. Among several large and continuing disagreements are religious freedom and the issue of Taiwan. I hope that President Bush will urgently raise the issues of freedom of religion and also stand firm on the issue of Taiwan in his discussions with the Chinese.

According to a report in yesterday's Washington Post, Chinese government documents show detailed efforts on the part of the Communist leadership to target religions including the use of secret agents to infiltrate Protestant religious groups, crushing underground Catholic churches, and the use of force against the banned Fulan Gong spiritual movement.

It is nothing less than a nationwide campaign to stamp out religion so that all the Chinese people can worship in the state. When Secretary Powell appeared before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee yesterday, he stated that when the United States and China have disagreements over religious freedom, "we do not hold back our criticism." It is therefore imperative for President Bush to speak out loudly and strongly against this denial of this basic human right—freedom of religion—when he is in China next week.

Regarding Taiwan, the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have been maintaining strong relations for decades. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and Taiwan, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of the United States. In the wake of September 11, Taiwan shared our mourning and its government ordered all flags lowered at half staff for two days. Taiwan stands with the United States on nearly all issues including safeguarding human rights and fighting terrorism around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is not an issue that divides the United States from China. As long as we stand firm on our principles of providing what Taiwan needs militarily, there will be stability in the Taiwan Strait and that is in everyone's best interests.

I wish President Bush best of luck in his journey to China.

RECOGNITION OF MS. ROSEANNE
LUTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Roseanne Luth of San Diego, California. I would like to join with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in honoring her as the recipient of the inaugural Joseph L. Hertel Memorial Award. This award was inspired by Joseph Hertel and is a tribute to his exceptional life and his courageous battle against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Roseanne Luth is a successful business owner in San Diego. Roseanne was the first elected president of the 70-year-old Executive Association and the San Diego Book of Lists ranks her custom research company, Luth Research, among the top 25 San Diego Women-Owned Businesses. She also served a five-year term as a board member of the San Diego Better Business Bureau and served as the Bureau's first woman chairman in 1998. In addition, to being an extraordinarily successful entrepreneur she is also an asset to the community.

I would like to wish Ms. Luth continued success as she continues to team with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and her brother, Bob Baker, to work towards the elimination of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

WRITING OF ASHLEY HECKER

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me today to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the writings of Ms. Ashley Hecker. Ashley is a fifth grade student at Doolittle Elementary School in Cheshire, Connecticut. She composed this poignant poem just moments after the terrorist attack on September 11th.

WE STAND STRONG

As the cry of American reaches my ears

I must try to hold back my tears.

The plane crashed along with the crew

You may have lost someone too.

Under the rubble some survived

Sadly, many died.

Your heart may hurt but do not blame

Don't give into this twisted game.

New York will never be the same,

The terrorists will live with a life of shame.

Please don't give up on the Red, White and

Blue

We'll keep on fighting through and through.

Ashley's poem came to my attention shortly after Veterans Affairs Commissioner Eugene A. Migliaro Jr. awarded her a citation for her "dedication, expression and patriotic views."

Mr. Speaker, it is both a personal pleasure and privilege to honor Ashley Hecker, a young lady who's writings exemplify the American spirit.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPERATION
COOKIE BAKE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and thoughtful consideration of many of my constituents for their involvement in organizing and carrying out a mass donation of baked goods, "Operation Cookie Bake", for the active duty, reserves and civilian employees at Travis Air Force Base in Vacaville, California.

Operation Cookie Bake, originally sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 165 of Vacaville, was created as one way in which the local community could show support for the hardworking men and women who defend our freedom around the world and at home. On October 22, 2001, the community hosted the first phase of Operation Cookie Bake, resulting in the donation of twenty-one large and medium sized boxes or approximately 5,000 cookies and another 1,500 brownies, fudge and other treats. The second phase of Operation Cookie Bake on December 11, 2001, produced over 10,000 cookies and 3,000 brownies, fudge and breads, or approximately 800 individual bags of goodies.

