HONORING CLAIRE NICHOLS
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Claire Nichols, for receiving the 2002 Educator of the Year Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Nichols was a dedicated educator, and is being recognized for her tremendous efforts.

Claire began teaching Kindergarten in 1955 at Lincoln Elementary. Shortly thereafter, she left the teaching field to become a mother. While absent from teaching, Mrs. Nichols was still very active within the school system, serving on the Jackson PTA, and as a Room Mother. In 1987 she returned to the classroom, this time as a second grade teacher for Jackson Elementary School. Claire brought a lot of attention and affection to her students. When her students were sick, she brought them baked goods at home.

Claire’s dedication to and genuine interest in students extended beyond the classroom. She had a deal with her students that if any of them hit a home run she would buy them a pizza. This deal followed the students from Little League all the way through high school. The football and basketball players also benefited from Mrs. Nichols’ generosity in the form of team meals.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Claire Nichols, for her dedication as an educator and for touching the lives of all her children. I invite my colleagues to Join me in remembering Claire Nichols for her community service and exemplary life.

RECOGNIZING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA’S NATIONAL DAY OF INDEPENDENCE
HON. MAURICE D. HINCHNEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HINCHNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Tunisia and its people on the 46th anniversary of their National Day of Independence. Over the last 46 years, Tunisia has been an outstanding model for developing countries. It has risen from a fledgling democracy to a nation that is at the forefront of instituting an aggressive North African free market economy.

The United States and Tunisia have maintained a strong relationship throughout Tunisia’s history. During the Cold War, Tunisia was a crucial partner in the Mediterranean Sea. In our struggle against terrorism, dating back to the early 1990s, Tunisia has been a steadfast ally. As early as 1993, Tunisia condemned forms of Islamic extremism and terrorism. In 1994, Tunisia warned the West of terrorism’s evils and spoke of the need to fight terrorism on a global level.

Tunisia’s unwavering opposition to terrorism has been no more evident than in its response to the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Immediately following the attacks, Tunisia’s President, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, offered his country’s heartfelt condolences to the American people and strongly condemned the attacks and those behind them. President Ben Ali also offered his country’s steadfast support for our efforts to bring those responsible to justice.

As a friend of Tunisia, I again congratulate the Tunisian people on 46 years of independence and would like to share with my colleagues the insightful words of President Ben Ali, describing the reasons for Tunisia’s success in building a democratic society:

“Tolerance is at the heart of our social traditions as well as a characteristic of Tunisia’s history. Pluralism, whether religious, cultural, or political, is ingrained in our society. Tunisian Moslem and Jews have lived together under the same sky and same state for many centuries. Each contributed to the building of [Tunisia], whose greatness is based on the tolerance of its people—a tolerance which has been among the highest values governing relations between the two parties, as there was no room for hatred.”

TO HONOR MR. AND MRS. VEGA
FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK IMPROVING THE LIVES AND EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY
HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to two outstanding citizens who have improved the lives and education of youth in the Hispanic community. For their commitment and dedication, a new elementary school will be named in their honor in McKinney, Texas. I speak of Jose de Jesus and Maria Luisa Vega, whom I have the distinct honor of knowing and representing in Congress.

Upon arriving in McKinney in 1950, the Vegas realized that most immigrant children had little opportunity to succeed in the public school systems. Work in the fields seemed a better alternative to the difficulties of integrating for these children. However, after visiting with parents from the community, the Vegas decided to build a school specially to assist the newly migrated children. Through various fund-raisers, local contributions and assistance from the parents, a school was built to help students learn and improve their English skills and provided tutoring on various other subjects.

Mrs. Vega, who graduated from the National University of Mexico with a degree in medicine, also opened a clinic in the community and Mr. Vega served as a pastor in the local Episcopal church.

Years later, the Vegas moved for health reasons to Arizona, where Mrs. Vega taught high school for 22 years before retiring. Nonetheless, their contributions to the McKinney community have been far from forgotten as they continue to be honored and recognized for their work.

For decades, Mr. and Mrs. Vega have educated and helped to provide our underprivileged children with the opportunity to obtain a basic education. They truly serve as a model and inspiration to educators throughout our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO DORITA CLARKE
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dorita Clarke in recognition of her commitment and dedication to higher education opportunities in New York City.

Donita is a very active member of the community. Along with a full time job with the Department of Transportation, Dorita has served as the New York State Committee Woman for the 22th Assembly District since 1965. In 1997, she co-founded the “You Can Go to College Committee” where she continues to serve as the Executive Director. This organization prepares ninth through twelfth grade students to take the SAT’s, assists seniors through the application and financial aid process, and provides workshops on college life. In addition, she arranges college visits to New York area colleges and tours of some Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Many of the students who have worked with the “You Can Go to College Committee” have enjoyed an easier adjustment to college life and maintained at least a 3.0 GPA. Once in the program and attending a college, the Committee continues to track students’ progress and periodically sends care packages. Since the inception of this tremendous program, over 1,000 students have participated.

In addition, Ms. Clarke is affiliated with several other organizations such as the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, Chapter #93; United Democratic Club—Executive Board; Democratic National Committee; Key Women of America, Inc.; and York College Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Clarke has dedicated her life to giving youth in Brooklyn and throughout New York City the opportunity to excel in higher education. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.
HONORING JIM KNIGHT OF EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and pride that I wish to honor the late Jim Knight of East Chicago, Indiana. His dedicated service to the City of East Chicago and to the entire Northwest Indiana community until his unfortunate death in May, 1998, has resulted in the city dedicating the new East Chicago Public Safety Building in his name. I had the privilege of knowing Jim for many years, and he was an inspiration to anyone who had the privilege to meet him.

Jim Knight was born in East Chicago on March 13, 1925 and spent his youth attending St. Mary’s Elementary School and Catholic Central High School, which is now Bishop Noll Institute. After graduating from high school, Jim prepared himself for a future in the United States military by attending the U.S. Navy Sonar School in San Pedro, California. He continued his higher education by attending Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

After completing his studies, Jim served his country in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1945. His devoted service during World War II left Jim with a sense of purpose and accomplishment, so after the war he decided to re-enlist in the United States Army, where he actively served from 1949 to 1953, and then continued his military service in the reserves.

Although his experiences in the military took him to many places around the world, Jim Knight’s heart was always in Northwest Indiana. He spent his time exploring many different occupations, including working as an ironworker for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, earning his real estate license, serving as a Lake County Deputy Sheriff, and finally as the East Chicago City Controller, a position he held from 1972 until his death in 1998.

Jim Knight dedicated his personal and professional life to making East Chicago and Northwest Indiana a better place. He developed a love for politics while lobbying for the Lake County Fraternal Order of Police. He was also involved with many professional associations, including the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Indiana Controllers’ Association, the Lake County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, and the East Chicago Board of Public Works. Jim was also the President of the East Chicago Waterway Management District.

When he was not with his wife, June, their six children and twelve grandchildren, Jim spent much of his personal time as a member of various social clubs. He was the Past Exalted Ruler of East Chicago Elks Lodge #981, and was a member of the East Chicago Goodfellows Club, American Legion Post 369, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Jim Knight and commending the City of East Chicago for dedicating their new public safety building in the memory of an outstanding citizen of the East Chicago community. Jim devoted his time to improving the quality of life in his native city, as well as Northwestern Indiana, and his legacy will continue for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF BRENDA E. PERRY-FELDER
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel Mark Washabaugh for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he serves as the Chief, Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He manages, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and State/local governments.

Colonel Washabaugh began his distinguished Air Force career with the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Maryland and was commissioned in 1972. He graduated from St. Anne’s Academy, Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology/biology from the University of Maryland in 1972 and a Master of Science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1985. Colonel Washabaugh also attended National War College and the National War College, and attended Space and Strategic Defense Institute.

Colonel Washabaugh returned to the continental United States as the Program Officer, Directorate of Operations and Readiness, Headquarters United States Air Force. His next assignment took him to Osan AB, Republic of Korea where he served as the Executive Officer for the Deputy Commander for Resources, 51st Composite Wing (Tactical); followed on as Wing Executive Officer and then as Chief of Air Defense at 31st Air Defense Wing.

Colonel Washabaugh returned to the United States as the Program Officer, Directorate of Operations and Readiness, Headquarters United States Air Force. His next assignment took him to MacDill AFB, Florida, where he served as Chief of Protocol for the United States Central Command. In 1993, he returned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force and served as the Chief of International Programs for Southern Europe. In 1996 he entered the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, as a student. Upon graduation, he became Chief of Protocol, Headquarters U.S. European Command at Patch Barracks, Germany. In 1989 he returned to the continental United States as Chief of Branch 1 in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. His next assignment was as the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas as the Chief of Communications and Strategic Information Planning. He returned to the DC area to serve as Chief of the Business Systems Division for the Air Force Communications and Information Center. He was assigned to this position in 1999.

Colonel Washabaugh’s military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

IN HONOR OF BRENDA E. PERRY-FELDER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Brenda E. Perry-Felder in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her family, her community and her church.

Brenda E. Perry was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1940. Brenda attended Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, and then went on to become one of the first African-Americans to attend Bishop McDonal’s Catholic High School. She has spent her life caring for others. After graduating from high school, Brenda attended Kings County Hospital Nursing School. As a registered nurse, she held several positions at a number of different hospitals, including St. Mary’s and Greenpoint Hospital.

Brenda has been married to her husband, Cleon, for almost 25 years. Together they have three children, Derick, Ronda, and Kimberly as well as one adopted daughter, Brenda, and a stepson, Cleon Jr. She is also the grandmother of 13 and great grandmother of two. While raising her children, Brenda decided to go back to school to become a teacher. She was a member of the first class of Medgar Evers College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She also attended Barber-Scotia College. She went on to receive a Master’s in Education from Brooklyn College followed by a Master’s in Supervision/Administration from City College and a Principal Leadership Certification from Howard University.

Brenda was an outstanding dedicated teacher, principal and advocate for children. She worked as a teacher in the Catholic school system at Our Lady of Victory and New Bed-Stuy Catholic Schools. She went on to work for the New York City Board of Education in District 23 where she remained for over 25 years. One of her greatest career accomplishments occurred early this year. After a great deal of hard work, just as she was retiring as its school principal, Brenda was able to have PS 73 removed from the SURL list.

Brenda has received countless honors for her hard work and dedication. In 1986, 1992, and 1995, she received the Outstanding Leadership Award from District 23; in 1991, she received the “Key Women of America Education Award”; in 1993, 1998, and 1999 she was given the Rachel Jean Mitchell Award for her Outstanding Service to Students in District 23; in 1994, she was honored with the Outstanding Teacher Award by Betty Shabazz Award for Outstanding Service to Children; in 1997, she also received the Barbara Scotia College Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to Children; and in 1999, the New York City School system acknowledged her career achievements with the Chancellor’s Leadership Award as Principal of the Year.

Brenda E. Perry-Felder has committed herself as a parent, student, and teacher to hard work and outstanding accomplishments. Her
motto is. “If I can help somebody along the way then my living will not have been in vain.”

Mr. Speaker, Brenda E. Perry-Felder has helped many and her life is not in vain. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING DAVID SULENTA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Sulenta for receiving the 2002 Fire Personnel of the Year Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce.

David joined the Sanger Fire Department October 30, 1979. He began as a Firefighter/Specialist soon after. Aside from Mr. Sulenta’s contributions as an outstanding person, he has initiated many programs for the Sanger Fire Department. He brought about the routine testing of the self-contained breathing apparatus and he developed specifications for the new exhaust system which removes diesel exhaust fumes from the apparatus floor when fire engines drive out of the firehouse. Moreover, David was active in obtaining equipment for new fire engines. His achievements and contributions have not gone unrecognized by his peers. The officers of the department have selected him as “Employee of the Quarter” many times and this is the second time he has been honored as the Fire Personnel of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David Sulenta for his contributions to the Sanger Fire Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking David for his active involvement within the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND F. BRANNON JACKSON IN CELEBRATION OF 36TH YEAR IN MINISTRY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and esteem that I wish to congratulate Reverend F. Brannon Jackson, who is celebrating his 36th year in the ministry. As the congregation at Calvary Institutional Church will attest, this praise is well deserved. Having overcome many obstacles in his life, Reverend Jackson serves as a role model for those wishing to start their lives afresh and to have a positive influence over the lives of others.

To the benefit of Northwest Indiana, Reverend Jackson’s arrival in Gary was, in his own words, “God’s will.” In 1946, after serving in the military, he planned to visit his cousins in the city where he had sung as a child with the Gary Singers. Having heard that a company had moved to San Francisco, she returned to the area, in spite of its differences from his native state.

Until he received the call to the ministry, Reverend Jackson openly admits his early years in Gary were spent enjoying the frivolities in life. At the age of 22, eager to set himself on the path of success, he offered his skills as a welder to Grbaltar Insurance Company; later he secured other positions, first at Reliable Cab, and then at the Budd Plant. It was while at the Budd Plant that he accepted his call to the ministry. Incidentally, this call came disguised as a church hymn: while playing poker with friends, Reverend Jackson became agitated when a man began walking room to room singing these songs. He followed the man, intending to ask him to quiet down, but instead discovered the verses sung stirred a passion within his soul that has yet to be quelled. Under the direction of Reverend L.J. Harris and the New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Jackson freed himself from the entanglements complicating his life and set his feet upon this path of righteousness.

Knowing his congregation would benefit from a minister well versed in spiritual, as well as secular affairs, Reverend Jackson began to challenge himself intellectually. He attended Chicago Baptist Institute and completed his GED, but his hunger for this intellectual development remained insatiable. Bolstered by his renewed faith in God and in himself, Reverend Jackson enrolled in Indiana Christian University, where he attained not only a bachelor’s degree, but successfully earned a master’s degree in religious arts.

Reverend Jackson’s devotion to the Baptist Church is best reflected by the distinguished positions he has held and by the awards he has garnered during his 36 years in the ministry. He served as the president of the General Missionary Baptist state convention and the Indiana state convention. He lent his religious expertise to the National Baptist Convention, where he participated as an active board member. The culmination of his many years of dedicated service to the Baptist Church was achieved in 1998, when Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon honored him with the Sagamore of Wabash Award, the highest award the governor can bestow upon a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend F. Brannon Jackson as he observes his 36th year in the ministry. His commitment to his faith, as well as his selfless contributions to his congregation, is worthy of our commendation. Reverend Jackson is one of many extraordinary examples of leadership and integrity characteristic of the citizenry of Northwest Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 65, on approving the journal. Had I been present I would have voted “yea.”

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 66, H.R. 368, Commending the Pentagon Renovation Program. Had I been present I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING DOUG PERRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Perry, principal of El Capitan Middle School, for receiving a nomination for the Educator of the Year Award from the California League of Middle Schools.

HONORING CATHERINE WATTS-COLEMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Catherine Watts-Coleman in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community. Catherine, a native of North Carolina, relocated to Brooklyn with her parents and two siblings after receiving her high school diploma from the Morningside High School in Statesville, North Carolina. Upon arriving in Brooklyn, Catherine enrolled in the Central School for Practicing Nursing. After graduating, she went on to work at the Harlem Eye and Ear Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, and Sheephay Bay Nursing Home.

In 1950, Catherine married the late Bryant Coleman and was blessed with two wonderful children, Wayne and Lance. In rearing her children, she became more active in the Brooklyn community. Her motto is “parents must be actively involved in the social, educational, and spiritual life of their children in order for them to grow up and become responsible contributing members of society.”

Catherine grew up in a caring, loving and spiritual household and she continues to always put God first in her life. Her daily meditation includes the 23rd and 121st Psalms, and the 14th Chapter of St. John. With that commitment to her community, she continues to be a tithe member of her childhood church, the Church of the Living God in Statesville, North Carolina, and alternates weekly worship between Nazarene Temple and Faith Holy Churches in Brooklyn.

Today, Catherine is a happy retiree who continues to reach out and touch the lives of others by happily volunteering her time. One of her greatest joys is talking about her six grandchildren, Zuri, Maurice, Larissa, Lauren, Lance Jr., and Latrice. She is also proud of her daughter-in-laws, nieces, and nephews who are an integral part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, Catherine Watts-Coleman has devoted her life to serving her family and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug Perry for his nomination for the 2001 Educator of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Perry for his outstanding service to the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 181st anniversary of Greek independence that will take place on March 25th. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I once again join my colleagues in paying tribute to the Greek nation and its people.

As we all know, ancient Greece was the fountain of democratic ideals and values for the rest of the world, and on the day of her Independence, we are again reminded of our duty to strive for and defend freedom.

We are also reminded of the debt of gratitude we owe to the country upon which our democratic process is founded, while also recognizing the strong support modern day Greece has given us in our battle with terror. Indeed, the people of Greece and all Greek Americans have cause to celebrate their achievements on this day of Independence.

On behalf of the people of the Sixth Congressional district of Massachusetts, I wish to extend congratulations to the people of Greece and all people of Greek heritage in the United States on this important holiday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DREW SHAPIRO

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Drew Shapiro, an eighth grader from Fenton, MI. In June, 2001, for his charitable Bar Mitzvah project, Drew chose to create snack kits to be distributed to homeless veterans in Flint and Ann Arbor, Michigan as well as Toledo, Ohio.

When the project was finished, Mr. Speaker, he had collected enough donated items and money to assemble over 600 individual snack kits containing canned tuna, snack mix, candy, nuts, raisins and other nutritional food. Some even contained wool hats and t-shirts. On December 21, 2001, with the help of the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital, Drew and his family distributed the kits, along with a note attached to each that read, “Dear Veteran, Thank you for being our country.”

Even though Drew was planning his project well before the tragic events of September 11th, his hard work and compassion for our veterans took on special meaning after that terrible day. The attacks of September 11th were meant to create fear in every American, especially our children. Yet, the terrorists who carried out those evil acts have succeeded in only strengthening our resolve as Americans. It is also clear, through Drew’s great example, that our nation’s greatest resource, our youth, is as strong, brave, and as bright as they have ever been.

Mr. Speaker, this young man exemplifies the spirit of every American at this time in our history. He has set a wonderful example that every American can follow. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Drew’s devotion to our country and to its veterans, who themselves have paid such an incredible price so that we may continue to live in freedom.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JOYCE YVONNE CHASE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Joyce Yvonne Chase, member of the Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board and the NAACP 100 Black Women, devoted parishioner of the John Wesley United Methodist Church and a dedicated community leader, in recognition of the nearly five decades of compassionate and selfless service she has contributed to her community.

A native of Guyana, Mrs. Chase migrated to the United States in 1953. She began her career as a nurse’s aide at the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital and five years of devoted service, joined the staff of Brooklyn’s Kings County Hospital. Through continued education and hard work, while at Kings County Hospital, Mrs. Chase progressed from nurse’s aide to licensed practical nurse and then to Registered Nurse, the position from which she retired in 1993 after forty years of enthusiastic, kind-hearted and loving service—service that made a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

After retiring from her career in nursing in 1993, Mrs. Chase continued to carry out her commitment to care and service of the less fortunate as a dedicated volunteer. Since 1993, Mrs. Chase has volunteered as a member of the Auxiliary of Kings County Hospital Center, spearheaded the hospital’s One Hundred and Sixty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, which raised $126,000 to enable the further development of the New Bed Tower of Kings County Hospital, and personally organized a fundraiser for Rhonda Armstrong, a twelve year old Guyanan native with a brain tumor. Mrs. Chase also continues to coordinate an Annual Thanksgiving Party for the children of Bedford Stuyvesant, volunteers at the Brooklyn’s Children’s Museum, and fulfills her role as the pillar of her family.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Mrs. Chase is married to Keith Anderson Chase, and is the proud mother of two children.

A beacon of dignity and compassion and a pillar of her community and family, in all that she has done Mrs. Chase has always put others first. She is in every way always caring. Her selfless commitment to serving those in need has touched many lives and had a tremendously positive affect on her community. Mrs. Joyce Yvonne Chase is truly an exemplary citizen worthy of our praise. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. HILDA L. SOLIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Member of the Hellenic Caucus to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate its 181st anniversary of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

We all know of ancient Greece as the birthplace of democratic ideals, from Solon, the lawmaker who framed Athens’ Constitution; to Pericles, the leader of that City-State’s democratic political movement; and the philosophers Socrates and Plato.

However, 181 years ago Greece engineered a new democratic movement by overthrowing the Ottoman Empire which had ruled the nation for more than 400 years and declaring independence.

The war for independence began on March 25, 1821, in the monastery of Hagia Lavra, Kalavryta.

It was here that Germans, the bishop of Paleo Patron, raised the banner of the revolution and blessed the arms of the captains of the revolting Greeks.

The Greeks’ struggle for freedom inspired many Americans, who noted the parallels to our own revolutionary battle just 46 years prior.

In fact, many Americans left our country to fight for Greek independence, and the U.S. Congress also provided financial assistance for the war effort.

And today, many citizens of Greek descent—including nearly 1,000 in my district, the 31st District of California—call the United States their home.

Indeed, with more than 3 million people of Greek descent living in the United States, our commitment to this great Hellenic nation has not diminished.

Indeed, it grows stronger every day.

From our mutual efforts to establish peaceful relations in the Balkans to the transfer of the Olympic Games from Salt Lake City to Athens, the United States and Greece have worked hand-in-hand.

It is my hope that this relationship will grow and prosper as the years continue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Greek Independence Day and saluting the people of Greece for their contributions to our own wonderful nation and the world.
IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. This valuable organization has been empowering young women to develop leadership skills, along with a sense of determination, self-reliance and teamwork since 1912.

Today, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have over 3.8 million members throughout the United States. In my district alone, 10,000 Girls Scouts are able to acquire the self-confidence and expertise that is needed to distinguish themselves as leaders in their communities.

I commend the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley for their outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service and personal development. Both of these chapters offer young women in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania the opportunity to develop life skills that will enable them to become confident and caring adults.

For 90 years, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have had a positive impact on the lives of countless young women nationwide. It is my hope that the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. continue these strong traditions for the next 90 years and beyond.

THE MENTAL HEALTH EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today celebrating introduction of the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act with my good friend from New Jersey, Mrs. ROUKEMA. Too many Americans have had a positive impact on the lives of countless young women nationwide. It is my hope that the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. continue these strong traditions for the next 90 years and beyond.

of this issue. The question for Congress to decide is whether we continue to indulge our old, deep-seated prejudices against the mentally ill or whether policy catches up with science.

We will hear that parity is too expensive. I am confident that nobody in this Congress would countenance rationing health care for cancer or asthma. Like mental illnesses, these are potentially fatal, frequently treatable, chronic diseases. Unlike cancer and asthma patients, however, most Americans suffering from mental illnesses find that their health plans hinder access to necessary medical treatment.

If we would not tell asthma or cancer patients that their coverage is too expensive, why would we say that to the mentally ill? Essentially, we are asking our constituents with mental illness to sacrifice potentially life-saving care for the sake of the insurance company’s bottom line. This is not the solution.

We have a strong science base and the authority of the Surgeon General, NIH, AMA, and Nobel Laureates saying mental illnesses are diseases on par with physical ailments. We have experienced increased rates of states and the federal employees’ health program showing that parity results in a more efficient use of mental health resources.

So I ask you, as you consider the merits of this bill, don’t let the issue get muddied. I believe the choice is simple. On the one hand is the status quo. It’s the denial of medically necessary care because of stereotypes and prejudice. It’s suicide and lost jobs and broken lives. It’s stories like that of Molly Close from Louisville, Kentucky, who wrote:

In 1998 I was hospitalized 3 times for depression with treatment intent. Each hospitalization was terminated, not because my doctor felt I was ready to leave, but because my insurance company refused to pay for further treatment. I left the hospital the last time, I was still severely depressed. I was not healthy enough to return to my teaching career of 24 years. Since I had exhausted all my leave days, I was forced to resign my job. . . .

It is time to end the discrimination that the Molly Closes of this country face.

Our earlier parity bill, H.R. 162, has 203 co-sponsors. We have the concerns of employers about cost and the need for flexibility and that’s why we are here today introducing this compromise bill. This new legislation makes a major concession in dropping substance abuse. It contains explicit guarantees that plans can manage benefits. It protects the rights of health plans to set medical necessity criteria. A majority of the House supported these parity provisions last year during the appropriations process and I’m hopeful that we will have a chance to see whether a majority will support it on the Floor this year.

Let’s give the 15 million Americans with mental disorders full access to the American Dream. This bill is the right thing for them and the right thing for our nation. I look forward to working with my friends on both sides of the aisle to give all Americans the health care they need and deserve.

HONORING JERRY LEE BRYANT, COMMUNITY LEADER AND FRIEND

HON. BOB BARR
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the City of Rome, Georgia, as well as the entire north-west Georgia community, has lost a friend. Mr. Bryant, a member of the Rome City Commission, and a champion to many who grew up spending much of their time at the Rome YMCA. On March 5, 2002, Jerry Lee Bryant, as described by the Director of the local YMCA, was a “Living Legend,” passed away.

A native of Corbin, Kentucky, Jerry graduated from the University of Louisville after serving with the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War. He began his career with the YMCA in Waycross, Georgia, in 1953. In 1960, he moved to Rome, where he served as the YMCA director. He remained with the United States chosen to serve as a leader for the YWCA World Youth Conference in Holland.

Jerry had a passion for the YMCA, his church, his community, the City of Rome, and its schools and young people. Many men who grew up in the Y thought of him as a substitute father.

Jerry and his lovely wife Martha came to Rome in 1962. Jerry became Director of the Rome YMCA and Martha served as the Y’s program director. He remained with the local Y for 30 years, and during that time he led the YMCA board in a building project that doubled the size of the Y facility. He was instrumental in leading the YMCA in its purchase of Camp Glen Hollow in 1989. Grown men now remember Jerry as their “daddy”; a hero; one who made an impression on their lives; a second father. Following his retirement in 1991, Jerry spent the majority of his time serving his community and assisting his wife, Martha, in her business, Bryant & Garrett Travel Agency. He was the first chairman of the Heart of the Community Board of Governors, a Seventh District STAR Student chairman, and he served on the board of the Floyd Medical Center Health Care Foundation. Jerry also was a past president of the Rome Rotary Club, and served as chairman of the Administrative Board and Board of Trustees of Rome First United Methodist Church.

Jerry’s wife, Martha, his children, Chuck Bryant and Lee Ann Bryant Edwards, as well as two grandchildren, have lost a wonderful husband, a tremendous father, and a grandfather, who loved them dearly. The citizens of Rome and Floyd County have lost a great leader. I have lost a good friend.

DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF FARM SECURITY ACT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

HON. J. RANDY FORBES
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I understand that yesterday the lead negotiators for the
Farm Bill informed us that they would “be in a position to make the final farm bill decisions in public meetings of the conference the week of April 9,” according to a joint statement released by the top conferees.

April 9th is far too late to begin implementing this complex legislation, as was March 22nd or even January 1st, and I believe that it is now essential to delay implementation of the Farm Security Act until next year.

The planting season has already begun in many states across the country. As each day passes by without a new bill, America’s farmers are digging themselves into deeper and deeper holes.

We all know that farmers are not just planters, but planners, and most farmers thought it to be vitally important to have the farm bill in place at the end of last year. Now that it may be mid-summer before the USDA is effectively able to administer the provisions in the new Farm Bill, it could prove to be overwhelmingly detrimental for our agricultural community, especially in southeastern Virginia.

In addition to helping the farmers by delaying the bill one more year, we will be saving the government an estimated $299 million dollars by delaying the new “peanut subsidy program” and continuing to use the current system, which has no net cost to the government.

A Farm Bill is certainly needed, but the timing is important. Implementing the new Farm Bill this late in the season would be an incredible injustice to our farmers.

INTRODUCING H.R. 4012 THE RURAL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. BARBARA CUBIN
OF WYOMING
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, rural America. We often hear of the unique challenges that face those of us who live and work in the unspoiled areas of this great nation. As someone who represents the least populated state in the country, let me say that we wouldn’t trade those challenges for all the urban conveniences in the world.

There are, however, basic needs deemed necessary to conduct our everyday lives whether you live in Brooklyn, New York or Basin, Wyoming. One of those essential, and obtainable, requirements is access to modern and efficient telecommunications. Telecommunications is an important component by which we can run small businesses, visit distant relatives, or just order a pizza.

During the last two Congresses, I have been successful advocating for wholesale changes in the way the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates small and mid-size telecommunications companies. Those bills have passed the House but languished in the Senate.

The basic tenet of the bills is to ensure that the FCC writes separate regulations for companies that are smaller than their oftentimes much larger competitors. Currently, consumers are saddled with the same regulations imposed on telecommunications companies regardless of size. This translate into the over-regulation of the small and mid-size companies. Although the FCC initially fought these changes, I am pleased to report that most of the changes in the bills have ultimately been incorporated by the FCC.

This leads me to the introduction of the bill I bring before the House today. The “Rural Wireless Telecommunications Enhancement Act of 2002” will bring about significant changes by which the FCC regulates small wireless telecommunications companies.

If you’ve been fortunate enough to travel through the state of Wyoming, you may have been surprised to find that your wireless phone did not work or that it received marginal coverage at best. One way in which we can address the comprehensive development of wireless telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas is to stop the FCC from burdening small wireless companies with onerous, one-size-fits-all rules meant to regulate the largest wireless carriers. That way small wireless companies can put their resources into developing new technologies and deploying their infrastructure instead of spending it on high-priced Washington lobbyists and regulatory attorneys.

The goal of the “Rural Wireless Telecommunications Enhancement Act” is simple: to give rural wireless customers better service and more choices.

TRIBUTE TO CASEY ROATS

HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District. Casey Roats will conclude his internship in my office this week to continue his studies at Oregon State University and assist in the operations of his family’s business, Roats Water System, Inc. in Bend, Oregon. As he leaves our nation’s capital, Roats will not only walk with the same friendly and forthright manner that is so firm ideological underpinning, promises to continue to make central Oregon proud in whatever career he chooses in the future. Thank you, Casey, for a job well done.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF
HON. MELISSA A. HART
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the life and work of Susan B. Anthony, and to celebrate the 182nd anniversary of her birth, which took place last month. Susan B. Anthony is remembered as one of our greatest foremothers in the drive for women’s rights. However, what many have forgotten, or chosen to ignore, is that she was amongst our Nation’s first and most passionate pro-life advocates. For Anthony, the rights of the unborn were inseparable from the rights of women, and opposition to abortion was an essential part of the cause of women’s rights.

This month as we honor the women who have strived to improve the lives of women in America and throughout the world, let us remember the life and dedication of Susan B. Anthony and what she has done to guarantee full rights for both women and their unborn children.

CELEBRATING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF
HON. DAVID E. PRICE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, March 20, 2002, the Republic of Tunisia celebrates the 46th anniversary of its independence.
Since adoption of its first Constitution in June 1, 1959, Tunisia has made great progress in embracing procedural and substantive democratic reforms by holding contested presidential and legislative elections that provide for the opposition party to hold seats in parliament; expanding freedom of expression; strengthening civil and political rights and promoting free and fair public education for all children; and promoting the equality of women, including the election of women to parliament.

As a result, the Republic of Tunisia has reaped the benefits of becoming a world trading nation through regional and bilateral free trade agreements, trade agreements with European Union, and nearly two decades of sustained economic growth.

The relationship between the United States and Tunisia dates back to the 18th century when our countries signed a treaty of friendship. Strong ties of cooperation continued after Tunisia gained its independence in 1956 and continue today as Tunisia joins us in the fight against terrorism. Today, we commemorate the independence of the Republic of Tunisia and celebrate our special relationship with the Tunisian people.

**FROM FRONT LINES TO BACK ROADS**

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

**OF VIRGINIA**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Wednesday, March 20, 2002**

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of our colleagues an article in the March 11, 2002, edition of the Washington Post which tells the story of a decorated flight surgeon with the Army’s elite Delta Force who now spends his time in the rural areas of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia as a beloved country doctor making house calls.

His name is John O. Marsh III, better known as Rob, the son of John O. Marsh Jr., better known to many of his former colleagues in this House of Representatives and to residents of part of Virginia’s 10th District areas which used to be included in the 1960’s in the old 7th District, which was ably represented by then Congressman Jack Marsh. As many of our colleagues will recall, Jack went on to serve in the administration of President Ford and as Secretary of the Army under both Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

We congratulate Dr. Rob Marsh, who has followed in his father’s footsteps in his service to the people of his hometown and to his state.

The Post article follows:

**[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 2002]**

**FROM FRONT LINES TO BACK ROADS—DELT A FORCE DOCTOR NOW DELIVERS CARE IN RURAL VIRGINIA**

(By Carol Morello)

MIDDLETOWN, VA.—The only doctor in this crossroad of a Shenandoah Valley village does not volunteer details of his years with an elite Army unit, or how he almost died in Somalia of mortar wounds. And his patients do not probe.

But while waiting in the clinic to see Rob Marsh, many of them study the watercolor prints on the walls, depicting soldiers rappelling into battle and downed Black Hawk helicopters. How, they wonder, did this decorated combat physician come to treat the aches and pains of farmers and factory workers in the valley?

“They remind me every day where I came from, and why I’m here,” explains Marsh, who drives to Switzler—his lane of bridges in his pickup truck. He’s making house calls. And he won’t send a bill. It’s not very efficient, he allows, but this is what a good country doctor does.

They didn’t have a doctor before Marsh moved here six years ago with his wife, Barbara, and their children, Nic, a two-year-old boy and two girls, age 7 and 5. “I feel that’s why I was saved, to come back here and do this,” he says. “This is my calling.”

At a time when America is starved for physicians to provide basic health care, Marsh practices medicine with a care and attention that seem lost to another era. How many doctors are left whose patients drop by just to leave a home-baked cake or to show off photographs of the animals they’ve raised in 4-H?

Marsh’s practice in a University of Virginia satellite clinic is all the more extraordinary when contrasted with the life he used to lead as a flight surgeon for Delta Force, the Army’s secretive Special Forces unit.

His office is filled with mementos of war zones where he mended wounds and lost friends before settling on a farm near here. A bookshelf holds Delta Force dair yer inside a triangular frame along with the motto “Oppressors Beware.” In two examining rooms, drawings of Delta Force battles and wall space devoted to osteoporosis posters. Even his clock is on Zulu time. His Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars and Purple Heart are stashed at home and in his truck.

What is missing is anything that smacks of the Hollywood version of what happened to Delta Force and Ranger troops in Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993. Marsh has not seen the blockbuster film “Black Hawk Down.”

“I don’t have to go watch a reenactment of seeing 39 of my friends die,” he says. Nor did he consent when producers asked him to be a consultant. “I couldn’t leave my patients,” he explains.

Friends and colleagues say a common thread runs through Marsh’s work in polar-opposite environments.

“His dedication to the military was just as intense as his dedication to his patients,” says Lewis Barnett, the former head of the University of Virginia’s family medicine program. “He’s a devoted servant.”

Marsh, 46, is a Green Beret ever since a third-grade visit to Fort Bragg with his father, John O. Marsh Jr., then a Democratic congressman from the Shenandoah Valley who later became secretary of the Army under presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. The son is John O. Marsh III, but everyone knows him as Rob.

The quicksilver into the Green Berets was as a medic, so Marsh enlisted and eventually received a degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

He had his share of close calls. During the Persian Gulf War in 1991, for example, a medic who replaced him on a helicopter flight into Iraq was killed when the chopper crashed.

But nothing compared to his experience in Somalia two years later. U.S. troops were sent to capture two aides to a local warlord. Army Rangers and Delta Force operatives became pinned down during a night of pitched combat.

The casualties arrived at the airport base in waves. First a handful, then by the dozens—some 60 serious casualties in all. Marsh and two other physicians worked through the night. The next day 12 military and 24 American civilians were dead. Americans and hundreds of Somalis died in the fighting, chronicled in the book “Black Hawk Down” by Mark Bowden, and the movie of the same name.

For Marsh, the worst was yet to come. Two days later, he was standing on the tarmac with other officers when a Black Hawk came in for a landing. The man next to him was killed. Twelve soldiers were wounded, including Marsh.

There is what he remembers before losing consciousness: “A flash. Noise. I remember feeling pain.”

Shrapnel shredded his abdomen. A shard pierced a lung artery in his left leg, as he lay bleeding from his nearly fatal wounds, he ordered soldiers to carry the injured to his side so he could perform triage. “They were my friends. I wanted to hit.”

Marsh’s father, who vividly recalls his son’s arrival at Andrews Air Force Base two weeks later, believes the experience made him a better doctor. “It’s given him empathy and insight into people who are sick.”

Even before his injury, Marsh had talked of returning to the valley, which he always considered home, though he was largely educated in Arlington public schools.

The university’s health system was looking to open a rural office in this area and show medical students the life of a country doctor—a breed that has largely vanished over the last 50 years as physicians have gravitated to specialties in urban areas.

“Rural areas can be hard on the family,” says Claudette Dalton, anesthesiologist who heads the university’s community education program. “They are to cultural attractions. You have to drive 10 miles to the Piggly Wiggly to get groceries.”

Marsh saw it different.

“He goes where the need is greatest,” says Dalton. “There aren’t many physicians who will take on all comers as patients.”

That day recently, Marsh was out on the afternoon crisscrossing the back roads of this cattle-raising area south of Staunton. He made a half-dozen house calls, most to elderly, homeless and patients with a history of a stroke victim, he asked how many chickens her daughter owns. At the home of a cancer patient struggling to pay for his arsenal of medicine, Marsh left a supply of salesman’s samples. In the run-down farmhouse of a man who had been acting confused, Marsh found an adding blend of outdated drugs, some of which had expired in 1986.

He would not ask for payment. Instead, he sent them a check. For a house visit, they would pay, he explains. “But I probably wouldn’t keep them as a patient.”

“They are not just his patients, he says, but ‘my friends.’

That’s why he attends their funerals, serves on their volunteer fire and rescue unit, makes apple butter with the Rutland club, and is an elder in his Presbyterian church.

“You can become very close to everyone, very quickly,” he says of this hamlet of 200, so small it lacks even a stoplight. “If you’re a good doctor, you treat people right and get involved in the community.”

He’s a philosophy of passing on to the coming generation of doctors. “He believes we should make sure we give more to our community than just medicine,” says Frank Petruzella, a U-Va. student who spent a month working with Marsh. “He’s very involved in all aspects of people’s lives.”

Marsh has been involved in Carl Sprouse’s life for a decade. They were in Delta Force together, and Sprouse now lives down the road.

“When my father had complications after open heart surgery, Doc Marsh would stop by at 11 or 12 at night to see him in the hosp-

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks**

**E399**

**March 21, 2002**

Since adoption of its first Constitution in June 1, 1959, Tunisia has made great progress in embracing procedural and substantive democratic reforms by holding contested presidential and legislative elections that provide for the opposition party to hold seats in parliament; expanding freedom of expression; strengthening civil and political rights and promoting free and fair public education for all children; and promoting the equality of women, including the election of women to parliament.

As a result, the Republic of Tunisia has reaped the benefits of becoming a world trading nation through regional and bilateral free trade agreements, trade agreements with European Union, and nearly two decades of sustained economic growth.

The relationship between the United States and Tunisia dates back to the 18th century when our countries signed a treaty of friendship. Strong ties of cooperation continued after Tunisia gained its independence in 1956 and continue today as Tunisia joins us in the fight against terrorism. Today, we commemorate the independence of the Republic of Tunisia and celebrate our special relationship with the Tunisian people.
Marsh deflects such praise. In this small farming community that he and his family call home, he has rediscovered what he loved most about Delta Force. “It’s the same atmosphere,” he says. “Everybody takes care of each other, and we do our jobs.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE CRAIG

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7 I missed roll call vote number 52. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the vote.

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of one of my constituents.

Dr. Craig has spent his entire life working to better the lives of others. Since 1978, he has traveled overseas to the poorest of regions, including Africa and Latin America, to provide free medical and dental care. This is a special year for Dr. Craig because he is 70 years old and will be conducting his 70th and final overseas medical mission.

Dr. Craig’s altruistic work also extended to his local community of Charlotte, North Carolina. He greatly helped our local Charlotte community by providing free dental services to recovering drug users and alcoholics and by counseling dozens of families through marriage and family problems. He also volunteered in the Charlotte Police Crime Lab in the 1960s before a full-time chemist was hired.

Dr. Craig is a perfect example of the selfless call to volunteerism recently highlighted by President George W. Bush. For this reason, I am honored to recognize Dr. Craig for his life work and congratulate him and his family for his 70 years of dedication to making this world a better place.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF LEWISTON/AUBURN

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
OF MAINE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues’ attention to a dinner being held next week in the Lewiston/Auburn community. The event, “Celebrating the Women of L/A,” will honor women who have touched the lives of others in their communities.

I am proud to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the following Women of L/A here in the House of Representatives. The Honorees are Diane Orrell, Gail Ballenger, Kathryn Beaue, Sue Capponi, Sandy Conrad, Theresa Cote, Christine Ciabby, Lori Cummings, Robin Duffy, Belinda Gerry, Nancy Hinds, Patience Johnson, Rachel Kay, Kathleen Noel King, Simone Lavoie, Linda Myannah, Venise Pratt, Muriel Richard, Patricia Robitaille, Trena Hamblin Steele, Linda Tanguay, Ann Tourtelotte, Dr. Luz Maria Umphere, and Kathy Varney.

Those submitting nominations were asked to briefly describe what it was about the nominee that made her such a special and important part of the community. Here are a few examples: “She truly cares about the company’s employees... She is interested in their lives, and she treats everyone with respect and dignity.”