I would like to recognize the hard work of so many of my constituents who have truly made me proud: the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 165 who sponsored the first phase of the project and supported it; as well as the ladies of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 84 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Unit 7244; the employees, students and members of Sutter Health, Central Billing Office, Meek's Lumber, St. Mary's Parish, Rainbow Girls, Vacaville Bible Church, Boy Scout Troop 195, Girl Scout Troops 80 and 93, Vanden High School Interact Club, Will C. Wood Culinary Club, Faith Academy, Xi Tau Delta of Beta Sigma Phi, American Legion Auxiliary 550 of Vallejo, American Legion Post 165, Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84, United Veterans Memorial Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7244.

I would also like to recognize the Veteran Liaison for the 60th Air Wing, Airman first Class Brooke Gardner, for her efforts in facilitating the smooth operation and delivery of the

donations, and Captain Christopher Stratford, Executive for the Director of Staffs office at Travis Air Force Base, who helped coordinate the delivery of these gifts for the troops. In addition, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for Kelli Germeraad for her coordination of the entire project; without her countless hours dedicated to this endeavor, this venture would not have succeeded.

TRIBUTE TO NEGRO LEAGUE
BASEBALL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives an event that will be held in Newark, New Jersey, a Tribute to Negro League Baseball. Six months before the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, on April 12, 1861, two Black baseball teams played in Brooklyn, New York. Throughout the 1860s amateur Black baseball clubs sprang up around the Northeast and Midwest. Players for the Mutuals of Washington, DC included Black Activist Frederick Douglass' sons, Charles and Fred.

The first all Black professional baseball team was composed in 1885 of employees of the Argyle Hotel in Babylon, New York and in 1883, Fleet Walker, a catcher, signed with the Toledo Blue Stockings along with his brother Welday. The Blue Stockings then joined the American Association, which was considered a major league, thereby making the Walkers the only Black players to play in the major leagues until Jackie Robinson in 1947. In 1886, the Southern League of Colored Base Ballists became the first Negro League with teams in Memphis, Jacksonville, Savannah, Atlanta, Charleston and New Orleans. In 1900 only five professional Black baseball teams existed: the Genuine Cuban Giants, the Cuban X Giants, the Norfolk Red Stockings, the Chicago Unions and the Columbia Giants. By 1910, there would be more than 60 professional Negro teams barnstorming the country. During 1902, in an attempt to circumvent the color barrier and get infielder Charlie Grant on his team, Baltimore Orioles manager John McGraw changed Giant's name to Charlie Tokohama and tried to pass him off as a full blooded Cherokee Indian until his plan was exposed by Chicago White Sox owner Charles Comiskey. Future Hall of Famer, pitcher Rube Foster, went 51-4 for the Philadelphia Giants in 1905. In an exhibition game against the Philadelphia As, Foster beat 26 games winner Rube Waddell and became known as the "colored Rube Waddell." On February 14, 1920, Rube Foster organized a meeting in Kansas City of owners of several Black touring teams. The owners organized the first successful Black professional league, the Negro National League, which was comprised of the Chicago American Giants, the Chicago Giants, the Dayton Marcos, the Detroit Stars, the Indianapolis ABC's the Kansas City Monarchs, the St. Louis Giants and the Cuban Stars. Foster became the league's president and members agreed to honor each other's player contracts, which brought stability and organization to