“My sister has been an example to me. We came from a single parent home where our father was an alcoholic. She quit school at 16 and worked as a nurses’ aide to earn money so our family could stay together. No one thought she would make anything of herself. Through hard work she proved them wrong.”

Despite an extended career with many successes and contributions, she is always focused on the next opportunity to serve... Her dedication to family and friends is equally as selfless.

“How can a daughter even begin to explain how much her mother means to her? There are certainly not enough words in the dictionary for me to tell you who and what my mother is to me.”

“She is the living person with a ‘Heart of Gold,’ who has touched the lives of many people through her love and dedication in helping others and never wanting anything in return.”

“If there could be only one person that I look up to it would be my grandmother. She is the bravest, most courageous person I have ever met and no one could ever replace her.”

“Now that I am grown up with children of my own, I love and appreciate my mother more than ever. I know how much hard work is involved in being a good mother, although she always made it seem so effortless... When people tell me how much I am like her I take it as the greatest compliment, for I hope I could be half of the woman that she is.”

“She saw my need, reached out her hand, and impacted the person who is just what she does on a daily basis.”

These are but a few examples of the testimonials received on behalf of the honorees. They speak to the importance and influence that these women have had on their families, colleges, and communities.

For decades, the women of Lewiston and Auburn—like those throughout Maine, the nation and the world—have raised children, served as caregivers, worked inside and outside the home, and volunteered their time and talents. They have maintained a strong and quiet foundation for our families that has nourished us all. This celebration recognizes all that women bring to families and our community.

These 24 women are all extremely deserving of this honor, and I congratulate them as they are recognized for their efforts in the home, in the workplace and in the community. I know that they are also representative of many other women throughout these communities and as we honor them, we also look around at the many other women who have made positive change in L/A. I offer my thanks and best wishes to all the women of L/A for making Lewiston and Auburn such a strong and vibrant community.

A RESOLUTION ADJOURNING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN LOVING MEMORY AND HONOR OF WILLIAM ANDREW CANNON

HON. MARY BONO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, The most prominent glory of a country is in its great men. A nation’s spirit and its success will depend on its willingness to learn from their example. In life we shall find many men that are great, and some men that are good, but very few men that are both great and good. William Andrew Cannon was such a man.

When respected and admired, we pay homage and tribute to William Andrew Cannon, and we pause in silent reverence for his soul.

Whereas, William Andrew Cannon was born on August 26, 1920, a native of Sweeney, Texas, and longtime resident of the State of Mississippi, and he traversed these earthly bounds on February 28, 2002; and

Whereas, William Andrew Cannon was the devoted husband of Lucie de Porte de Biaix, a member of the Italian aristocracy, whom he married on the Isle of Capri in 1945; he was the loving father of Fred, and a daughter, Tina Jennie, and he was the proud grandfather of six grandchildren, Carlo, Cristel, Francesco, Elena, Lauren, and Giuglielmo; and

Whereas, William Andrew Cannon graduated from Corinth High School in Corinth, Mississippi in 1938, and he attended Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green from 1938 to 1941, after which time he became a managing partner of the Van Biber Lumber Plant in Fulton, Mississippi, before joining the United States Air Force to serve in World War II; and

Whereas, William Andrew Cannon served his country with pride and distinction during World War II, he was a pilot, stationed in Foggia, Italy, from 1943 to 1946, and he held the rank of 1st Lieutenant with the 463rd Bombardment Group of the United States 15th Air Force, and perilous time, along with the personnel of the 463rd Bombardment Group, he exhibited commendable efficiency in skill, devotion, courage, and determination in facing intense enemy opposition over the skies of Germany and Eastern Europe, flying gallantly through in wing formation to reach designated targets; and William Andrew Cannon, receiving an honorable discharge in May 1946, was the recipient of the Second Presidential Unit Citation for his extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in military operation against the enemy at Ploesti on May 18, 1944, and at the Daimler Benz Tank Works in Berlin on March 24, 1945; and

Whereas, William Andrew Cannon, upon being discharged from the United States Air Force in 1946, returned to the Van Biber Lumber Plant in Fulton, Mississippi, serving as a partner until 1954, before joining the United States Department of Defense in 1955 in Naples, Italy, where he worked as Maintenance Control Engineer for the Naval Communications Magazine as Facility Manager, and he retired from that post on March 31, 1990; and

Whereas, having received numerous awards for outstanding service, William Andrew Cannon, at the time of his retirement, also was the recipient of the Department of the Navy’s
George and Pauline ‘Dimples’ Murillo Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce to you and to the rest of my esteemed colleagues, that on March 22, 2002, George and Pauline ‘Dimples’ Murillo will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I would like to join their friends and loving family in extending my most sincere congratulations.

The Murillos have devoted fifty years to each other, to their families, to their communities, and to the service of our nation. Their marriage is a true achievement.

George Murillo was born to Emilio and Vivian Murillo on July 20, 1923, in San Bernardino, California. Just a few miles away on the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino, a testament to the resilience of our people, the Murillos were married on May 18, 1941, in San Manuel. This union was blessed with five children: Lynn Marie, George, Robert, Susan, and Dimples. The Murillos have been blessed with a loving family, including their children, Lynn, George, Robert, Susan, and Dimples. Their children have married and raised families of their own, ensuring the continuation of the Murillo legacy.

The Murillos have devoted fifty years to each other, to their families, to their communities, and to the service of our nation. Their marriage is a true achievement.

The Murillos have dedicated themselves to the betterment of their community and the nation. They have been pillars of strength and support, providing guidance and inspiration to those around them. Their love and dedication have set an example for all to follow.

As we celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of George and Pauline ‘Dimples’ Murillo, let us recognize their contributions to our community and country. Their love and commitment have been a shining example for all to emulate. Let us extend our heartfelt congratulations to George and Pauline ‘Dimples’ Murillo, and to their families, on this special occasion.
investments that Greek-Americans have made in the business community are unsurpassed. Through the utilization of the American tradition of small, family owned businesses the Greek-American community has prospered.

Madam Speaker, the eighth congressional district of Maryland, which I represent, has a large population of Greek-Americans. I am proud of the many contributions that they have made to Montgomery County and our nation. I join them in celebrating Greek Independence Day and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Greek-Americans.

**MARCH 21, 2002 DESIGNATED AS UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

HON. TOM LANTOS OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, March 21, 2002, has been designated as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I think it is very important for us, here in the United States to mark this critical day. Racial Discrimination is a universal, global scourge. Confronting it and finding ways to defeat it are in the critical interest of every nation including the United States. Racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance are one of the principal root causes of international conflict. Our global war against terrorism cannot be won until we root out the global afflic-

CONCERN

of hate and intolerance. America not be won until we root out the global afflic-

of the principal root causes of international

phobia and other forms of intolerance are one

the United States. Racial discrimination, xeno-

icas; and discrimination against women in the

Islamic world. New forms of racism, often tied

to the social and economic dislocations

caused by increased globalization, are being

spread by new technologies including prolifer-

ating hate sites on the internet.

Mr. Speaker, for me as the only Member of Congress who is a survivor of the Holocaust, it is particularly painful to note that the current increase in racial hate includes an intense spasm of anti-Semitism. As a delegate to the UN’s World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban South Africa last summer, I witnessed a particularly vivid demonstration of this new round of hatred for Jews.

The conference’s NGO forum, featured anti-Jewish rallies attracting thousands in the streets of Durban. One flyer, which was widely distributed at the rallies showed a photograph of Hitler and the question “What if I had won?” The answer, quite simply, would be “NO life . . .” At a press conference held by Jewish NGO’s to discuss their concerns with the di-

rection the conference was taking, an accred-

ited NGO, the Arab Lawyers Union, distributed a booklet filled with anti-Semitic caricatures, frighteningly like those seen in the Nazi hate literature printed and distributed in the 1930’s. It was the most unabashed display of anti-

Jewish hate that I have seen since that period. Similar images and messages can be found again and again in newspapers and other media in the Middle East, and on hate sites on the internet.

Mr. Speaker, if the tragic events of Sep-

tember 11th have taught us anything it is that we cannot turn a blind eye to hatred and evil. We must take effective action to eliminate racism at home and to defeat it abroad. We must make sure that our govern-

ment takes effective action to prevent and punish racism in the United States. In pros-

ecuting the global war against terror, we must demand that our coalition partners confront hate in their own societies and in their regions.

I commend our distinguished colleague and friend from California, Congresswoman LYNNE WOOLSEY, for focusing our attention on this important day and on this issue. I also want to commen-
t our distinguished colleague, Congres-

sman JOHN CONYERS of Michigan, for in-

roducing the bipartisan Local Law Enforce-

ment Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which

would give local law enforcement the tools and resources needed to prevent and prose-

cute hate crimes. I urge all Members of this House to support this legislation.

**INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO “END THE DOUBLE STANDARD FOR STOCK OPTIONS ACT”**

HON. FORTUNE PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to plug a corporate tax loophole that allows companies to hide stock option exp-

enses from their Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) tax filings. My bill would force compa-

nies to report the stock option expense on their financial earnings records if they want to continue to take the deduction on their income tax fil-

ing. I’m pleased to be joined by Reps. BARNEY FRANK and LINDY RIVERS in introducing this important bill. Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN have introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

Under current law, companies can deduct stock option expenses from their income taxes as a cost of doing business, just like employee wages. However, companies are not required to report these business expenses on their SEC financial statement to stockholders. The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the self-regulated accounting board with SEC reporting oversight, recommends that companies record stock options as an ex-

pense on their financial earnings statement, but does not require that stock options be treated as an earnings expense at any time. Their share price has grown 50 percent, and the company from Wall Street, rather than the old fashioned way of consistently delivering im-

pressive growth. According to an analyst with Bear Stearns, the earnings report by firms in the S&P 500 would have been 9 per-

cent lower in 2000 if stock options were treated as an expense.

As Enron leaders clearly realized, company executives can prosper by means other than simply building a great company. Executives can increase their personal wealth by creating unrealistic expectations of their company from Wall Street, rather than the old fashioned way of consistently delivering impres-

sive growth. Consider the following two hypothet-

ical companies. One company has a stock price that has declined. It started at $20 and gained $2 each year for five years, raising its price to $30 today. The second company’s stock also started at $20 five years ago, then zoomed to $100 after a few years but has since fallen back to $20. By any reasonable measure, the leaders of the first company have done a better job at grow-

ing a solid company, worthy of its stock price. Their share price has grown 50 percent, and they have avoided making grandiose pre-

dictions that cause Wall Street analysts to set sizeable targets. The second company’s stock has under-performed over the long run, and scores of workers and investors have been burned by false hopes.

If the top executives of both hypothetical companies had received similar reports of stock and both sold their shares on a regular schedule, the executives of the second company would have earned more. These execu-

tives would have made so much money selling the stock when it was trading near $100 that they would become instant multimillionaires, despite their stock’s rapid decline. Thus, the practice of failing to report stock op-

tions on earnings reports could actually en-

courage executives to take stock options as a

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form of compensation. That way, they can earn millions of dollars, claim it as a tax deduction, and then hide it from investors. My bill corrects this perverse incentive and seeks to discourage reckless executive behavior. My bill also gives companies an incentive to report their stock option expenses in order to continue to take the tax deduction.

If stock options are a cost of doing business for tax purposes, then they should be a cost of doing business for earnings purposes. But don’t just take my word for it. In a March 7th Senate Banking Committee hearing, Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board testified:

“The truth of the matter is that if you do not expense the granting stock options or their re-alization in the income statement, as, indeed, we are required in our tax forms, then you will get a pre-tax income which is higher than one can argue you really had . . . Is income being properly recorded? And I would submit to you the answer is no.”

Arthur LeeVitt, former Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, favors reporting publicly held stock options on SEC earnings reports. He told NPR:

“ . . . If we decide to account for public stock options in a way that I think is in the public interest, I do not believe for a moment it would be the end of capitalism, nor do I believe it will have a significant negative impact on America’s corporations.”

Deloitte & Touche, one of the nation’s premier accounting firms, as well as Arthur Anderson, Enron’s disgraced accountant, both say options should be charged to a company’s income statement. Many Wall Street analysts agree. Eighty-three percent of U.S. financial analysts who responded to a survey by the Association for Investment Management Research (AIMR) also support listing stock options in the financial income statement.

The evidence is clear: this loophole should be closed. My bill to “End the Double Standard for Stock Options” is a much-needed fix to help prevent companies from misrepresenting their financial status to stockholders and employees. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this important bill and to support its enactment this year.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN
OF MAINE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the beginning of the celebration of Girl Scouting’s 90th anniversary. During this time, more than 50 million girls have participated in this wonderful program.

One of those who benefited from years as a Brownie and Girl Scout was my wife, Diana. She recalls with great fondness the happy times she spent in troop meetings making crafts and other projects and the weeks in summer camp where she met counselors from all over the country.

Girl Scouts of the USA has kept up with the changing and expanding challenges facing girls today. At each level of Girl Scouts, girls have the opportunity to embrace traditions and learn about the changing world. The program challenges girls to develop into healthy women strengthened by strong values, a social conscience and belief in their own self-worth.

In my District, girls participate in programs overseen by the Girl Scouts of Kennebec Council. The jurisdiction of this Council is very large, encompassing one-third of the State of Maine and two-thirds of the population. The Council serves a highly diverse population—girls living in cities, small towns, and in isolated coastal areas and islands. Girl Scouting successfully meets the needs of all kinds of girls.

Girl Scouting succeeds because of its volunteers, who serve as troop leaders, trainers, cookie supervisors, trainers, and a host of other positions. Their generosity and dedication has kept Girl Scouting strong and relevant. Thanks to them, Girl Scouts of the USA will continue to help girls grow into productive citizens.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to commemorate the 181st anniversary of Greece’s independence from the Ottoman Empire, and to celebrate the shared democratic traditions of Greece and the United States.

On March 25, 1821, Greece declared its independence, ending nearly 400 years of domination by the Ottoman Empire and restoring a democratic heritage to the very cradle of democracy.

Throughout our history, the people of the United States and Greece have forged a strong friendship built upon the foundation of shared values of democracy and freedom. Our Founding Fathers established this nation based on the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers and their struggle to build a democratic society. And, in the American experience inspired the Greek people in their struggle for independence 181 years ago.

Our shared democratic ideals have formed the basis of a strong and sustained friendship between Greece and the United States, and today, Greece remains one of our most important allies and trusted partners in the global community.

Nowhere is this more evident today than in the war against terrorism. Greece is an important member of the international coalition fighting this war. U.S. aircraft have made use of Greek airspace and airbases, Greek aircrews serve in NATO surveillance planes, and Greece has been a key partner in multilateral relief efforts for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees.

The United States has also benefited greatly from the contributions of Greek-Americans to shaping our society and building our cultural heritage. I am proud to represent a district in New York with a strong and active Greek-American community.

I am delighted to join my colleagues in commemoration of Greek Independence Day, and in celebration of the many contributions of Greece and Greek-Americans to the United States and the world.
A TRIBUTE TO MS. NANCY STONE, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but also to recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation. I am truly honored to pay special recognition to an outstanding woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Nancy Stone. For over 15 years, Nancy has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the foot-hills communities. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Nancy instantly recognize her enthusiasm and passion for helping others.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Nancy currently works part time at Salomon Smith Barney in Glendale, California. She has been married to Chip Stone for 19 years and is the proud mother of Sarah and Rob.

Her dedication to her children has manifested itself in the groups and organizations which she leads and supports. She has served as the President of the Mountain Avenue Elementary School PTA and as the Vice President of the Rosemont Middle School PTA. Noted for her involvement with Seeds of Peace, an organization she helped to create to actively nurture a caring and accepting community, Nancy has dedicated herself to working for a more peaceful neighborhood environment in which to live and raise our families.

Her outstanding work with the community’s young people truly sets her apart as someone who is keenly aware that our future lies with our children and in recognizing that, she has introduced innovative program ideas to help enrich the lives of all young people. She created the Community Service Learning Project in order to extoll the values of unselfishness and community caring. Today the project has 600 students who dedicate approximately 10,000 volunteer hours to the community each year. Currently, she is the driving force behind efforts to open an after school teen center for high school students of my district.

For her efforts, the community has recognized her selfless and unsurpassed giving. In 2001 she was named the Glendale Youth Coalition’s Woman of the Year and in the same year was named as one of the Glendale News Press’s 103 Most Influential People. The Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce named her their Woman of the Year in 1995.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District. Ms. Nancy Stone. The entire community joins me in thanking Nancy for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more selfless, peaceful and accepting place to live.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 1857

HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 1857, Encourage the Negotiated Settlement of Tribal Claims bill.

I would like to begin by commending my friend and Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, Representative Kildee for introducing the companion bill H.R. 3851 and my friend Nick Rahall, our ranking member of the Resources Committee, for his dedication and work on this issue.

Through treaties, statutes and executive orders American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) have entered into a trust relationship with the federal government. As part of this relationship AI/AN agreed to entrust the federal government with their resources such as land, natural resources, enterprises, judgement awards and investment income. Under the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has been given the authority by the federal government to manage Indian resources and other assets.

Unfortunately, the BIA has not honored this trust relationship. Instead, they have managed to “mismange” the trust accounts of 315 Indian tribes with over 1,400 accounts worth over $2.6 billion for many years.

S. 1857 will expand the current statute of limitations until 2005 allowing Indian tribes to postpone filing claims against the U.S. relating to the management of their trust fund accounts. It will enable the trust account holders the time necessary to identify where their money is going. This legislation will hold the BIA accountable for their mismanagement and squandering of Indian people’s money.

This past December my constituents of the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache and Pueblos (over 40,000 people) did not receive their royalty checks, money they greatly depend on for rent, clothing, food and other basic necessities.

Today, the Congress has the opportunity to honor and enforce its trust responsibility to AI/AN people. I fully support S. 1857 and encourage my colleagues to do the same. We must make the BIA accountable for their actions.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES T. BANERJEE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Frances T. (Frankee) Banerjee on twenty-five years of distinguished service to the City of Los Angeles. A very accomplished woman, Ms. Banerjee retires as the General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

Ms. Banerjee has had a successful career working in many facets of transportation, including: Research Associate in the Urban Transportation Systems Laboratory at MIT, Strategic Planning Manager for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and consultant for the United States Department of Transportation.

Since joining the City, Ms. Banerjee has served in a variety of capacities. She began as Planning Manager for the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency, where she oversaw the Los Angeles Downtown People Mover Program. She then served as the Transportation Manager for the Community Redevelopment Agency before becoming the Assistant Chief Legislative Analyst in 1988.

Frankee Banerjee joined the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation in 1994. Because of her excellent record in transportation, she was appointed by Mayor Richard Riordan as the first woman ever to hold the position of General Manager. She had the task of overseeing approximately 2,000 employees, as well as directing the activities of the Offices of Transportation Programs, Operations, Parking Management, and the Office of Organizational Support. The Office is responsible for design and development of all new projects, field and systems operations of the City’s traffic signal system, transportation review of all new development, operation of the commuter express and community transit services serving 28 City areas, management of parking programs, intersection control, and school crossing guard services. Under her management, the Department of Transportation has received national recognition for programs showcasing the development and deployment of advanced technologies, environmental achievements, and sensitive streetscape design.

In addition to her work with the City, Ms. Banerjee has been actively involved with numerous professional associations and has received numerous awards. Such awards include being named “Employer of the Year 2001” by the Women’s Transportation Seminar and “Affiliate Businesswoman of the Year 2000” by the National Association of Business Owners.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Frankee Banerjee’s family and friends in congratulating her on her retirement. I thank her for her exemplary performance, and her distinguished and dedicated service to the people of the City of Los Angeles. I wish her well in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING PENTAGON RENOVATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in commending the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed so far.

The renovation effort, also known as the Phoenix Project, is slated to be complete on
September 11, 2002—exactly one year after the despicable act of terror. I am proud to acknowledge that the Phoenix Project is running 6 weeks ahead of schedule.

The dedication of the government employees and independent contractors once again shows the resolve that this nation has always shown in the face of adversity. In fact, initially the workers toiled around the clock to continue this extraordinary effort. They have even put up a digital clock at the site, counting down the days to September 11, 2002, to remind them of the victims who perished, with the intention of continuing the reconstruction on September 11, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, after the terrorist attacks on September 11 on the Pentagon, 400,000 square feet of demolition work had to be carried out before the reconstruction efforts could begin. This process was expected to take 4 to 7 months, but was finished in just one month. Also, out of about 4600 displaced employees, 1500 have already returned to their old office spaces.

The speed, resilience, and efficiency with which this project has been carried out is a reminder of the determination that our nation has, the determination that was first seen on the United and American flights, and continues to be seen in the efforts of these workers.

Mr. Speaker, before September 11, these workers were working about 5 days per week to renovate the Pentagon, but after the attack, they have put aside their own fears and returned for even longer work days. A lot of these workers lost their loved ones in these terror attacks, yet they have endured through their personal grief to offer some solace to the rest of the nation.

This reconstruction effort is more than just the rebuilding of the old Pentagon building. Additional security concerns are being addressed including updated ventilation system to guard against nuclear, biological or chemical attacks. The work continues around the clock. This is a testament to the selfless dedication that these unsung heroes have shown for the past six months.

Mr. Speaker, the workers involved with the Phoenix Project have aptly adopted the words once uttered by Todd Beamer as their motto.

A TRIBUTE TO DENISE NELSON NASH, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose stories have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Denise Nelson Nash. Ms. Nash’s passion for community and especially the arts, and her service to the City of Pasadena and surrounding areas, a more rich and vital environment in which to live.

Ms. Nash is a graduate of Scripps College and earned her Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. She began her professional career as a professor and has since taught at Delta College, Illinois Wesleyan University, and Borough Manhattan Community College. Noted for her passion and ability as a teacher, she was invited to be director of the contemporary dance program at the Instituto de Danza in Caracas, Venezuela.

A strong advocate of the arts and especially arts education, Ms. Nash was the director of the Plaza de la Raza School of Performing and Visual Arts in East Los Angeles and in 1985 founded Bottom Line Dance Collective, a nonprofit organization providing creative opportunities for young people throughout the Los Angeles area.

For six years, Denise served as the Director for the Arts for the City of Pasadena. In this capacity she provided leadership for the Public Art Program, arts education programs in the city’s schools, community arts programs, and special projects including the Pasadena Emmy Celebration and HBO Pictures Production “The Tuskegee Airmen.” Currently, Denise serves as the Director of the Office of Public Events for the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Throughout her career, Denise has focused on using her position to enhance opportunities for others. As an advocate of the arts and community events, she has opened a realm of possibilities to young and old alike and has created an environment in which art is appreciated, respected and loved.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Denise Nelson Nash. The entire community joins me in thanking Denise for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more vibrant and enjoyable place to live.

AIRMAN CUNNINGHAM
HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to pararescueman Jason Cunningham—one of America and New Mexico’s true heroes.

Jason was one of our six brave soldiers killed during a shoot-out in the mountainous Gardez area of Afghanistan on Monday, March 4th. Jason participated in the insertion of Special Forces in the area when the helicopter he was a passenger in was brought down by machine-gun fire and a rocket-propelled grenade. Jason and his six crewmembers were trying to rescue a Navy SEAL who had fallen out of the helicopter.

Jason grew up in New Mexico, spending most of his childhood in the southern part of the state. After graduation from high school in Farmington and his parents currently reside in my district in Gallup, New Mexico.

Following graduation, Jason joined the Navy, finished his four years, and re-entered the armed forces, this time joining the Air Force and attending Pararescue School, from which he graduated in June of 2001.

It was in February of this year that Jason was sent to Afghanistan to join the front lines in the war against terror and left behind his loved ones for the call of duty.

Last week, Jason received a deserved heroes burial in Arlington National Cemetery where he took his place among the men and women who have, like Jason, courageously answered their country’s call.

Douglas MacArthur once said, “the soldier above all people, prays for peace. For the soldier, peace is a sacrifice which he is ready to make for all the others who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” However, I am sure that Jason’s family, and the families of the other brave men and women who have died in service to our country also deeply feel the scars of war.

On March 20, 2002, the United States of America lost one of its true heroes: Airman Jason Cunningham, age 30. It is my honor to pay tribute to him on behalf of the entire community who will forever remember him and the sacrifice he made.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FLORES
HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize and congratulate Susan Flores on her 33 years of exceptional service to the City of Los Angeles. She has made significant contributions to the City government throughout her career, and I wish her the best in her retirement.

Ms. Flores entered her public service career in 1968 with the Concentrated Employment Program, where she directed the delivery of intense education, training and employment services to disadvantaged youth and adults in East Los Angeles.

Her dedication and hard work then led her to work with the City of Los Angeles’ Community Development Department, where she was directly involved with planning and implementing programs funded through federal grants from the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services. From 1982 to 1989, while serving as the Director of Human Services and Neighborhood Development Division, Ms. Flores ably administered the City Human Services Delivery System that provided services to the City’s neediest residents. Her work addressed a variety of needs, such as childcare, legal aid, food and nutrition, homelessness and AIDS.

From 1989 to 1999, Ms. Flores was Director of the Department’s Workforce Development Division, which had one hundred full-time staff and a $130 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to carry out the Job Training Partnership Act, Welfare-to-Work, and the
Summer Youth Employment Training Programs.

Since 1999, Susan Flores has served as the Assistant General Manager of the Community Development Department of the City of Los Angeles. She has been responsible for managing the city’s federal grants that fund the Human Service, Economic Development and Workforce Development Programs. Through her work, she has been able to serve all the resident of Los Angeles by helping neighborhoods, businesses, families, adults, youth, job seekers and those in need. I am sure that Ms. Flores is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, John, and their family. I would like to thank her for her service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles, and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

2002 GUAM SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on the island of Guam, the month of March is designated as “Social Work Month.” For over twenty-two years, the Guam Association of Social Workers (GASW) has sponsored training conferences for human service workers of the region. This year’s theme, “Collaboration: Meeting our Social Challenges through Partnerships,” gives participants the opportunity to acquire and share knowledge and skills in collaborative efforts. It has been recognized that current social problems could be overcome only through partnerships and cooperation between the government, private nonprofit organizations, community groups and the business community.

The highlight of “Social Work Month” is an awards dinner where awards for Community Service and the Social Worker of the Year were presented. This year’s Community Service Award was presented to the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA). The University of Guam’s Dr. Gerhard J. Schwab was chosen to receive the prestigious Social Worker of the Year Award.

The Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority administers grants and programs involving community planning and development, housing services, fair housing and equal opportunity. This agency has been instrumental in the revitalization of neighborhoods, the management and distribution of affordable housing, the expansion of economic opportunities, and the improvement of community facilities and services as well as emergency homeless shelters. Their programs and projects assist homeless people, the youth, the elderly as well as low and moderate income families. GHURA’s efforts definitely complement this year’s theme.

Dr. Schwab initially entered the field of social work in his native Austria working under the auspices of the Catholic Social Services organization. His involvement with this group brought him, at one time, to the highlands of Papua, New Guinea where he worked with gang leaders and helped to create diversion programs for children confined in adult prisons. He commenced work on Guam in 1987, under the auspices of the Catholic Church as the Director of Youth Ministry. In 1998, the University of Michigan conferred upon him a joint Ph.D. in Social Work and Psychology. His doctoral dissertation was entitled, “Ethnicities and Masculinities in the Making: A Challenge for Social Work in Guam.” For the past three years, Dr. Schwab has chaired the Division of Social Work within the University of Guam’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Through the years, he has made numerous contributions to the university, the social work community and the island of Guam.

Also deserving recognition are “Project Bea- con” of the Pacific Daily News, a project spearheaded by Guam’s daily newspaper working towards addressing the local problem of teen suicide, and “Stand,” a local welfare advocacy group—which were nominated this year for the Community Service Award. Jesse Sablan Catahuy, Lisa Natividad, Yvonne Paulino and Patricia Stracener also deserve commendation for their contributions which earned them nominations for the Social Worker of the Year Awards.

It is worthy to note that this year marks the end of an era which signals a new beginning. The GASW has decided to dissolve and transfer its assets to the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Having been instrumental in bringing the NASW to Guam, the activities and ideals promoted by GASW over the years will continue to be fostered and preserved. This merger allows the Guam community access to the resources of the national association as well a voice in the formulation of NASW approaches to national social policies. I am sure that the people of Guam will reap the benefits in the years to come.

Once again, I congratulate this year’s awardees, nominees, the Guam Association of Social Workers (GASW), and the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The people of Guam appreciate their good work.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ALICE O’CONNOR, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but also to recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

It is a special honor for me to recognize Ms. Mary Alice O’Connor for her outstanding contributions to California’s 27th Congressional District. Mary Alice has generously contributed over 50 years of volunteer service to the Southern California community and residents of Burbank, California are especially appreciative of her efforts on behalf of the community.

Mary Alice has lived in Burbank for 58 years, moving from Berkeley in 1944. She and her husband Ken raised two children, John and Joan Patricia. Mary Alice is the proud grandmother of three granddaughters, Christy, Kendall, and Paige.

Mary Alice has always been a strong supporter of the community. Ever since World War II when Mary Alice and a number of volunteers wrapped Christmas presents for American troops, she has dedicated herself to improving the lives of others. Since then she has been involved with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, has served on the Board of Directors of the Burbank Health Care Foundation, and she currently serves as the Fundraising Committee Chairman for the Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center Capital Campaign.

Mary Alice is most noted for her dedication to the community’s students and especially ensuring that all students are exposed to the arts. Over the years, she has served on numerous PTA boards and served as an elected official on the Burbank Board of Education. In promoting arts education Mary Alice worked hard to reopen the Starlight Bowl for a summer music series and she served as the first chairman of The Children’s Open House at the Bowl, which introduced thousands of children each year to the joys of music, dance, poetry and theatre at the Hollywood Bowl.

For her efforts, Mary Alice has been has received The National Volunteer Center Beautiful Activist Award and in 1998 received the Older American Recognition Award. In 1999 the Kiwanis Club of Burbank honored her at their Annual Gala.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District. Ms. Mary Alice O’Connor. The entire community joins me in thanking Mary Alice for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a community committed to our children.

FURTHER EXPLANATION OF RESERVE FUND FOR MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. JIM NUSSLE
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. The Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Resolution Section-By-Section Report language (Report 107-376) which further explains Section 202(b) of H. Con. Res. 353 (i.e., the application of the reserve fund for Medicare modernization and prescription drugs) is meant only as an illustrative example.
LEASE LOT CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF
HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 706, the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 introduced by my good friend Representative Joe Sken. Let me begin by saying that the citizens of Sierra County, where this legislation is targeted, have been well represented by Chairman SKEEN for the past 22 years. As a member of the House Resources Committee, it was a pleasure for me to support H.R. 706 during its committee process and a greater pleasure for me to support it today as the House prepares to vote on its passage.

This legislation seeks to correct a situation that began on the Elephant Butte Reservoir in the 1930’s. The Federal Government offered citizens the opportunity to build recreational homes on land leased from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The covenants in the lease required leaseholders to make substantial investments on the four hundred sites released under the program. All leaseholders hoped that one day the government would privatize the land and offer it for sale. Because that has not occurred, this bill allows current leaseholders to make substantial investments in their lease fees will not increase, and deserve day notice and we must return our lease lots to their original condition.”

These homeowners deserve to know that their lease fees will not increase, and deserve to have the safety and security of a permanent home. As far as I am concerned, this is a critical economic development issue for the citizens of Sierra County in Congressman Sken’s district.

Again, it is a pleasure to support this legislation. I look forward to working with Chairman Sken, during this second session of the 107th Congress on matters issues that are of benefit to the people of New Mexico.

INTRODUCTION OF VOTES FOR WOMEN HISTORY TRAIL ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Women’s History Month by introducing an important new bill: the Votes for Women History Trail Act.

I have the great privilege to represent in Congress the City of Rochester, New York, and to be a region considered by many to be the cradle of the women’s rights movement. Rochester was the proud home of Susan B. Anthony; her close friends and fellow suffragists, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, lived nearby. Prominent civil rights activists like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, who also supported women’s rights ardently, moved to the region and spent most of their adult lives there.

In 1848, the First Women’s Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. Reflecting upon this remarkable event never fails to inspire me. After only a week of planning and notice, over three hundred men and women from all over the region converged on Seneca Falls for the “Women’s Rights Convention.” This was the beginning of a movement that would yield to women the right to vote 72 years later, and signal an ongoing struggle for equity in the home, in the workplace, and before the law.

Today, the site of the First Women’s Rights Convention is the home of the Women’s Rights National Historical Park, a respected unit of the National Park Service. Nearby are other important sites, such as the Hunt House, where the Declaration of Sentiments was drafted, and the M’Clellan House. Within an hour drive, we have other places important in women’s history—the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aging in Auburn, the Matilda Joslyn Gage House in Fayetteville, and the Ontario County Courthouse in Canandaigua, where Susan B. Anthony was put on trial for the crime of voting.

I am proud to introduce today legislation that would link all of these sites in a way that will benefit students, scholars, and visitors alike. The Votes for Women History Trail Act directs the National Park Service (NPS) to establish an auto route connecting these various sites. The trail will be established in accordance with the recommendations contained in an NPS feasibility report funded by Congress. This trail will allow tourists, educators, and others to connect the many sites and events critical to women’s history and place them in context. It will also serve as a new tourist destination for the region, bolstering the flagging economy. Finally, it will give well-deserved prominence to the importance of women’s history for our region and our nation as a whole.

I am proud to sponsor this new initiative, and I believe my colleagues will join me in supporting the Votes for Women History Trail Act. I look forward to working with the Resources Committee to ensure its timely consideration and passage.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY PINOLA,
27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHiff. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year Women’s History Month is a time when we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but also to recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is insufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the personal achievements of one of California’s 27th Congressional District’s most outstanding women, Mary Pinola. Ms. Pinola has dedicated over 20 years of service to this community and it is an honor to recognize her for her continued efforts in support of so many worthwhile organizations and foundations.

Mary received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach and later received from the same university, a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication. She completed her education by receiving her Ph.D. in Education from the University of Southern California, Mary currently serves as the Director of Development for the AAF Rose Bowl Aquatics Center and has served as the Director of Community Relations for Verdugo Hills Hospital, as an Adjunct Lecturer at California State University, Long Beach and as a High School Speech and English Teacher at Arroyo High School in El Monte, California.

Over the years, Mary has dedicated herself to founding and joining groups and organizations that truly make a positive and lasting impact on the community. Along with her husband, Charles Kenny, she serves as a member of the La Cañada Educational Foundation, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Roger Barley Community Center, and has served as the Chair of countless numbers of charitable fundraisers.

More recently, Mary has been the driving force behind raising funds for the Mary Pinola/ Crescента Valley Chamber of Commerce Educational Endowment Fund. The Fund gives annual grants to educational programs throughout the Crescента Valley. This year, the Fund grew to $26,000 and has been invested in a Donor Advised Account with the Glendale Community Foundation to ensure a legacy of charitable gifts. She has also been instrumental in raising funds for the Outdoor Science Laboratory at La Cañada Elementary School, which will be completed in the fall of 2002.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Mary Pinola. The entire community joins me in thanking Mary for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a place of extraordinary, selfless giving.

IN HONOR OF DR. DONALD N. LANGENBERG

HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, who has served as chancellor of the University System of Maryland for more than a decade, will retire after a lifetime of service to higher education.

Dr. Langenberg has left a mark in academe as few others have. As chancellor of the University System of Maryland, he has overseen the emergence of a nationally recognized public university system, with top-ranked programs, unprecedented levels of state funding,
Mr. Speaker, Dr. Langenberg is the author of over one hundred papers and the immediate past Chairman of the President’s Council of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). Mr. Speaker, in addition to serving the larger public through his work on various boards, Dr. Langenberg has also served in quiet, though equally profound ways. Both through his example and through individual mentoring, he has helped develop key academic leaders for the University System of Maryland and for higher education in general. By serving as an advisor to people of talent and ability, Dr. Langenberg has helped many institutions find exceptional faculty, provosts, and presidents.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Langenberg’s lifetime of achievement was celebrated on April 20 at a special retirement gala that will raise endowment funds for the Langenberg Lecture and Award, two efforts to continue his vision of education as a life-long journey of the human mind. Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House join me in thanking Dr. Langenberg for nearly 50 years of service in higher education and I rise to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JEFFREY A. REMINGTON

HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad month for the State of New Mexico and at the same time a wonderful gain for the Nation. Colonel Jeff Remington, commander of the 27th Fighter Wing at Cannon Air Force Base will be leaving on March 28. After an admirable tenure, he has been selected to command the 18th Wing, Pacific Air Forces at Kadena Air Base in Japan. While we are disappointed to see him go, we are very grateful for the contributions he made to Cannon and eastern New Mexico in general. Since arriving in May 2000, Colonel Remington, with steadfast personal commitment, led the base with pride and honor. He continually demonstrated outstanding leadership in every manner. All who have served with or with Colonel Remington have nothing but praise and the highest personal regard for him.

He is a man of exemplary character, and the highest sense of personal honor. He epitomizes all that the concept of being involved in the United States Air Force represents.

Colonel Remington made a special emphasis on positioning Cannon Air Force Base as a community partner with the surrounding counties. He made a point to participate in local events, let the public know about the base’s contributions to national defense, and in essence, became a neighbor.

He never hid the joy that he had in this particular assignment. Indeed, in an editorial he wrote for the Clovis News Journal, he wrote, “I have the best job in the Air Force at the best base in the Air Force.”

I traveled to Cannon shortly after the events of September 11, to receive a briefing from Colonel Remington about the role that the base is playing in light of the attacks. During our meeting, he expressed his absolute confidence in the men and women who served under him at the base. It was most inspiring to see a leader who believed so much in the people he was guiding. I believe it is that type of leadership that has made him so admired and effective at Cannon.

Of course his tenure at Cannon is only one of many assignments that he has had in an Air Force career that spans twenty-five years. After graduating in 1977 from the U.S. Air Force Academy, he earned his wings as a distinguished graduate of pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona. Colonel Remington flew F-16s in Europe where he filled numerous positions. He was also a pilot for the Thunderbirds. His previous command assignments include the 80th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Force Base in Korea and the 366th Operations Group at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

Such a distinguished career has led to a number of awards and decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and others.

Cannon Air Force Base has benefited from having such an accomplished and disciplined commander at its helm for the past two years. I know that Colonel Remington will positively impact all of his future assignments. For myself, I look forward to meeting and working with his successor, Colonel Robert Yates, who is leaving as commander of the 355th Operations Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona.

Such a distinguished career has led to a number of awards and decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and others.

The LEGACY ACT: LIVING EQUITABLY, GRANDPARENTS AIDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my good friend CONNIE MORELLA in introducing important legislation to help address an issue in our nation that is only starting to receive national attention—grandparents raising their grandchildren.

According to recent data from the Census Bureau, the number of intergenerational families increased more than fifty percent between 1990 and 1998. It is estimated that more than 4 million children across America are being raised by their grandparents. Many of these children have parents who have passed away, are in prison, or are suffering from drug or alcohol addictions, while some have been taken out of abusive homes.
These intergenerational families or “Grandfamilies” live in rural areas, inner cities and suburbs. They come from all races and ethnicities, and live in every state in the nation. Many of these grandparents survive on fixed incomes—social security, a small pension—and face not only the rising cost of prescription drugs but also the cost of diapers, baby formula, toys, and school clothes.

Unfortunately, our nation’s housing policy has not kept up with the unique needs of these families. There is currently only one housing development in the entire country specifically designed for intergenerational families—the Grandfamilies House in Boston, Massachusetts. The House offers apartments with special features for both grandparents and children, including childproof kitchen cabinets and handicapped-accessible bathrooms. There are also activities for seniors and children, an outdoor playground and an on-site computer lab.

I am introducing the LEGACY Act in response to the growing number of communities throughout the nation that have been working to build on the model of the Grandfamilies House in Boston. The title of the legislation was inspired by an Academy-Award nominated documentary film chronicling the life of a grandmother raising her grandchildren and their struggle to move out of a Chicago housing project.

The legislation creates demonstration programs through both the Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund and the Section 202 Elderly Housing program. These demonstration projects will enable housing developers and advocacy groups additional flexibility in securing financing for this housing and providing ongoing services to intergenerational families.

In addition, the LEGACY Act clarifies that grandchildren raising their grandchildren are eligible for family unification assistance, allows access to fair housing funds for education and outreach efforts about the legal issues surrounding many of these families. It also directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide specialized training for their employees focused on grandparent—and other relative-headed families. Many grandparents do not have access to the services they and their grandchildren need. These training and outreach efforts will help raise the awareness of the unique issues these families face each day.

While this bill is a small step in recognizing the tremendous contributions of these grandparents, it is my hope that it will help bring this issue greater recognition. Affordable housing is only one of the many challenges these courageous grandparents face as they raise the next generation of Americans. Please join me in supporting these families by supporting the LEGACY Act.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RITA VORPERIAN, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I am proud to announce that my colleague, Dr. Rita Vorperian. Dr. Vorperian currently serves as the Senior Administrator and Executive Secretary of the Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A. Regional Executive. In this capacity, Rita has fought hard to bring both humanitarian and economic relief to the people of Armenia and its government who are currently suffering through troubling economic times.

A native of Aleppo, Syria, Rita is a graduate of the Karen Yppe Armenian High School of Aleppo. She attended St. Joseph University in Beirut where she took courses in higher Armenological studies. On her arrival in the United States, Rita enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles where she attained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies, her Masters Degree in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and her PhD in Armenian literature and criticism.