Black baseball. In 1924, the pennant winners of the two Black leagues met in the first Negro World Series with the Kansas City Monarchs defeating Hillsdale in 10 games. In 1926, thirty years before Don Larson's perfect game, Red Griers of the Atlantic City Bacharach's pitched a no-hitter in game three of the Negro World Series against the Chicago American Giants. In 1930, five years before the major leagues turned on the lights, the Kansas City Monarchs became the first team to regularly play night baseball with a portable lighting system. In 1937, the Negro American League was formed and the Kansas City Monarchs won five of the first six Negro American League pennants. The Negro National League Homestead Grays won eight pennants between 1937-45 with John Gibson, the greatest hitter of the Negro Leagues (962 career homeruns). In 1945 Kansas City Monarchs rookie short-stop Jackie Robinson signed to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers at \$600 per month, thereby breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. Since baseball's integration from 1947 to 1953, six of the seven National League Rookies of the Year were former Negro League players, including Jack Robinson, Don Newcombs, Sam Jethrol, Willie Mays, Joe Black and Jim Gilliam. After the integration of baseball, the Negro leagues began to decline in 1948, due to the fact that its best players were now signing with major league teams. The Negro American League finally dissolved in 1963. Sixteen Negro League baseball stars have been inducted into the Hall of Fame including former Newark Eagles and local Major League players, such as Larry Dolby, Monte Irvin and Ray Dandridge. From 1920-1955 over 30 communities located throughout the Midwest, Northeast and the South were home franchises comprised of the Negro National League, Eastern Colored League, East-West League, Negro Southern League and the Negro American League. The City of Newark, New Jersey was the home of the Newark Browns, Newark Dodgers, Newark Eagles and the Newark Stars. Of all the Newark teams, the Newark Eagles were the most memorable. The team was managed by a woman, Mrs. Effa Manley, who along with her husband Abe Manley owned the team. They were also entrepreneurs, owning Club 83 on New Street in Newark. I had the privilege of attending Newark Eagles games as a youngster. The games were very memorable occasions.

There was great excitement in the air when the Newark Eagles won the 1946 Negro League World Championship over the Kansas City Monarchs in the seventh and final game of the series held at Newark's Ruppert Stadium on September 29. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pride that we remember and pay tribute to the athletes of Negro League Baseball during Black History Month. I know my colleagues here in the United States Congress join me in sending best wishes as the City of Newark pays homage to those who made history and made us proud.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Shays-Meehan substitute and want to explain one provision in the bill which will clarify campaign finance law with respect to contributions to federal candidates by U.S. nationals.

American Samoa is the only jurisdiction under U.S. authority in which a person can be born with the status of U.S. national. A national is a person who owes his or her allegiance to the United States, but is not a citizen. U.S. nationals travel with U.S. passports and are eligible for permanent residence in the United States. They are not foreign citizens or foreign nationals. In fact, they have most of the same privileges and immunities as U.S. citizens. However, federal campaign law was enacted before American Samoa had representation in the U.S. Congress and current law fails to address the issue of contributions from U.S. nationals.

Mr. Chairman, federal campaign law currently specifies that U.S. citizens and permanent resident foreign nationals may make contributions to candidates for federal office. Although there is an advisory opinion from the Federal Election Commission which interprets current law to allow U.S. nationals to contribute to federal elections, a federal court could at any time interpret the law to exclude U.S. nationals. Our failure to amend current law could also be interpreted to mean that Congress originally intended to prohibit U.S. nationals from contributing to federal elections.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe it was or is the intent of Congress, or the law, to exclude U.S. nationals from contributing to federal campaigns. Congress simply enacted a law before American Samoa had representation in the U.S. Congress. Now it is time to amend the law to specifically address the issue of U.S. nationals. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this technical change in any bill which moves forward.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, campaigns should be about the competition of ideas, not the competition of money between huge corporate donors and special interests. Allowing

the big donors to derail our elections takes power away from the voters and threatens our democracy itself. Cleaning up our campaigns should be an issue we all support., Supporters of clean campaigns in both parties have stepped up to the plate to bring this important issue to a vote, and the time has come to give the American people the victory they deserve by passing the Shays-Meehan bipartisan reform bill.

Good government watchdog groups have consistently recognized my home state of Minnesota as having some of the strongest clean campaign laws in the country. I am proud of those laws, which have increased the power of smaller donors, allowed the average citizen to have a prominent voice, reduced the influence of wealthy special interests, and restored confidence in the political process. I now urge my fellow representatives to implement tough campaign reform measures for federal elections.