Her professional career is as exemplary as her educational background. She has been active in the field of journalism, making submissions to AZTAG Daily of Beirut, ASBAREZ of Los Angeles, and HATRENIK of Boston. She has also contributed essays and short stories to the literary magazine PAKINE of Beirut.

Her mastery of seven languages including: Armenian, Arabic, French, English, Turkish, Spanish and Russian has helped her in her role as an advocate for the people of Armenia around the world in serving their humanitarian needs as well as helping to preserve the cultural heritage and identity of the Armenian people.

Her work as the Senior Administrator and Executive Secretary of the Armenian National Relief Society of Western U.S.A. Regional Executive has helped establish a vital and enriched Armenian community in the 27th Congressional District and she continues to work for cultural understanding and acceptance of the Armenian people in America.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Dr. Rita Vorperian. The entire community joins me in thanking Rita for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more vibrant and culturally enriched place to live.

POSTAL RATE PROCEEDINGS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss two issues that are critically important to every individual in this country, and critically important to the welfare of our economy. I am referring to the condition of our United States Postal Service. In a proceeding now before the Postal Rate Commission, the Postal Service, which is in considerable financial difficulty, is proposing to give large mailers more than $700 million per year in unjustified discounts. These are unjustified discounts that will be imposed on individual citizens and small businesses who must use the United States postal system.

It has been widely reported in the press that the Postal Service has had financial difficulties as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, and the problems caused by the discovery of anthrax in the mail. What has been less reported, but which is of equal or even greater long-run significance, is the fact that important issues of public policy affecting the vital interests of the Postal Service are being debated and decided in a little-noticed proceeding before the Postal Rate Commission.

I am deeply concerned that the policy decisions about to be made by the Postal Rate Commission may cripple the Postal Service. Unfortunately, the Postal Service itself appears to be cooperating with those who seek to exploit or weaken it.

In referring to the fact that, in a misguided effort to speed up the postal rate increases, the Postal Service has proposed, and the Postal Rate Commission seems poised to accept, rates that will subsidize large business mailers at the expense of individuals and small businesses. This may occur because the Postal Service has proposed setting presort discounts for large business mailers at a rate which cannot be justified by the cost-savings to the Postal Service when mail is presorted. The only party opposing the proposal to establish excessive discounts for mail is the American Postal Workers Union. I am well aware, of course, that postal workers have a self-interest in opposing pre-sorting of mail. To the extent that mail is pre-sorted, work that might be done by postal employees is done by private industry. Nevertheless, the arguments made by the American Postal Workers Union against excessive presort discounts are correct and should be recognized and supported. The former Chief Financial Officer of the Postal Service, Dr. Riley, has provided testimony in support of the APWU position opposing these subsidies for large mailers. Dr. Riley is no advocate for union interests, nor can he be discounted as an ideologue of any kind. Dr. Riley is a businessman, and he has addressed the issue of postal rate making from a sound business perspective.

As Dr. Riley has very persuasively argued before the Postal Rate Commission, it makes no business sense—it is unsound business—to give discounts to pre-sort mail that exceed the costs avoided by the Postal Service when mail is pre-sorted. But that is what the Postal Service is proposing to do. The Postal Service is proposing to set discounts that will, in some cases, be 125 percent of costs avoided.

I am referring to the fact that, in a misguided effort to speed up the postal rate increases, the Postal Service has proposed, and the Postal Rate Commission seems poised to accept, rates that will subsidize large business mailers at the expense of individuals and small businesses. This may occur because the Postal Service has proposed setting presort discounts for large business mailers at a rate which cannot be justified by the cost-savings to the Postal Service when mail is presorted. The only party opposing the proposal to establish excessive discounts for mail is the American Postal Workers Union. I am well aware, of course, that postal workers have a self-interest in opposing pre-sorting of mail. To the extent that mail is pre-sorted, work that might be done by postal employees is done by private industry. Nevertheless, the arguments made by the American Postal Workers Union against excessive presort discounts are correct and should be recognized and supported. The former Chief Financial Officer of the Postal Service, Dr. Riley, has provided testimony in support of the APWU position opposing these subsidies for large mailers. Dr. Riley is no advocate for union interests, nor can he be discounted as an ideologue of any kind. Dr. Riley is a businessman, and he has addressed the issue of postal rate making from a sound business perspective.

As Dr. Riley has very persuasively argued before the Postal Rate Commission, it makes no business sense—it is unsound business—to give discounts to pre-sort mail that exceed the costs avoided by the Postal Service when mail is pre-sorted. But that is what the Postal Service is proposing to do. The Postal Service is proposing to set discounts that will, in some cases, be 125 percent of costs avoided. This is wrong. It is a wrong business decision, and it is a wrong policy. When the Postal Service was created, it was set up to be run like a private sector business. Private sector business does not give away hundreds of millions of dollars. If this discussion were to be based on sound business considerations, pre-sort discounts would be set at an amount below the cost avoided. Sound business practice would require that the discounts be set as
low as 80 percent of costs avoided, and cer-
tainly never 125 percent of costs avoided as the
Postal Service is proposing.
I want to emphasize again how critically im-
portant this issue is. Universal mail service at a
uniform cost to mailers is essential to a sound economy, and it is particularly important to those who must depend
on the United States Postal Service. Every
year, the United States Postal Service adds
1.7 million additional delivery points to its uni-
versal service. This is enough delivery points
to be about as big as the City of Chicago. That is
an enormous undertaking and it is an under-
taking that is enormously important to our
country. Many of the people served by the
Postal Service have no other practical alter-
native to the U.S. mail. As this network ex-

daits, it must be maintained on a sound fi-

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA HUGHES,
27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Women's History Month. Each year, we
pay special tribute to the contributions and
sacrifices made by our nation's most notable
women during the month of March and it is my
honor to not only recognize women of the past
but to also recognize women who are making
a difference in my community. While a month
of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I
am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day
O'Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all
the women of my Congressional District,
whose contributions have made a profound difference in our nation.

In honor of Women's History month, it is my
honor to recognize an outstanding woman of
the California's 27th Congressional District.
Ms. Barbara Hughes of Tujunga, California,
has been pivotal in the social and economic
vitality of her community and I wish to salute
her efforts today.

Born and raised in Sunland-Tujunga, Bar-
bara attended Verdugo Hills High School and
currently resides on the property which her
grandparents homesteaded years ago. She is
married to Harry Hughes, the proud mother to
three adult children: Michele, Mark and Mi-

MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE GENEVA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding
of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce in On-
tario County, New York.

When the Rev. Ninian Remick first assumed
the chairmanship of the Geneva Chamber of
Commerce in 1902, he and the group had a
simple yet important mission: "to foster and
promote the trade, manufacturing and other busi-
ness interests of Geneva and . . . to enjoin
upon our people the necessity of a wise and
conservative expenditure of the public money."

The Chamber's initial membership of 148
businesses began a bedrock commitment to
promoting economic opportunity in the Geneva
area and improving the quality of life of the
community's residents.

Throughout their first century, the Geneva
Area Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a
wide-variety of programs and events showc-
sasing the area, and have continually worked
to promote the growth and revitalization of the
city.

Today, under the leadership of incoming
chairman Tom Bowers and its 580 members,
the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce is
continuing a great tradition of commitment to
community.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 22, 2002, the
Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce will hold
its One Hundredth Annual Dinner Meeting,
and I ask that this House of Representatives
pause in its deliberations to salute the men
and women, past, present and future, of the
Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce on their
proud record of service and accomplishment.

AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

HON. BOB STUMP
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on January 11,
2000, President Clinton stood in front of a
backdrop of the Grand Canyon and pro-
claimed two national monuments in Arizona
using the Antiquities Act of 1906. One of the
monuments created by President Clinton was the
Agua Fria National Monument.

There is no doubt that the Agua Fria Na-
tional Monument has values that need to be
protected from encroachment. The Monument
spans 71,000 acres and contains two mesas,
the Perry Mesa and the Black Mesa. The
Monument boasts one of the most significant
systems of prehistoric sites in the American
Southwest. Yet, the area is located within fif-
teen miles of the northern-most reaches of the
Phoenix Valley. The tremendous growth of Ar-
izona over the past decade has placed addi-
tional pressures on the community. With Cordes
Junction to the north, and Black Canyon City
to the south, the threat of encroachment is
growing.

Mr. Speaker, since the proclamation of the
Agua Fria National Monument, we have seen
a tremendous increase in visitation, as well
as abuse of the lands contained in the Monu-
ment. However, nothing in the proclamation
ensures the long-term protection of the re-
sources we value. In fact, the Bureau of Land
Management (BLM) reported that illegal arti-
exactions occurred while President Clinton
issued the proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legis-
lation, the Agua Fria National Monument
Technical Corrections Act, to address the
management of the Agua Fria National Monu-
ment. My intent in introducing this legislation is
to ensure that Congress, the State of Arizona
and the people of Arizona have a say in how
these areas are managed and protected. Spe-
cifically, this legislation:

1. Codifies commitments made by the pre-
vious administration that were not explicitly
stated in the proclamation.

2. Provides the President with an oppor-
tunity to increase the size of the monument to

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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proud record of service and accomplishment.
Dean Bibles in the early and mid-1980s. Senator Bruce Babbitt and State BLM Director Mr. Speaker, I have a long history in working to resolve resource management issues in the area containing the Agua Fria National Monument. Working with then-Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt and State BLM Director Dean Bibles in the early and mid-1980’s, we were able to eliminate the checkerboard land ownership pattern in the area. A few years later, I supported the Area of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACEC, designation of much of the area, as well as the establishment of the Perry Mesa National Register Archaeological District. The BLM has historically done an excellent job of working with adjacent landowners in managing this area. When the Agua Fria National Monument was created by proclamation, however, past collaborative management of the land and the history and tradition of these areas was ignored. In fact, a committee established by former Secretary Babbitt went as far as to support the construction of gondolas in the Monument. Mr. Speaker, this legislation requires the BLM to review the Interim Management Policy, dated October 1, 2001, and to develop a comprehensive management plan for the long-range management of the Agua Fria National Monument. My goal is to ensure that the Interim Management Policy recognizes valid existing uses of the Monument, and that it is consistent with current laws and regulations. With the increase in visitation since the creation of the Monument, it has become clear that a new management plan that reflects the resources and values of the Monument is needed. The legislation I am introducing today requires that the BLM create a long-term management plan for the Monument within two years of enactment. While this is an aggressive schedule, I believe that it is essential if we are to address the immediacy of the threats perceived by the previous Administration. To assist in this endeavor, the legislation creates an advisory committee to ensure that local community leaders, state representatives, conservations, Native Americans, as well as scientists, are involved in the decision-making and planning of the Agua Fria National Monument Management Plan. Seven BLM managed monuments and national conservation areas, including the Gila Box and San Pedro National Conservation Areas in Arizona, currently benefit from advisory committees. Three additional advisory committees, recommended by former Secretary Babbitt, are awaiting publication in the Federal Register, and the Department of the Interior has recently approved a Request for Enhancement of Interim Management Plans for the Joshua Tree, Nevada City-Placerville, and Black Hills National Monuments. These three national park units have strong local support for the establishment of permanent advisory councils. I believe that the eight positions available on the advisory committee represent those interests that are necessary to ensure that the BLM receives broad public input, participates and support in planning and developing management strategies for the Agua Fria National Monument. Since the establishment of several monuments under the Clinton Administration, the issue of whether to modify the boundaries of these monuments has been widely discussed. This legislation moves the western boundary of the Agua Fria National Monument 400 feet to the east. The BLM has concluded that the transportation issues of Transcon lines, the main thoroughfare from central to northern Arizona, will be impossible. This small boundary adjustment may also make it feasible for the State of Arizona and the BLM to cooperatively develop and manage a new visitor center near the planned Sunrise Point Rest Area. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that there are significant archaeological sites adjacent to the current boundaries of the monument. This legislation requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to study the lands adjacent to the existing boundaries, and make a recommendation to the President on any boundary changes to the Agua Fria National Monument. This legislation is subject to the study, to make any boundary adjustment necessary to enhance the protection of the archaeological resources located within the Monument and adjacent lands or that will offer expanded opportunities for public education and scientific research. This language has the potential to expand the monument to 88,000 acres. This legislation recognizes that there are valid existing uses of the monument, including hunting, grazing and electric transmission right-of-ways. The fact that the lands are now within the boundaries of a national monument should not have an effect on their management. The archaeological resources within the Monument have existed for centuries, and the creation of the Monument has not changed their significance or heritage. Because all uses of the Monument will continue to be governed by existing laws and regulations, it is expected that the BLM will review all aspects of land use, including grazing levels, during the planning process. This legislation also ensures that state water rights are protected. In the original proclamation, an unspecified amount of water was reserved for the Agua Fria National Monument. In Arizona, where water is as precious as gold, we must ensure that a new or improved water reservation to the United States does not diminish this limited resource. This legislation allows the United States to reserve water for the Monument by following the laws of the State of Arizona. The Agua Fria National Monument Technical Corrections Act has been reviewed and supported by archaeologists, recreationists, groups and ranchers, as well as the Governor of Arizona and state agencies, including the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Mr. Speaker, I have included a letter for the record that Arizona Governor Jane Dee Hull sent to Secretary Gale Norton on April 6, 2001, outlining the State of Arizona’s concerns with the monuments established in Arizona. The Governor expresses her concern that the state was not included when the decision to declare the national monuments was being weighed. Specifically, the Governor states, “I am simply asking that boundaries and proclamation language be defined and where necessary to protect the best interests of the citizens of this state.” Mr. Speaker, I believe that this legislation addresses these concerns and ensures that the citizens of Arizona can use and enjoy the Agua Fria National Monument forever. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will protect the archaeological resources and enhance the educational opportunities of the Agua Fria National Monument. At the same time it ensures that the BLM, State of Arizona, Forest Service, private landowners, conservationists, scientists and Indian tribes work together to develop a working management plan for the future of the Agua Fria National Monument. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Agua Fria National Monument Technical Corrections Act of 2001.


HOD. GALE NORTON, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SECRETARY NORTON: Thank you very much for your letter of March 28, 2001 in regard to the impact of National Monument designations within the State of Arizona. As you know, during the past year, five new National Monuments were declared in Arizona encompassing an estimated two million acres of Arizona. This is an area approximately equivalent in size to the combined states of Delaware and Rhode Island a land mass of such notable size carries with it a number of impacts, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share my perspective on these impacts. As a preliminary matter, I would like to say that much of the land that lies within the boundaries of our five new National Monuments is exquisite and certainly worthy of conservation. In Arizona, we are aggressive in our pursuit of conservation, and we have several ongoing programs and projects that allow us to set aside our most significant scenery. Even now, we are supporting state legislation that will enable Arizona to engage in land exchanges that will result in the conservation of special State Trust lands. My fundamental concern with the five new National Monuments is the inadequate selection process through which they were established. As a result of planning that occurred almost exclusively in Washington D.C., and not in Arizona, we have monuments with boundaries that do not protect the best of each location, do not give consideration to wildlife management, do not allow vital energy transmission to cross into regions of the state, render hundreds of thousands of acres of School Trust land worthless, prohibit essential roads, create uncertainty in the state’s long-term water supply, and diminish the use of thousands of acres of private property. I believe the inadequacy of the selection process was the direct result of a nearly complete failure on the part of the former administration of the Department of the Interior to provide meaningful opportunity for Arizona residents and qualified experts to participate. To highlight the absence of that participation, please note that neither I nor any member of my cabinet was ever invited to a public meeting to discuss the potential
CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF
HON. EARL POMEROY
OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class action litigation. The bill amends the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to provide for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act.

Our system of class action litigation is in dire need of reform. Most class action cases are national in scope and should be heard in federal court, where like claims may be combined and uniform decisions rendered. Under the current system, however, these interstate suits are often filed in state or county court, where the decision of a local judge and jury may have the effect of closing the courthouse door to meritorious class action suits. The bill places a significant new responsibility on federal courts without providing the resources necessary to carry out that responsibility. The only study on record indicates that this legislation would burden federal courts to the point that class action cases could not be heard a timely fashion. As serious as the abuses are in the current system, we cannot risk denying federal court jurisdiction for people who are the victims of wrongdoing.

Sincerely,
JAN DUB HULL,
Governor.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCIA G. REYES,
27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all women who are the victims of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all women who are the victims of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT H. STERN
HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Robert H. Stern, who dedicated so much of his life to serving the community in which he had lived. From his childhood up until his death, Mr. Stern spent the majority of his time preserving and improving the business district of Steinway Street in Queens. For his many contributions within the community at large, we honor him.

The family business, “Sig Stern” was opened in the early 1920’s by Robert Stern’s father. For over fifty years it was considered the children’s store of Steinway Street. After his father’s death, Robert ran Sig Stern, Inc. In 1975, Robert closed Sig Stern, and embarked onto a successful second career as a real estate broker.

Throughout his life, Robert Stern’s passion was the successful, community oriented development of Steinway Street. Sensing that Business Improvement Districts were the salvation to commercial strips, Mr. Stern worked hard to bring the business improvement district to Steinway Street. At the time of his passing, Robert was President of the Steinway Street Business Improvement District. Steinway Street and its surrounding community acknowledge a huge debt of gratitude for its past, present and future success.

This vibrant neighborhood center of commerce is part of the legacy Mr. Stern leaves.
from his commitment and dedication to the people of Queens.

Robert Stern passed away on November 19, 1998. He was survived by his wife, Irene, children Ronnie and Randy Stause, Stacey and Richard Block, grandchildren Jackie and Brett Stause, Daniel and William and sister Ellen.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to your attention the outstanding life and work of Mr. Robert H. Stern, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions Mr. Robert H. Stern had made to the New York community.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN-PATRICIA O’CONNOR, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay hommage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Joan-Patricia O’Connor. The entire community joins me in thanking JP for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a place of extraordinary volunteerism and superior giving.

For her countless efforts JP has twice been named one of the “Outstanding Young Women in America” and was awarded a Fellowship by the American Society of Association Executives, a honor she shares with fewer than 200 people nationwide.

I am an all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Joan-Patricia O’Connor. The entire community joins me in thanking JP for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a place of extraordinary volunteerism and superior giving.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the Greek American community in celebrating the 181st anniversary of Greek independence.

On March 25, 1821, the Archbishop of Patras blessed the Greek flag at the Aghia Lavra Monastery near Kalavrita, marking the beginning of the Greek war of independence in which nearly 400 years of Ottoman rule were turned aside.

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democratic values. It brought forth the notion that the ultimate power to govern belongs in the hands of the people. It inspired a system of checks and balances to ensure that one branch of government does not dominate any other branch.

These ideals inspired our Founding Fathers as they wrote the Constitution. In the words of Thomas Jefferson: “to the ancient Greeks I am all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.”

Today, the United States is enriched not only by Greek principles but also by its sons and daughters. Greek Americans have made major contributions to American society, including our arts, sports, medicine, religion, and politics.

My home State of Michigan has been enhanced by the Greek community in Macomb and St. Clair Counties, we are served by St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. These institutions provide a multitude of community services and add to the rich diversity of the area.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Greece and those of Greek ancestry around the world celebrating Greek Independence Day.

I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN DAIGLE, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of my Congressional District, Ms. Ellen Daigle. Ellen is a true inspiration for all those who strive each day for their American Dream. Working to expand her small business and improve her community, she can certainly be held up as one of my community’s most precious citizens.

Her business, Ellen’s Silk-screening, has grown steadily since she first began producing her personalized T-Shirts from her garage 25 years ago. Today she employs over a dozen people and provides hundreds of products for schools, businesses, and the community.

Ellen’s success has not gone without notice. She has been named to Los Angeles Business Journal’s list of Top 100 Women-Owned Businesses twice in the last five years. She has also been honored by Business Life magazine as a “Woman of Achievement” and by the National Association of Businesswomen with induction into its Millennium Hall of Fame. Her activism in the community has been outstanding. She has always felt that businesspeople have an obligation to donate their time and talents to ensure the vitality of the communities in which they live and work.

Ellen has served as a Park Commissioner for the City of South Pasadena, founded the group, “South Pasadena for Responsible Intelligent Growth” and began “Expanding Horizons,” a program for local students to help them learn about career choices and the local job market. Because of her service to the City of South Pasadena’s parks programs, the California Parks and Recreation Society bestowed upon her their greatest honor.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Ellen Daigle. The entire community joins me in thanking Ellen for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more enjoyable place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RYAN RANDALL PATTERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a young student from my district, Ryan Randall Patterson. His hard work and dedication have been rewarded with a great opportunity to pursue higher education and compete in one of the nation’s most esteemed science competitions. Ryan recently won the 2002 Colorado Talent Search, and as he celebrates his achievement, I would like to commend him for his determination and self-sacrifice in achieving this
When he retired, Allenbrand said he was also proud of the employment opportunities for women and minorities, and the cooperation among all the county’s police agencies that was developed while he was sheriff.

He was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of a professional police academy in the county.

Herb Shuey, department historian and a retired deputy, described Allenbrand “as the most important sheriff in the history of the department.”

In a book about the Sheriff’s Department, Shuey said Allenbrand made himself a first-rate administrator and politician, but at his core “he always a police officer first.”

“His compassion is well known and his respect for the law is equally known,” Shuey wrote. “More important than the recognitions of Johnson County, his attitudes filter down and through his subordinates.”

After he was first elected sheriff, Surrbaugh said, “no one ever really gave him any competition. And the reason is, how can you fight honesty, integrity, consistency and fair government? He had a fire in his belly.”

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OTTO “TINK” SNAPP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Otto “Tink” Snapp of Pueblo, Colorado who peacefully left us on a Monday morning, February 18, 2002. Tink was a popular member of the community and was sought by many for his listening ear, advice, and warm smile. He served his country and fellow Coloradans for over a hundred years, and as his family and friends mourn his loss, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight his accomplishments and generosity to his fellow man.

Tink began his service to this country in 1942 as a member of the Army Air Force in China, serving in the hostile China-Burma-India Theater. It was in this area during World War II that our nation fought and held Japanese advances into China, along with thousands of soldiers and airmen, braved the hazards of the environment to ensure that democracy and freedom reigned throughout the world.

After the war, Tink returned to his native Pueblo and continued his service to his community as an employee of Minequa Bank. Over the years he served in several positions; beginning as the bank bike messenger and eventually rising to the position of executive vice president. Tink’s is the kind of story that lends substance to the American Dream. His long career spanned almost fifty years, ending in 1994 with his retirement at the age of 75. Tink was well known throughout the community as an avid sportsfan who enjoyed a wide range of sports, from golf and tennis to basketball and softball. For over twenty-three years, he traveled as a referee at home and on the road to ensure fair and unbiased officiating for local Colorado sporting events. Tink also served his community as a deacon and elder of the First Presbyterian Church and as a member of his local Masonic Order, and the Colorado Bankers Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Otto “Tink” Snapp for the great strides he
took in establishing himself as a valuable leader in the Pueblo community. His loving wife Lorraine, sons Ronald and Bruce, and stepson Scott survive him. His dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress, and of this nation. Although Tink has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to his family and friends during their time of remembrance and bereavement.

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I offer this prayer for America.

(to be sung as an overture for America)

My country 'tis of thee. Sweet land of liberty of thee I sing. . . . From every mountain side, let freedom ring. . . . Long may our land be bright. With freedom's holy light. . . .

Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

America, America, God shed grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. . . .

I offer these brief remarks today as a prayer for our country, with love of democracy, as a celebration of our country. With love for our country. With hope for our country. With a belief that the light of freedom cannot be extinguished as long as it is inside of us. With a belief that freedom rings resoundingly in a democracy each time we speak freely. With the understanding that freedom stirs the human heart and fear stills it. With the belief that a free people cannot walk in fear and faith at the same time.

With the understanding that there is a deeper truth embodied in the unity of the United States. That implicit in the union of our country is the union of all people. That all people are essentially one. That the world is interconnected not only on the material level of economics, trade, communication, and transportation, but interconnected through human consciousness, through the human heart, through the heart of the world, through the simply expressed impulse and yearning to be and to breathe free.

I offer this prayer for America.

Let us pray that our nation will remember that the unfolding of the promise of democracy in our nation paralleled the striving for civil rights. That is why we must challenge the rationale of the PATRIOT Act. We must ask why should America put aside guarantees of constitutional justice?

How can we justify in effect canceling the First Amendment and the right of free speech, the right to peaceably assemble?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fourth Amendment, probable cause, the prohibitions against unreasonable search and seizure?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fifth Amendment, nullifying due process, and allowing for indefinite incarceration without a trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Sixth Amendment, the right to prompt and public trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Eighth Amendment which protects against cruel and unusual punishment?

We cannot justify widespread wiretaps and internet surveillance without judicial supervision, let alone with it.

We cannot justify secret searches without a warrant.

We cannot justify giving the Attorney General the ability to designate domestic terrorist groups.

We cannot justify giving the FBI total access to any type of data which may exist in any system anywhere such as medical records and financial records.

We cannot justify giving the CIA the ability to target people in this country for intelligence surveillance.

We cannot justify a government which takes from the people our right to privacy and then assumes for its own operations a right to total secrecy.

The Attorney General recently covered up a statue of Lady Justice showing her bosom as if to underscore there is no danger of justice exposing herself at this time, before this administration.

Let us pray that our nation's leaders will not be overcome with fear. Because today there is great fear in our great Capitol. And this must be understood before we can ask about the shortcomings of Congress in the current environment. The great fear began when we had to evacuate the Capitol on September 11. It continued when we heard the Capitol again when a bomb scare occurred as members were pressing the CIA during a secret briefing. It continued when we abandoned Washington when anthrax, possibly from a government lab, arrived in the mail.

It continued when the Attorney General declared a nationwide terror alert and then the Administration brought the destructive PATRIOT Bill to the floor of the House.

It continued in the release of the bin Laden tapes at the same time the President was announcing the withdrawal from the ABM treaty.

It remains present in the cordoning off of the Capitol. It is present in the camouflage armed national guardsmen who greet members of Congress each day we enter the Capitol campus. It is present in the labyrinth of concrete barriers through which we must pass each time we go to vote.

The trappings of a state of siege trap us in a state of fear, ill-equipped to deal with the Patriot Games, the Mind Games, the War Games of an unelected President and his undetected Vice President.

Let us pray that our country will stop this war. "To provide for the common defense" is one of the formational principles of America.

Our Congress gave the President the ability to respond to the tragedy of September 11. We licensed a response to those who helped bring the terror of September 11th. But we the people and our elected representatives must reserve the right to measure the response, to proportion the response, to challenge the response, and to correct the response.

Because we did not authorize the invasion of Iraq.

We did not authorize the invasion of Iran.

We did not authorize the invasion of North Korea.

We did not authorize the bombing of civilians in Afghanistan.

We did not authorize permanent detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

We did not authorize the withdrawal from the Geneva Convention.

We did not authorize military tribunals suspending due process and habeas corpus.

We did not authorize assassination squads.

We did not authorize the resurrection of COINTELPRO.

We did not authorize the repeal of the Bill of Rights.

We did not authorize the revocation of the Constitution.

We did not authorize national identity cards.

We did not authorize the eye of Big Brother to peer from cameras throughout our cities.

We did not authorize an eye for an eye.

Nor did we ask that the blood of innocent people, who perished on September 11, be avenged with the blood of innocent villagers in Afghanistan.

We did not authorize the administration to wage war anywhere, anywhere, anyhow it pleases.

We did not authorize war without end.

We did not authorize a permanent war economy.

Yet we are upon the threshold of a permanent war economy. The President has requested a $45.6 billion increase in military spending. All defense-related programs will cost $400 billion.

Consider that the Department of Defense has never passed an independent audit.

Consider that the Inspector General has not requested Congress that the Pentagon cannot properly account for $1.2 trillion in transactions.

Consider that in recent years the Department of Defense could not match $22 billion worth of expenditures to the items it purchased, wrote off, as lost, billions of dollars worth of intransit inventory and stored nearly $30 billion worth of spare parts it did not need.

Yet the defense budget grows with more money for weapons systems to fight a cold war which ended, weapon systems in search of new enemies to create new wars. This has nothing to do with fighting terror.

This has everything to do with fueling a military industrial machine with the treasure of our nation, risking the future of our nation, risking democracy itself with the militarization of thought which follows the militarization of the budget.

Let us pray for our children.

Our children deserve a world without end. Not a war without end. Our children deserve a world free of the terror of hunger, free of the terror of poor health care, free of the terror of homelessness, free of the terror of ignorance, free of the terror of hopelessness, free of the terror of policies which are committed to a world view which is not appropriate for the survival of a free people, not appropriate for the survival of democratic values, not appropriate for the survival of our nation, and not appropriate for the survival of the world.

Let us pray that we have the courage and the will as a people and as a nation to share ourselves up, to reclaim from the ruins of September 11th our democratic traditions.

Let us declare our life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Let us declare our life, liberty, and the pursuit of democracy. Let us declare our intention for peace.

Let us work to make nonviolence an organizing principle in our own society.

Our children deserve a world without end.
Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to a wonderful woman and true caretaker of the community. Sister Marilyn Beavais of Pueblo, Colorado has dedicated her life to assisting others in times of hardship and great need. This year as she celebrates her fiftieth year as a nun and forty-seventh as a nurse, I would like to highlight her accomplishments and kind heart before this body of Congress.

Last year, after a lifetime of volunteering for her community and its residents, Sister Marilyn retired from public service. She had been active with providing support and assistance to those in need through a wonderful organization known as the Pueblo Services for Empowerment and Transformation. Through her dedication and the efforts of volunteers like Sister Marilyn, she has taught the less fortunate important skills and attitudes to improve their current standards of living. As a result of their kindness, many people today can credit the organization with providing the tools to improve their lives.

Since retirement, Sister Marilyn still maintains an active schedule and now spends her time volunteering for St-Mary-Conwin’s Good Medicine program. This program assists the community with general healthcare screenings and checkups to ensure a healthy population throughout the area. Her nursing and gentle disposition are a vital contribution to helping those in need, and I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Marilyn Beavais embodies the spirit of kindness and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. She has helped many individuals in need over the years and I am proud to represent her in my district. Sister Marilyn has been a model citizen to the community and I extend my thanks to her and her efforts, and am proud to bring her accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the good work Sister Marilyn, and good luck in your future endeavors.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities of the Americans, Pakistanis, Afghans, Iraqis, Saudis, Sri Lankans, British, Swiss, Germans, Australians, and Canadians who were killed or wounded in the barbaric church bombing in Islamabad, Pakistan on Sunday, March 17, 2002. I commend President Bush for his statement that we will bring those responsible to justice and I look forward to his action against the perpetrators. And, I greatly appreciate President Musharraf’s condemnation and subsequent action to find and punish the criminals.

Men who seek to murder peaceful religious believers, particularly in the midst of their service of worship of God, reveal the depth of their uncivilized, brutal nature. Once again, extremists are using violence to attempt to intimidate people and gain power. These criminals who murder in cold blood, just like those who attacked the peaceful Pakistani worshipers in October of last year, must be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to those families and friends of those killed. To the families and friends of those killed, please know that our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of suffering and mourning. The Americans killed and wounded in Pakistan were there to serve our nation and to serve people in Pakistan and the surrounding nations through their work in our Embassy or through NGOs. They are to be applauded and commended for their sacrificial service during this time of great difficulty in our world. And, they are to be admired for they have now paid the ultimate price for their service—they have given their lives.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, this month is Women’s History Month. In considering the integral role women have played in making America the great nation it is today and their daily contributions to the growth of our economy and the stability of American families, we are reminded yet again how important it is to ensure Social Security will continue to provide the economic security women need and deserve after a lifetime of sacrifice and hard work.

In looking at Social Security’s history, it is no wonder it is so important to women. The first woman to serve as a Presidential Cabinet Member-Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins—was Chairwoman of the committee that designed Social Security, and the first beneficiary to receive a monthly benefit was also a woman—Ida May Fuller.

Social Security’s lifetime inflation-adjusted benefits, spouse and survivor benefits, and progressive benefit formula provide critical protections for women, because they live longer, earn less, take time away from the workforce to care for kids, and have less pension and asset income than men. Without Social Security, more than half of elderly women would live in poverty.

Although Social Security has successfully provided an effective safety net for two-thirds of a century, Social Security is facing serious financial challenges. Beginning in 2016, payroll taxes won’t be enough to cover promised benefit payments and Social Security will call on the Treasury to make good on its obligations to the trust funds. Soon thereafter, payroll taxes taken out of the wages of our hard-working kids and grandkids will be the only source of revenue—and they will cover only 73% of benefits, and even less that in future years. If we fail to enact a plan to save Social Security, the consequences would be devastating for millions of Americans, especially women.

For these reasons, restoring Social Security’s solvency for the 21st century and beyond is a national priority for the public, Congress, and the President. We need to stop poisoning the well of bipartisanship, set aside political demagoguery, and fulfill our duty as Members of Congress by working together toward this goal. We can start building a foundation of common ground by taking a modest step to enhance Social Security benefits for women, without jeopardizing the financial position of the trust funds.

I’ve worked with the Social Security Administration to identify potential enhancements
that we could make to help women, while en-
suring the costs will not affect Social Secu-
ritv’s ability to make benefit benefits in the
long-term. I have found three provisions that,
while modest in terms of overall impact, rep-
resent real help for just over 120,000 women
when implemented. Today these provisions
are being introduced as the Social Security
Benefit Enhancements for Women Act of
2002.

These provisions increase benefits for cer-
tain widows, allow more disabled widows to
qualify for disabled widow benefits, and enable
certain divorced spouses to receive benefits
sooner. These enhancements are particularly
necessary, because elderly and disabled wid-
ows and divorced spouses are more likely to
live in poverty.

Back in December, virtually all the Members
of the House of Representatives voted to save
Social Security soon, without benefit cuts or
tax increases. I sincerely hope that by coming
together to enhance benefits for women, we
will build further consensus that will help us
make the progress that is so desperately to-
ward our largest commitment of saving Social
Security for our kids and grandkids. We must
not allow shortsightedness and election-year
politics come between us and this goal; oth-
erwise, our kids and grandkids will pay the price.

TRIBUTE TO MISSION, KANSAS,
MAYOR SYLVESTER POWELL

HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay
tribute to Mayor Sylvester Powell, of Mis-
sion, who died on March 6th, at the age of 82. Sylvester Powell served as mayor of
his northeast Johnson County community,
which is located in the Third Congressional
District, from 1955–65 and from 1977 until his
death.

Sylvester Powell was born on May 12, 1919, in Springfield, Ohio. He was drafted into
the Army in March 1941, and after the bomb-
ing of Pearl Harbor, entered Officer’s Can-
idate School. He was commissioned as a
second lieutenant and eventually attained the
rank of captain. He served as a company com-
mander in General George Patton’s Third
Army during the war. While in the Army, he
met his future wife, Merle Cline, and they were
married on July 21, 1943. Mayor Powell is sur-
vived by Merle, their son, Stephen, and their
daughters, Janet and Dianne.

After leaving the Army and receiving an
undergraduate degree from Wittenberg College,
Sylvester attended law school at the University
of Kansas City [now the University of Missour-
ian Kansas City], graduating in 1949. He was to
practice law for the next 47 years, rep-
resenting defendants in personal injury litiga-
tion.

The Powells moved to Mission in 1951,
where he helped write the city charter that
year, which established the city limits. Syl-
vester was elected to the city council in 1953
and was first elected mayor in 1955. As the
Johnson County Sun recently noted: “Through
Powell’s tenure, Mission grew from a sleepy
community to the vital retail area it is today.
Many improvements were made to the city’s
infrastructure during the Powell years. But per-
haps Powell’s greatest legacy was the $8 mil-
lion Sylvester Powell, Jr., Community Center,
which opened in May 1999. . . . The almost 3-
year-old community center was an instant suc-
cess and surprised both detractors and back-
ers by covering its operational expenses.”

Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity
to place in the RECORD two recent pieces from
the Kansas City Star for regarding Mayor Syl-
vester Powell: an obituary that the paper car-
rried on March 7th and a column by Mike Hen-
dricks, reflecting the character and ability of
the man whom we knew as “Syl,” that the Star
carried on the following day. I am proud
to have known Sylvester Powell. As the John-
son County Sun said in a March 6th editorial:
“People often wonder what one person can do.
Syl Powell showed them.” My only regret
is that we will not soon see his kind in a public service again.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 7, 2002] SYLVESTER POWELL JR., LONGTIME MAYOR OF MISSION, DIES AT 82

[By James Hart and Grace Hobson]
Mission Mayor Sylvester Powell Jr., who helped build the town he loved into a pros-
perous suburb, died Wednesday night. He was 82.

A World War II veteran and Kansas City trial lawyer, Powell was regarded by many
as the dean of Kansas mayors. He served Mis-

ISON in that capacity between 1955 and 1965,
took a “12-year vacation” and returned to office
in 1977, winning every election for the post since then, most recently in 2001.

“The people don’t put somebody back in
office that many times unless he’s well-re-
spected,” said Police Chief Bob Sturm, who
worked with Powell for more than 30 years.

When Powell suffered lung problems and had been hospitalized for weeks, Sturm said. The
mayor loved his city, Sturm said, the way he
loved his family and his church.

Councilwoman Laura McConwell will be-
come Mission’s new mayor.

I am proud to have known Sylvester Powell. As the John-
son County Sun said in a March 6th editorial:
“People often wonder what one person can do.
Syl Powell showed them.” My only regret
is that we will not soon see his kind in a public service again.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 8, 2002] LUCKY FOR MISSION, MAYOR WAS TOUCHED

[By Mike Hendricks]
When I read Syl Powell’s obituary yester-
day, the first thing that came to mind was the
time he hijacked the Olympic torch.

Sylvester Powell was a force of nature. After
I said, “Sometimes I think about retiring,
but it’s like giving something dear to you.
If you’re running the city well, they ought to
keep you in.’”

Councilwoman Laura McConwell will be-
come Mission’s new mayor.

I am proud to have known Sylvester Powell. As the John-
son County Sun said in a March 6th editorial:
“People often wonder what one person can do.
Syl Powell showed them.” My only regret
is that we will not soon see his kind in a public service again.

While some critics said Powell held the
city’s reins too tightly, he clearly was in
control of city government during his ten-
ure.

The city did not hire a professional admin-
istrator until last year, after a consultant
recommended the move.

“I don’t think they’re going to find any-
body who can run the city better than I do,” Powell said in 2000.

Last year, the city’s management became a
campaign issue in Powell’s first election challenge since 1965, and he pledged to hire a
professional.

City Councilman Lloyd Thomas, who has
served since 1976, said Mission’s strong finan-
cials today are the result of Powell’s control over the city’s finances throughout the
years.

“That’s what you call being frugal,”
Thomas said recently. “He spends the tax-
payers’ money just like he does his own. He’s
very frugal with it.”

Powell was able to build the city’s sales
tax base with development projects that
didn’t sacrifice Mission’s small-town feel,
Kostar said. That’s a formula other mayors in
northeast Johnson County want to emula-
ted. In fact, they added.

They were about to come down
Powell said. “Sometimes I think about retiring,
but it’s like giving something dear to
you. If you’re running the city well, they ought to
to keep you in.”

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With his death Wednesday night, Powell
left a legacy that will build further consensus that will help us
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Security for our kids and grandkids. We must
not allow shortsightedness and election-year
politics come between us and this goal; oth-
erwise, our kids and grandkids will pay the price.
HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in this time of national crisis, it is important for all those who love our country to speak out. I offer these thoughts as a spirit of reconciliation.

... Come my friends, 'tis not too late to seek a newer world." —Alfred Lord Tennyson

If you believe that humanity has a higher destiny, if you believe we are all ultimately perfectable, if you believe we can evolve, and become better than we are; if you believe we can overcome the nihilistic scourge of war and someday fulfill the dream of peace and harmony on earth, let us begin the conversation today. Let us exchange our ideas. Let us plan together, act together and create peace together. This is a call for common sense, for peace through action to protect our precious world from widening war and from stumbling into a nuclear catastrophe. The climate for conflict has intensified, with the struggle between Pakistan and India, the China-Taiwan tug of war, and the increased bloodshed between Israel and the Palestinians.

United States' troop deployments in the Philippines, Yemen, Georgia, Columbia and Indonesia create new possibilities for expanded war. An invasion of Iraq is planned. The recent disclosure that Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea, and Libya are considered by the United States as possible targets for nuclear attack catalyzes potential conflicts everywhere.

These crucial political decisions promoting increased military actions, plus a new nuclear first-use policy, are occurring without the consent of the American people, without public debate, without public hearings, without public votes. The President is taking Congress's approval of responding to the Sept. 11 terrorists as a license to flout with nuclear war. "Politics ought to stay out of fighting a war," the President has been quoted as saying on March 13th 2002. Yet Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution explicitly requires that Congress take responsibility when the nation comes to declaring war. This President is very popular, according to the polls. But polls are not a substitute for democratic process. Attributing a negative connotation here to politics or dismissing constitutionally mandated congressional oversight belies reality.

Spending $400 billion a year for defense is a political decision. Committing troops abroad is a political decision. War is a political decision.

When men and women die on the battlefield that is the result of a political decision. The citizens of our nation die each day as a result of nuclear accidents, which destroy the lives of millions, is a profound political decision. In a monarchy there need be no political decisions.

In a democracy, all decisions are political, in that they derive from the consent of the governed.