The key provision in the Shays-Meehan proposal is a ban on "soft money"—the unregulated, unlimited donations from individuals and political action committees that are often used to run shady and misleading campaign commercials before an election. Eliminating the corrupting influence of soft money is the most basic reform we can make to begin cleaning up our election system and the Shays-Meehan bill is the only measure on the table today that addresses this pervasive problem.

Our nation owes a debt to the authors of this legislation—Representatives SHAYS and MEEHAN and Senators MCCAIN and FEINGOLD—for their tireless commitment to reform. I believe a basic turning point in this effort occurred during last year's presidential election when the public rallied around JOHN MCCAIN's message of reform. The public sent a strong message to the political establishment: they are tired of elected representatives who perpetuate a system that gives the advantage to large wealthy special interests. They are tired of politicians who resort to obscure parliamentary procedures to deny the American people the opportunity to have an honest debate on reform. They are tired of the current system and the overwhelming advantage that it gives to the incumbents. Now is our chance to enact true reform that the American people are demanding, a reform that has the potential to restore a new generation's faith in the political process.

There has been a lot of focus from the political punditry about which political party will benefit from the passage of various reform proposals. This is the wrong approach to take when debating campaign reform proposals. The approach should be on passing legislation that benefits the American people. Our constituents have sent us a strong message that the system is broken. It is time we hear them and pass strong campaign finance reform legislation. It is the right thing to do. I urge the passage of the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign reform bill.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, Minnesotans wanted real campaign finance reform last summer before the House's debate was unfortunately cut short, and they still want it today. We must begin cleaning up our campaign finance system and the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform bill is a good place to start.

We all have the right to have our voices heard when we engage in the political process. Right now millions of the unregulated dollars flood our campaigns and continue to drown out the concerns of working families in Minnesota and all America. Their opinions are being lost in the flood of big campaign checks from special interests.

Mr. Chairman, we should be encouraging political participation, not discouraging it. I've heard from too many people in my district that our campaign finance system is broken. It's now time this unbalanced system be fixed.

Shays-Meehan will prohibit national parties, officeholders and candidates from raising unregulated soft money for political parties at all levels. State and local parties can continue with voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities. This bill would also require sham issue ads be treated like all campaign ads right before an election—to be paid for with regulated money that requires full disclosure.

With Minnesota's unique system of public financing and contribution rebates, we have shown the nation how to run clean elections. Where else could the Republican party control the House of Representatives, the Democratic party control the Senate and there be an Independent in the Governor's mansion? Minnesotans are used to campaigns that are open, honest and competitive and it shows in voter turnouts that lead the nation year after year.

Campaign finance reform is critical, but we must also learn to control how much is spent on elections as well. I've introduced legislation that model's Minnesota's campaign finance system and will continue to work hard to take the next step in campaign finance reform limiting the hundreds of millions of dollars that are spent on our elections.

It is not a mistake that we are considering real campaign finance reform today. The discharge petition I signed last year finally forced the Republican leadership of the House to recognize that a majority of Americans had finally been joined by a majority of this House in the fight for real campaign finance reform. We must begin now.

Shays-Meehan will help to clean up our campaign finance system. By eliminating soft money, America's confidence in our political system will be restored.

HAPPY 109TH BIRTHDAY TO
MAEBELLE PLANT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a very happy birthday to Maebelle Plant who turns 109 years old on February 25, 2002.

Now living in her third century, Granny Plant has seen twenty presidents take the oath of office, experienced two World Wars, the Great Depression, and witnessed America's growth into the world's superpower. She came to Florida in a covered wagon and watched our men walk on the moon.

Granny Plant is our community's matriarch and the embodiment of our values. By helping others in need, she has had an immense effect on our area. Her efforts to feed hungry children is worthy of the highest acclamation. Her work-hard-attitude, unwavering faith in God and countless deeds of good, serve as an inspiration for our own civic responsibilities.