In a democracy, budgetary military and national objectives must be subordinate to the political process. Before we celebrate an imperial presidency, let it be said that the lack of free and open political process, the lack of open and free political process, the lack of free and open political dissent can be fatal in a democracy.

We have reached a moment in our country's history where it is urgent that people everywhere speak out as president of his or her own life, to protect the peace of the nation and world within and without.

We should speak out and caution leaders who generate fear through talk of the endless war or the final conflict.

We should appeal to our leaders to consider their own bellicose thoughts, words and deeds are reshaping consciousness and can have an adverse effect on our nation.

Because when one person thinks: fight! he or she finds a fight. One faction thinks: war! and starts a war. One nation, thinks: nuclear! and approaches the abyss.

Neither individuals nor nations exist in a vacuum, which is why we have a serious responsibility for each other in this world. It is also urgent that we find those places of war in our own lives, and begin healing the world through healing ourselves. Each of us is a citizen of a common planet, bound to a common destiny. So connected are we, that each of us has the power to be the eyes of the world, the voice of the world, the conscience of the world, or the end of the world. And as each one of us chooses, so becomes the world.

Each of us is architect of this world. Our thoughts, the concepts, Our words, the designs, Our deeds, the bricks and mortar of our daily lives. Which is why we should always take care to regard the power of our thoughts and words, and the commands they send into action through the unity of all.

We need to create a new, clear vision of a world as one. A new, clear vision of people working out their differences peacefully. A new, clear vision with the teaching of non-violence, nonviolent intervention, and mediation.
A new, clear vision where people can live in harmony within their families, their communities and within themselves. A new clear vision of peaceful coexistence in a world of tolerance.

At this moment of peril we must move from paralysis of fear. This is a call to action to replace it with expanded peace. This is a call for action to place the very survival of this planet on the agenda of all people, everywhere. As citizens of a common planet, we have an obligation to ourselves and our posterity. We must demand that our nation and a nuclear weapon down the nuclear sword. We must demand that our nation and all nations:

Abide by the principles of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Stop the development of new nuclear weapons. Take all nuclear weapons systems off alert. Persist towards total, worldwide elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Our nation must: Revive the Anti Ballistic Missile treaty. Sign and enforce the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Abandon plans to build a so-called missile shield. Prohibit the introduction of weapons into outer space. Ban the testing of nuclear weapons. Take all nuclear weapons out of space. Build a so-called missile shield. Prohibit the introduction of weapons into outer space.

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Peace and diplomacy not just for the sake of peace itself. But, for practical reasons, we must work for peace as a means of achieving permanent security. It is similarly practical to work for total nuclear disarmament, particularly when nuclear arms do not even come close to addressing the real security problems which confront our nation, witness the events of September 11, 2001.

It is practical to work to make war archaic. That is the purpose of human common sense and wisdom. It is a bill to create a Marshall Plan of Peace. HR 2459 seeks to make non-violence an organizing principle in our society. It envisions new structures to help create peace in our homes, in our families, in our schools, in our neighborhoods, in our cities, and in our nation. It aspires to create human conditions and to create conditions for peace worldwide. It considers the conditions which cause people to become the terrorists of the future, issues of poverty, scarcity and exploitation. It is practical to hope that whatever space left in space, that humanity can continue to pursue a destiny among the stars. HR 3616 seeks to ban weapons in space, to keep the stars a place of dreams, of new possibilities, of transcendence.

We can achieve this practical vision of peace, if we are ready to work for it. People worldwide need to be meet with likeminded people, about peace and nuclear disarmament, now. People worldwide need to gather in peace, now. People worldwide need to march and to pray for peace, now. People worldwide need to march against the wrongs of HR 2459 with each other on the web, for peace, now.

We are in a new era of electronic democracy, where the world wide web, numerous web sites and bulletin boards enable new organizations, exercising freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of movement of association, to spring into being instantly.

We need web sites dedicated to becoming electronic forums for peace, for sustainability, for renewal and for revitalization. We need forums which strive for the restoration of a sense of community through the empowerment of self, through commitment of self to the lives of others, to the life of the community, to the life of the nation, to the life of the world. Where war making is profoundly uncreative in its destruction, peacemaking can be deeply creative, seeking to communicate with each other the ways in which we work in our communities to make this a more peaceful world. I welcome your ideas. We can share our thoughts and discuss ways in which we have brought or will bring them into action.

Now is the time to think, to take action and use our talents and abilities to create peace: in our families, in our block clubs, in our neighborhoods, in our places of worship, in our schools and universities, in our labor halls, in our parent-teacher organizations.

Now is the time to think, to take action and organize and take action to create peace as a social imperative, as an economic imperative, and as a political imperative. Now is the time to think, speak, write, organize, march, rally, hold vigils and take other nonviolent action to create peace in our cities, in our nation and in the world. And as the hymn says, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

This is the work of the human family, of people all over the world demanding that governments and non-governmental actors alike put down their nuclear weapons. This is the work of the human family, responding in this moment of crisis to protect our nation, this planet and all life within it. We can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace, as we understand that all people of the world are interconnected. We can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace. We can accomplish this through upholding an holistic vision where the claims of all living beings to the right of survival are recognized. We can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace through being a living testament to the United Nations Human Rights Covenant where each person on this planet is entitled to a life where he or she may consciously evolve in mind, body and spirit.

Nuclear disarmament and peace are the signposts toward the up path of an ever brighter, ever broader, ever truer world. Through our conscious efforts evolve and reestablish the context of our existence from peril to peace, from revolution to evolution. Think peace. Speak peace. Act peace. Peace.

Mr. Issa. Mr. Speaker, I and my fellow colleagues are introducing legislation today because the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has not sufficiently proven to Congress that they can fix their organization on their own, and because they are continually being plagued by the same problems year in and year out. We are offering H.R. 4009 because we believe accountability is integral to any organization.

The INS has been inept, irresponsible and deficient in their ability to the performance of their duties. This bill will make the entire organization responsible, from the highest level down to the entry-level employee, by taking away restrictions on dismissing INS employees and placing them in the same category as FBI employees. This bill will also make permanent the authority of the Attorney General to remove, suspend, and impose other disciplinary actions on the employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). We are introducing this legislation in direct response to a hearing that was held on March 19, 2002 in the Judiciary Committee.

During the hearing, Commissioner Ziglar accepted responsibility for his Agency’s action, or non-action. However, I am not confident that this will be the last time he will come before the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee for his Agency’s mistakes.

My legislation will give the Department of Justice and the INS the proper tools to promote accountability. I believe it is a good first step on a long journey towards INS reform.

Mr. McNIniss. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Mr. John Woodward, an incredible man, who recently passed away at the age of 76. John was loved by each and every person whose life he touched, and he will be sorely missed.
by all who knew and loved him. He was a per-
son of unquestioned integrity and of unpar-
alleled morality, and is truly an inspiration to us 
as all. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it 
is appropriate to remember John and pay trib-
ute to him for his warm heart, and his many 
contributions to Saguache County and the 
State of Colorado.

John was born and raised on his family’s 
homestead just southeast of Saguache, Colo-
rado, which was founded in the 1890s by his 
grandfather and great-uncle. He completed his 
higher education at Colorado State University, 
and then returned to the ranch, working with 
the land as both a rancher and a cowboy. John 
was a life-long rancher and ranching edu-
curator, creating pamphlets and other materials 
on the subject. During World War II, he took 
time off from ranching to serve his country in 
the Pacific theatre. John continued his service 
to his fellow citizens by becoming Saguache 
County Commissioner, selflessly serving three 
terms beginning in 1958. His service and dedi-
cation to his community and to his state are 
exactly the attributes that made John the in-
credible man he was. I, along with the 
people of Saguache County, am grateful for all 
of the hard work and passion that he lent to 
his job and to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by 
the loss of John Woodard, but take comfort in 
the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed 
only by the legacy of courage, selflessness 
and love that he left with all of us. His dedica-
tion to the community of Saguache County 
was extraordinary, though his life was more 
so. John Woodard’s life is the very embed-
mament of all that makes this country great, and 
I am deeply honored to be able to bring his 
life to the attention of this body of Congress.

COMMENDATION OF THE MOBILITY 
PROJECT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS 
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to 
commend the work of The Mobility Project, an 
an organization which serves the underprivileged 
with disabilities in other nations.
The Mobility Project has distributed wheel-
chairs and other mobility aids, along with 
plus medical supplies and physical therapy 
equipment, free of charge to the disabled poor 
in Vietnam, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, 
Pakistan, Afghanistan, and refugee camps in 
Kashmir. The volunteers with The Mobility 
Project give a tremendous amount of time and 
and thorough care into ensuring that each wheel-
chair or mobility aid is properly adjusted to the 
individual for whom it is intended.

As you may know, in many places of the 
world the disabled are resented or are pushed 
out of active participation in society. Some are 
even left in as virtual prisoners in their rooms. 
The work of The Mobility Project gives hope to 
people and offers an avenue for the disabled 
to be productive members of their society. In 
addition to giving wheelchairs and other aids 
to those in need, The Mobility Project helps to 
provide them return to the ranch, working programs, 
and job training for the disabled poor.

I have seen the faces of refugees and other 
suffering people who have received the gift of 

mobility as a result of the work of this organi-
zation. I watched the face of a young Paki-
istani girl who received a wheelchair—it will 
change her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to honor those 
in our world and in our nation who quietly, 
humbly, and ably serve people in need. The 
Mobility Project volunteers, particularly Presi-
dent and co-founder and Vice President and 
co-founder Ray Terrill, are role models for us 
all.

COMMENDING KANSAS YOUTH FOR 
THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMU-
UNITY SERVICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE 
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to 
congratulate and honor three young students 
from my district who have received national 
recognition for exemplary volunteer service in 
their communities. Ashley Wright, Aisha O’Connor, and Emily Gipple have been named 
three of my state’s top honorees in the 2002 
Prudential Spirit of Community Awards pro-
gram, an annual honor conferred on the most 
impressive student volunteers in each state, 
the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Miss Wright is being recognized for forming 
a vocal music performance class for develop-
mentally challenged adults in her community. 
Miss O’Connor’s efforts to raise over $30,000 to 
build an intergenerational playground for an inner-city 
neighborhood. Miss Gipple is being recog-
nized for starting a school club that helps for-
eign exchange and limited-English speaking 
students make friends and integrate success-
fully into both the school and community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate 
Americans are less involved in their commu-
nities than they once were, it’s vital that we 
encourage and support the kind of selfless 
contribution these young citizens have made. 
People of all ages need to think more about 
how we, as individual citizens, can work to-
gether at the local level to ensure the health 
and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

Young volunteers like Miss Wright, Miss O’Connor, and Miss Gipple are inspiring ex-
amples to all of us, and are among our bright-
est hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role 
models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of 
Community Awards—was created by Pru-
dential Financial in partnership with the Na-
tional Association of Secondary School Prin-
cipals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volun-
tees that their contributions are critically im-
portant and highly valued, and to inspire other 
young people to follow their example. Over 
the past seven years, the program has become 
the nation’s largest youth recognition effort 
based solely on community service, with near-
ly 125,000 young people participating since its 
inception.

Miss Wright, Miss O’Connor, and Miss 
Gipple should be extremely proud to have 
been singled out from such a large group of 
dedicated and committed young volunteers. 
I applaud Miss Wright, Miss O’Connor, and Miss Gipple for their ini-
tiative in seeking to make their communities 
better places to live, and for the positive im-
 pact they have had on the lives of others. 
They have demonstrated a level of commit-
ment and accomplishment that is truly extraor-
dinary in today’s world, and deserve our sin-
cere admiration and respect. Their actions 
show that young Americans can—and do—
play an important role in our communities, 
and that America’s spirit continues to hold tremen-
dous promise for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL 
SECURITY PROGRAM PROTEC-
TION ACT OF 2002

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR. 
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am intro-
ducing the “Social Security Program Protec-
tion Act of 2002” to provide the Social Secu-
rity Administration with the additional tools 
they need to fight activities that drain re-
sources from Social Security and undermine 
the fiscal security of beneficiaries...

Many Social Security and Supplemental 
Security Income beneficiaries have individuals 
or organizations called “representative payees” 
appointed by the Social Security Administra-
tion to help manage their financial affairs 
when they are not capable. At present nearly 7 mil-

ion beneficiaries entrust their financial ar-
rangements to “rep payees.” Representative 
payees safeguard income and make sure ex-
penditures are made for the beneficiary’s good. Most of them are conscientious and 
and honest, however, some are not. The current 
precautions have not prevented abuse as well 
as hoped. This bill raises the standards for 
representative payee positions and imposes 
stricter regulation and monetary penalties on 
those who fail their duties and their clients.

This bill also picks up where our 1996 legis-
lation ended in stopping benefit payments to 
those who have committed crimes. In that 
year, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Income benefits to 
those individuals fleeing to avoid prosecution 
or confinement. Fugitive felons, however, can 
still receive Title II benefits that come directly 
out of the Social Security trust funds. This is 
not right and this legislation denies the money 
to those fleeing justice.

My legislation also provides tools to further 
protect the integrity of Social Security pro-
grams, protect Social Security employees from 
harm while conducting their duties, expand the Inspector General’s ability to stop perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties, 
and prevent persons from misrepresenting 

themselves as they provide Social Security-re-
lated services.

My legislation not only prevents fraud and 
protects the Social Security programs, it also 
helps those who are legitimately seeking to re-
ceive benefits. Provisions from the Attorney 
Fee Payment System Improvement Act of 
2001 to improve the attorney fee withholding 
system are also included in this bill. These 
provisions cap the current fee assessment and 
extend withholding to Supplemental Security 
Income claims, so more individuals with dis-
abilities are able to receive needed help navi-
gating a complex application process for bene-
fits.

And finally, this legislation continues the 
great work of the Ticket to Work and Work In-
centives Improvement Act, helping individuals
with disabilities to have a better, more dignified and independent life.

Mr. Speaker, if your constituents complain about abuses in the Social Security programs, or are angry at fugitive felons receiving government benefits, then become a supporter of this legislation. Show those at home that you care about this problem, and the people who depend on it and join me in getting this legislation passed this year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHANCE KITTEL
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the story of a truly courageous young man from my district. Chance Kittel of Grand Junction, Colorado, has recently overcome great obstacles, and a potentially life long handicap, to beat the odds. Today, he lives a full and active life. It is my honor to tell the story of Chance today, for his life speaks volumes about courage in the face of difficult and trying circumstances.

During Christmas of 1997, Chance and his family, like many families that time of year, were preparing their home with lights and decorations for the upcoming holiday season. It was during this time an unfortunate accident occurred and injured young Chance. As he and his father Randy were placing the lights over a tree, a power line was accidentally caught in the light string. As a result, Chance was badly burned, suffering second and third degree burns to his left arm, his head, and stomach. In saving his son’s life, his father also suffered terrible burns to his arms as he pulled Chance free of the lights.

After his initial treatment, Chance was taken to Children’s Hospital and began a long ordeal of pain and suffering on the road back to recovery. After just three days hospital stay involved numerous treatment techniques and surgeries to repair his badly damaged body. This initial stay was followed by returns to undergo five additional surgeries to complete his healing process. I am proud to report that today, Chance has recovered remarkably well and now leads a normal and active life. His recovery is amazing when you consider that at times, his hope of recovery was slim and potentially physically inhibiting. But Chance beat the odds, worked hard, put trust in his doctors and parents, Randy and Tori, and today is healed.

Mr. Speaker, Chance’s story is similar to this nation’s as we move through these difficult and healing times. Many Americans suffered on that tragic day in September, and today they are on their own road to recovery. I believe Chance’s optimism and story of recuperation is a symbol of hope to them all; that despite the odds and the obstacles in their way, they can persevere and recover their lives, as well. Chance, you have a bright future ahead, and if you continue to fight with the determination and diligence you have demonstrated, there is nothing that will stand in your way. It is an honor to represent you and good luck in your future endeavors.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Administration to continue its diplomatic efforts to end the violence in the Middle East. Today I introduced H. Res. 374, which affirms the House’s commitment to the principles stated in UN Security Council Resolution 1397 and expresses support for the diplomatic efforts of the General Anthony Zinni, to restart the peace process in the Middle East. This resolution is a positive statement of our support for the Israeli and Palestinian people who are needlessly suffering. It is also a statement of support for President Bush’s renewed diplomatic initiative to bring both parties back to the peace table.

Over the past 18 months, the Israeli and Palestinian people have been locked in a cycle of violence that has only grown worse with each passing day. The violence has become particularly bloody in recent weeks, with over 270 Palestinian and Israeli people killed in the month of March alone.

There are two unmistakable conclusions that we must reach. First, murder is murder. There is no military solution to the conflict. Palestinian terrorists must know that murdering innocent civilians and forcing the Israeli people to live in fear will not be tolerated and can never lead to a fair, just, or lasting peace. Likewise, the Israeli government must also know that the indiscriminate use of force against Palestinian civilians, the targeting of medical personnel and ambulances, and effectively forcing the entire Palestinian population to live under house arrest, will only further enrage the Palestinian people. It will also do little to provide security to the Israeli people.

Second, it is now painfully obvious that the United States cannot afford to remain on the sidelines of this conflict. It is clearly in our national interest to see a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution to this day-to-day violence. As UN Security Council Resolution 1397 states, “two sovereign states able to reside in peace with one another.” Over the past 18 months, both sides have demonstrated that, left to their own devices, peace will remain an impossible goal. It is time for the United States to reinvigorate its diplomatic resources in this conflict, and to push both sides back to the peace table.

Mr. Speaker, I remain stubbornly optimistic that peace is inevitable. As the Israeli statesman Abba Eban once said, “nations are capable of cooperation.” The Bush Administration today is putting into practice this sentiment.

The military tribunal authorization act of 2002
HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise as an original cosponsor of the Military Tribunal Authorization Act of 2002, introduced today by Representative Conyers. This legislation is the companion bill to one introduced earlier by Senator Leahy.

On November 13, 2001, President Bush issued a military order enabling the President to order military tribunals for suspected terrorists, bypassing the American criminal justice system, its rules of evidence and its constitutional guarantees. The order directs the Secretary of Defense to issue regulations detailing how the tribunals will be conducted. As of today, these regulations have not been released.

Shortly after the announcement of the military order I sent a letter to the President, along with thirty-nine other Members, expressing our opposition to the use of military tribunals and its violation of Constitutional rights.

In the month of March alone.

Mr. Speaker, if your constituents complain about abuses in the Social Security programs, or are angry at fugitive felons receiving government benefits, then become a supporter of this legislation. Show those at home that you care about this problem, and the people who depend on it and join me in getting this legislation passed this year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHANCE KITTEL
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the story of a truly courageous young man from my district. Chance Kittel of Grand Junction, Colorado, has recently overcome great obstacles, and a potentially life long handicap, to beat the odds. Today, he lives a full and active life. It is my honor to tell the story of Chance today, for his life speaks volumes about courage in the face of difficult and trying circumstances.

During Christmas of 1997, Chance and his family, like many families that time of year, were preparing their home with lights and decorations for the upcoming holiday season. It was during this time an unfortunate accident occurred and injured young Chance. As he and his father Randy were placing the lights over a tree, a power line was accidentally caught in the light string. As a result, Chance was badly burned, suffering second and third degree burns to his left arm, his head, and stomach. In saving his son’s life, his father also suffered terrible burns to his arms as he pulled Chance free of the lights.

After his initial treatment, Chance was taken to Children’s Hospital and began a long ordeal of pain and suffering on the road back to recovery. After just three days hospital stay involved numerous treatment techniques and surgeries to repair his badly damaged body. This initial stay was followed by returns to undergo five additional surgeries to complete his healing process. I am proud to report that today, Chance has recovered remarkably well and now leads a normal and active life. His recovery is amazing when you consider that at times, his hope of recovery was slim and potentially physically inhibiting. But Chance beat the odds, worked hard, put trust in his doctors and parents, Randy and Tori, and today is healed.

Mr. Speaker, Chance’s story is similar to this nation’s as we move through these difficult and healing times. Many Americans suffered on that tragic day in September, and today they are on their own road to recovery. I believe Chance’s optimism and story of recuperation is a symbol of hope to them all; that despite the odds and the obstacles in their way, they can persevere and recover their lives, as well. Chance, you have a bright future ahead, and if you continue to fight with the determination and diligence you have demonstrated, there is nothing that will stand in your way. It is an honor to represent you and good luck in your future endeavors.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

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permanent residents. We demanded full due process for Americans charged with a crime in a foreign country and we should not set a different standard for non-citizens.

The legislation also provides regulations for the detainment of suspects and the conditions of detainment. For example, detainees must be provided with the basic necessities such as adequate food, water and medical attention. In addition, it also allows the free exercise of religion.