Granny Plant is adored by a family of six living children, 54 great grandchildren, 2 greatgreat grandchildren and a grateful community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to wish this inspirational woman the happiest of birthdays and many more to come. I offer my sincere thanks for all she has done. Maybe we can all live such a complete life if we live by her words, "Other's is my motto. I love people."

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE DIRECTOR GENERAL VICTOR C.Y. TSENG ON ASSUMING THE POSITION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TAIPEI MISSION IN SWEDEN

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan has been a true friend and partner of the United States of America.

During the past three years, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco has operated successfully under the guidance of the highly respected Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng.

Victor C.Y. Tseng assumed the position of Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco on July 1, 1998, and quickly became a good friend of the United States of America, strengthening the bond that has grown with each passing day.

On February 9, 2002, a farewell reception was held in Sacramento honoring Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng for his dedication, cooperation and exceptional leadership.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the years of outstanding effort as the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco and offer my best wishes and good luck to Victor C.Y. Tseng on assuming the position of Representative of the Taipei Mission in Sweden.

Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng is hereby commended for his outstanding and successful tenure as Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN
AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on May 4–6, 2002, more than 1200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from Duluth Central High School from Duluth will represent the state of Minnesota in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of principles of our government in the aftermath of the tragedy on September 11. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a

nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from Duluth Central High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
FIRST STATE VISIT TO CHINA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President George W. Bush is making his first state visit to China and I would like to take this opportunity before his departure to China to express my concern regarding Taiwan. I hope that President Bush will stand firm on the issue of Taiwan in his discussions with the Chinese and I encourage him not to comply with any demands from the Chinese government that affect the best interests of Taiwan.

The United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have been maintaining strong relations for decades. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and Taiwan, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of the United States in all areas.

In the aftermath of the tragedies of September 11, Taiwan was one of the first countries to give its unflinching support to the United States and has also been extremely cooperative in providing information and resources to the United States to combat terrorism. Taiwan has been enormously supportive in other areas as well, such as reducing its trade surplus with the United States and promoting U.S. goods and services in its domestic market.

Any attempts by the Chinese to ask the United States to reduce arms sales to Taiwan will endanger the balance of power in the Pacific Rim and lead to instability. I hope that President Bush will uphold the U.S. policy of continued arms sales to Taiwan and that he will urge the Chinese leaders to resume talks with Taiwan on reunification and other issues.

As long as we stand firm on our principles of providing what Taiwan needs militarily, there will be stability in the Taiwan Strait and that is in everyone's best interests.

I hope the President's visit to China will improve U.S.-China relations, but foremost, I hope the visit will be based on the premise of the best interests for Taiwan.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, President George W. Bush will be making his first state visit to the People's Republic of China later this month. This is a very important trip for both countries, and I hope President Bush will receive assurances from China for its full cooperation in our fight against worldwide terrorism.

In the meantime, I am hopeful that the President will work to protect the interests of the Republic of China on Taiwan. It is likely that the Chinese leaders will ask President Bush to make certain concessions on the issue of Taiwan, and we must strongly urge President Bush to stand firm on the United States' existing policy toward Taiwan, including our commitment to sell defensive arms to Taiwan.

As we all know, Taiwan is a small country, yet it faces a formidable adversary in the People's Republic of China. Despite all odds, and with U.S. assistance, Taiwan has been able to enjoy great economic success, significant political reforms, freedom and democracy. As a new member of the World Trade Organization and the world's 17th largest economy, Taiwan has a major economic presence in the world. Its 23 million people enjoy a high standard of living and will continue to do so as long as there is peace in the Taiwan Strait.

Peace in the Strait depends in large part on American support. I hope President Bush will give a message to Chinese leaders that peace in the Taiwan Strait will lead to greater prosperity for both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, and that Taiwan and the PRC should begin serious discussions about economic cooperation and other issues of mutual interest.

I wish the President a safe and productive trip.