Lastly, the legislation requires all proceedings to be made public unless it is determined that closed proceedings are necessary for the safety of involved parties including witnesses or judges. This openness will prove to all Americans and to the world that we have respect for basic Constitutional rights. The horrific events of September 11 should not cause us to reject the American system of justice.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE GIRLS SCOUTS’ 90-YEAR COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN GIRLS

HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, for the past 90 years, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) have been pursuing a mission to help all girls grow to be strong, positive contributors to society. Established on March 12, 1912, with a group of 18 girls, GSUSA has since grown to a membership of nearly 3 million girls nationwide, with an alumni base of over 50 million women.

The mission of GSUSA is to empower all girls to develop to their full potential. Activities encouraging strong values, leadership, responsibility, confidence, and friendship have been core elements of the Girl Scout program. The GSUSA seeks to enable young women to grow into strong citizens by teaching money and financial management, health and fitness, global awareness, and community service. Millions of Girl Scouts have, through resources provided through the GSUSA, been introduced to the arts, science, math, and technology.

In my home state of Kansas, 50,000 girls and adults participate in Girl Scouts. Local initiatives have included: an anti-violence program for girls and mothers; a “Beyond Bars” program encouraging Girl Scout activities with incarcerated mothers; girls’ sport programs that teach health and fitness skills, as well as allowing young female athletes the opportunity to meet professional female athletes; and several other initiatives designed to teach self-confidence, values, integrity, and leadership.

I commend the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. for their support, dedication, and commitment to American girls, and I applaud them, on this, their 90th anniversary.
agencies had not done thorough surveys and those that did showed a range of results. For example, GAO’s report showed that the U.S. Forest Service listed about 25,000 abandoned mine sites within its boundaries, while the U.S. Bureau of Mines reported 12,500 sites on Forest Service lands. On the other hand, the Mineral Policy Center reports that it has estimated that over 560,000 sites exist on public and private land. As a first step, my bill would provide a source of funds to assist states to complete inventories.

But we do not know exactly how big the problem is, we already know enough to recognize more than inventories will be needed to fully address it. In particular, we know that timely solutions will require efforts by more entities than just the federal government. We need to assist and encourage the states, local governments, and Indian Tribes—as well as private groups—to join in the work of cleaning up these sites.

OBSTACLES TO CLEANUPS

However, right now there are two serious obstacles to their involvement. One obstacle is the serious lack of funds for cleaning up sites for which no private person or entity can be held liable. For example, the 1996 GAO report found that the U.S. Forest Service estimated it would cost $4.7 billion to clean up abandoned mine sites on its lands alone; other sites are on lands managed by other federal agencies.

Another obstacle is legal. While the Clean Water Act is one of the most effective and important of our environmental laws, as applied it can mean that someone undertaking to clean up abandoned or inactive mines will be exposed to the same liability that would apply to a party responsible for creating the site’s problems in the first place. As a result, would-be “good Samaritans” understandably have been unwilling to volunteer their services to clean up abandoned and inactive mines. They have not wanted to be required to secure long-term pollution discharge permits and thus face long-term costs and potentially stiff fines and penalties.

For example, near the Keystone ski resort in Colorado is an abandoned mine, named the “Pennsylvania Mine.” Each minute, the tunnel of this mine releases between 30 and 200 gallons of orange-tinted, highly acidic water into Peru Creek. That mountain stream flows into the Snake River, which in turn feeds into the Dillon Reservoir in Summit County—a major source of drinking water for many people in our state. To reduce this health risk, the state, with some private and federal partners, began working to have the contaminants from this mine filtered out by a wetland and other methods. It has not come to a halt partly because of technical problems with the cleanup method, but more importantly because of a recent judicial decision regarding a similar situation in California. In that case, the court ruled that “good Samaritans”—like the parties working on the Pennsylvania Mine cleanup—can be held liable under the Clean Water Act for creating a “point-source” discharge from a wetland and other techniques and thus be liable for permits, costs and penalties. Faced with that prospect, the Colorado volunteers abandoned the effort.

Unless these fiscal and legal obstacles are overcome, often the only route to clean up abandoned mines will be to place them on the nation’s Superfund list. Colorado has experience with that approach, so Coloradans know that while it can be effective it also has shortcomings. For one thing, just being placed on the Superfund list does not prompt cleanup. The site will have to get in line behind other listed sites and await the availability of financial resources.

In addition, as many communities within or near Superfund sites know, listing an area on the Superfund list does not address concerns about stigmatizing an area and potentially harming nearby property values. For example, that is just what is happening in the case of some abandoned mines above the communities of Jamestown and Ward in Boulder County. These sites are creating water quality concerns for these communities and others downstream, and the Environmental Protection Agency has been considering placing this old mining region on the Superfund list. That would mean that eventually the sites could receive attention from EPA and stimulation of a potential Superfund designation and all the issues and concerns associated with that designation.

We need to develop an alternative approach that will mean we are not left only with the option of doing nothing or creating additional Superfund sites—because while in some cases the Superfund approach may make the most sense, in many others there could be a more direct and effective way to remedy the problem.

WESTERN GOVERNORS WANT ACTION

For years, the Governors of our western states have recognized the need for action to address this serious problem. The Western Governors’ Association has several times adopted resolutions on the subject. The most recent, adopted in August of last year, was entitled “Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines” and was proposed by Governor Bill Owens of Colorado along with Governors Guinn of Nevada, Janklow of South Dakota, and Johnson of New Mexico.

That resolution begins by pointing out that these sites are “responsible for threats and impairments to water quality” throughout the west and also often are safety hazards. It notes that their cleanup is “haunted by two issues—lack of funding and concerns about liability.” And it says that Congress should “protect a remedial agency from becoming legally responsible [unless they would be otherwise] . . . for any continuing discharges . . . after completion of a cleanup project” and that “reliable sources of funds that do not divert from other important Clean Water programs should be identified and made available for the cleanup of hardrock abandoned mines in the West.”

The bill I am introducing today is based directly on those recommendations by the Western Governors. It addresses both the lack of resources and the liability risks to those doing cleanups.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Title 1. Funds for Cleanups

First, the lack of resources. To help fund cleanup projects, the bill would create a reclamation fund paid for by a modest fee applied to existing hardrock mining operations. The fund would be used by the Secretary of the Interior to assist projects to reclaim and restore lands and waters adversely affected by abandoned or inactive hardrock mines.

A similar method already exists to fund clean up of abandoned coal mines. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) requires a sliding scale fee based on the amount of coal produced. Those fees are deposited into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and used to fund reclamation of sites that had been mined for coal and then abandoned before enactment of SMCRA. Similarly, my bill provides for a sliding scale fee based on the amount of metal production from producing hardrock mines.

In developing this part of the bill, I have followed the lead of a 1999 resolution of the Western Governors Association. That resolution (proposed by Governors Guinn of Nevada and Leavitt of Utah), notes that “While society has benefited broadly from the metal mining industry, problems created by some abandoned mine lands [are] a significant national concern . . . [and] industry can play an important role in the resolution of these problems through funding mechanisms” as well as in other ways.

In accord with that suggestion, the bill provides for fees that would apply to hardrock mines on federal lands or lands that were federal before issuance of a mining-law patent. The fees would be paid to the Secretary of the Interior, and would be deposited into an Abandoned Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund in the U.S. Treasury. Money in that fund would earn interest and would be available for reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines and associated sites.

In developing the bill, I decided that a one-fee-fits-all approach would not be fair. Instead, the bill provides for only modest fees and a sliding scale based on the ability of mines to pay.

Miners Exempt from Fees

To begin with, the bill would entirely exempt mines with gross proceeds of less than $500,000 per year. That means many—probably most—small operations, such as Alaskan prospectors working individual placer claims, will not be liable for any fees under the bill.

Calculation of Fees

For more lucrative mines, fees would be based on the ratio of net proceeds to gross proceeds. If a mine’s net proceeds were under 10% of gross proceeds, the fee would be 2% of the net proceeds. For mines with net proceeds of at least 10% but less than 18% of gross proceeds, the fee would be 2.5% of net proceeds.

Mines where the net proceeds were at least 18% but less than 26% of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 3% of net proceeds. If the net proceeds were at least 26% but less than 34% of gross proceeds, the fee would be 3.5% of net proceeds.

If the net proceeds were at least 34% but less than 42% of gross proceeds the fee would be 4% of net proceeds. Mines with net proceeds equal to or greater than 42% of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 4.5% of net proceeds.

For miners whose net proceeds were at least 18% but less than 26% of gross proceeds, the fee would be 2.5% of net proceeds. Mines where the net proceeds were greater than 26% of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 3% of net proceeds. The fee would be 3.5% of net proceeds where the net proceeds were greater than 34% of gross proceeds. Mines where the net proceeds were greater than 42% of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 4% of net proceeds. Mines whose net proceeds were greater than 42% of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 4.5% of net proceeds.

For the purpose of calculating these fees, the bill defines gross proceeds as the value of any extracted hardrock minerals that are sold, exchanged for good or services, exported
ready for use or sale, or initially used in manufacture or service. Net proceeds are defined as how much of the gross proceeds remain after deducting the costs of mine development; mineral extraction; transporting minerals for smelting or similar processing; mineral processing; marketing and delivery to customers; maintenance and repairs of machinery and facilities; depreciation; insurance on mine facilities and equipment; insurance for employees; and royalties and taxes.

Based on Nevada Model

This method of calculating fees is similar to that used by the State of Nevada, which collects similar production-based fees from mines in that state. However, the fees in my bill are more moderate than those set by the Nevada law in one important respect—Nevada imposes its maximum fee rate on all mines with net proceeds of $5 million or more, regardless of the ratio between those net proceeds and the gross proceeds. My bill does not do that—instead, all of its fees are based on the ratio. In other words, under my bill a mine with earnings (i.e., net proceeds) of more than $5 million per year still might pay the minimum fee if those earnings were less than 10% of the gross proceeds.

Estimated Proceeds from Fees and Use of Fund

There are not sufficient data available to say exactly how much money would go into the new reclamation fund each year under my bill. However, the United States Geological Survey does have information about the number of operating copper and gold mines and the State of Nevada has data about the money raised by their similar fee system. By extrapolating from those data, it is possible to estimate that the fees provided for in my bill would generate about $40 million annually for the Abandoned Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund.

Funds in the new reclamation fund would be available for appropriation for grants to States to complete inventories of abandoned hardrock mines as mentioned above. A state with sites covered by the bill could receive a grant of up to $2 million annually for this purpose. In addition, and again subject to appropriation, money from the new reclamation fund would be available for cleanup work at eligible sites.

To be eligible, a site would have to be within a state subject to operation of the general mining laws that has completed its statewide inventory. Within those sites, eligible sites would be those—(1) where former hardrock-mining activities had permanently ceased as of the date of the bill’s enactment; (2) that are not on the National Priorities List under the Superfund law; (3) for which there are no identifiable owners or operators; and (4) that lack sufficient minerals to make further mining, remining, or reprocessing of minerals economically feasible. Sites designated for remedial action under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 or subject to planned or ongoing response or natural resource damage action under the Superfund law would not be eligible for cleanup funding from the new reclamation fund.

The Interior Department could use money appropriated from the fund to do cleanup work itself or could authorize use of the money for cleanup work by a holder of one of the new “good Samaritan” permits provided for in Title II of the bill.

Among eligible sites, priorities for funding would be based on the presence and severity of threats to public health, safety, general welfare, or property from the effects of past mining and the improvement that cleanup work could make in restoration of degraded water and other resources. The first priority would be for sites where effects of past mining pose an extreme danger. After that, priorities would be for sites where past mining has resulted in adverse effects (but not extreme danger) and then those where past mining has not led to equally serious consequences but where cleanup work would have a beneficial effect.

Further, the bill recognizes that in Colorado and other states there are often concentrations of abandoned mining sites that vary in the severity of their threat to the public health and the environment but that can and should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, it provides that sites of varying priority should be dealt with at the same time when that is feasible and appropriate.

Title II. Protection for “Good Samaritans”

Second, the threat of long-term liability. To help encourage the efforts of “good Samaritans,” the bill would create a new program under the Clean Water Act under which qualifying individuals and entities could obtain permits to conduct cleanups of abandoned or inactive hardrock mines. These permits would give some liability protection to those volunteering to clean up these sites, while also requiring the permit holders to meet certain standards and requirements.

The bill specifies who can secure these permits, what would be required by way of a cleanup plan, and the extent of liability exposure. Notably, unlike regular Clean Water Act point-source (“NPDES”) permits, these new permits would not require meeting specific standards for specific pollutants and would not impose liabilities on monitoring or long-term maintenance and operations. These permits would terminate upon completion of cleanup, if a regular Clean Water Act permit is issued for the same site, or if a permit holder encounters unforeseen conditions beyond the holder’s control.

I think such protection would encourage more efforts to resolve problems like those at the Pennsylvania Mine.

Together, these two programs could help us begin to address a problem that has frustrated federal and state agencies throughout the country and make progress in cleaning up from an unwelcome legacy of our mining history. The Pennsylvania Mine and the James-town area are but two examples—others can be found throughout the west. And as population growth continues near these old mines, more and more risks to public health and safety are likely to occur. We simply must begin to address this issue—not only to improve the environment, but also to ensure that our water supplies are safe and usable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND PETERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Raymond Harold Peterson who recently passed away in Grand Junction, Colorado on February 17, 2002. Raymond, also known as Ray, will always be remembered as a dedicated contributor to his community and this nation. His passing is a great loss for his family and a town that relied on Ray for his kind heart, knowledge, and friendship.

Raymond was born in Iowa in 1920 and served his county gallantly in World War II. As a member of the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division, Raymond served in Germany during the latter part of the war. His actions and wounds were recognized several times throughout the course of the war, notably with the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat. Following his service to his country in the war, Raymond married his sweetheart, Kathleen, in November of 1945, eventually settling in Colorado. There he worked for the General Services Administration at the Denver Federal Center until his retirement in 1967.

Raymond remained involved in his community throughout his life and was often found immersed in his true passion, nature. He is survived by his loving wife Kathleen, daughters Judith and Connie, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I know the passing of a love one is difficult, but I hope his family finds comfort in knowing that Ray mond’s kindness and generosity will live on through his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Peterson will be greatly missed by the many whose lives he has touched in the community, and this nation. As a veteran, Raymond fought to uphold the values that we as Americans cherish dearly today and throughout his career he worked for his fellow citizens. I am grateful to Raymond and the many others of his generation who gave of themselves selflessly so that we may enjoy the freedom of democracy today. It is with a solemn heart that we say goodbye and pay our respects to a patriarch of the Peterson family and the Grand Junction community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Girl Scouts of America. The Girl Scouts turn 90 years old, and have a long and progressive history in our country.

The Girl Scouts were started in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Lowe. Her belief that all girls should experience physical, mental, and spiritual growth through community involvement soon grew from a 18 member organization in 1912, to a 70 thousand member organization in 1920.
Over the past 90 years, the Girl Scouts have sold war bonds during World War One; led community relief efforts during the Great Depression; helped tackle illiteracy with then First Lady, Barbara Bush; and most recently, Girl Scouts donated a personal gift of one dollar each to help support the children of Afghanistan—amounting with a membership of nearly 4 million girls.

Within the Senior Girl Scouts division, young women are challenged to serve their community through Gold Award projects. Scouts strive for two years to earn a series of required badges and patches. A scout must then plan and execute a year-long Gold Award project under the guidance of a certified volunteer. The Gold Award is the Girl Scouts highest award, with less than 4,000 scouts receiving the award each year.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support their local Girl Scout chapter and participate in at least one Gold Award ceremony in the next year in order to fully appreciate the hard work and enormous effort each Girl Scout must exert to achieve her goal.

Central American Security Act (CASA)

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Central American Security Act (CASA). This legislation has strong bi-partisan support, and would give Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans the same opportunity to adjust their immigration status that Congress extended to Nicaraguans and Cubans in 1997.

In 1997, Congress passed the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) which offered drastically different immigration relief for Nicaraguans and Cubans than it did for Salvadorans and Guatemalans, despite similar political situations in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Immigrants arriving here from these countries were all fleeing similar circumstances. As a result of this disparity in treatment, there are many undocumented Central Americans in the United States today who are hard-working, taxpaying, long-term residents with no way to regularize their immigration status. Our bill would resolve the contradiction.

While there are strong equity and fairness arguments to provide “parity” to Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans, we are equally interested in the key U.S. foreign policy and national security interests in Central America that are served by the proposal.

After suffering through a string of brutal civil wars, these countries now have moderate, democratically-elected governments. They have made tremendous progress in respecting human rights and the rule of law. These are pro-American, multi-party democracies where political violence has been largely eliminated. Yet, these emerging democracies remain fragile, ravaged by natural disasters and beset by economic hardship. We must do what we can to help them.

Hard-working Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans in the United States send billions of dollars home to their families every year. These funds strengthen democratic institutions and provide for basic human needs. They amount to significantly more than we could ever hope to provide in foreign aid. Cutting off these remittances would renew economic and political instability in the region, undermine efforts to combat terrorism and drug trafficking, and generate massive new migration to the United States.

According to the INS, as many as 8 million undocumented immigrants live in the U.S. today. This is a situation profoundly affecting our national security, and we should make every effort to change it for the better. While we do not have the resources to find and identify all of the undocumented aliens in our country, we must give them some incentive to come forward and identify themselves. CASA would provide that incentive to bring some of these aliens out of the shadows and encourage them to register with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, it is in our best interest to enhance domestic security efforts and to ensure the economic and political stability of Central America. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support this fair and equitable legislation.

Social Security Privatization

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, there has been a considerable amount of debate on how to reform our Social Security System and make it solvent. There is no question that we need to reform Social Security. The Social Security Administration estimates the system starting in 2016 with a bankruptcy date of 2038. It is also estimated that the system will only be able to pay 73 percent of promised benefits. There are many reasons contributing to this depletion, such as increase life expectancies and lagging birth rates. However, the crux of the issue is how we reform Social Security without raising payroll taxes, cutting benefits or allowing the government to invest in stock markets.

In May 2001, President Bush established a 16-Member Commission on Social Security to make recommendations on how to reform Social Security. As you know, the Commission issued a final report last December that proposed three alternative models for Social Security reform that focuses on personal accounts as a central component.

In two of the proposed alternative models, the Commission claims that low income workers and Minorities will fare better if they invest part of their Social Security taxes in stocks and bonds. The rationale is that Minority groups such as African-Americans are heavily dependent on Social Security benefits during retirement and often have little or no pension savings or other sources of income. Specifically, the two alternative models call for the following:

Alternative Model 2: Workers can voluntarily redirect 4 percent of their payroll taxes up to $10,000 annually (indexed annually for wage growth) — for workers who contribute an additional 1 percent of wages subject to Social Security payroll taxes.

It is unfortunate that the Commission failed to realize that low income workers and Minorities based on a plan that cuts benefits up to 46 percent. These proposals would subject everyone to this benefit cut, not just workers who choose to have an individual account. Finally, Social Security privatization would expose individual workers and their families to much greater financial risk. Under privatization, Social Security benefits would no longer be determined primarily by a worker’s earnings and the payroll tax contributions he or she made over their careers. Rather, benefit levels would be determined by the volatile stock market.

While it is true that Social Security faces a long-term challenge, diverting revenue from Social Security into private accounts will seriously undermine our commitment to the retirement security of American seniors.

Paying Tribute to Corporal
Christopher Chandler

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home an outstanding Marine and true American hero. Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler recently returned home from protecting and fighting for our country in Afghanistan. As a young marine, Christopher traveled far from American soil to ensure that the attacks of September 11th on this country would not go unanswered.

He has recently returned home to Colorado and I would like tell his story before this body of Congress and this nation.

Corporal Christopher Chandler is a member of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division of the 15th Marine Expeditionary unit. He was stationed at the Kandahar International Airport in Afghanistan to ensure peace reigned in the region. While on patrol on December 16th, he was injured in an enemy blast, resulting in the loss of his left foot and injury to his hand. Following initial treatment, he was moved to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he recently finished the initial healing process and began rehabilitation. For wounds sustained in combat, Corporal Chandler was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

As his rehabilitation continues, Christopher thrives on the tenacity he demonstrated in his endeavor to become a United States Marine. He has refused to let his injury harm his spirit and has recovered remarkably strong. Believe it or not, Christopher now desires to return to active service. He is a remarkable young man, and if he continues to prod ahead through his life with the diligence and commitment to success he has achieved thus far, there is no limit to his future potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored today to recognize Corporal Christopher Chandler before this body of Congress and this nation. His selfless sacrifice to his country serves as a
model for all Americans who desire to serve their country in the most difficult and trying of circumstances. Many young men and women are now serving their nation without regard to personal safety to ensure we enjoy the freedoms our forefathers paid for so many years ago. We wish you both good luck with your recovery, and good luck in your future endeavors.

SIKH ACTIVIST DETAINED IN CANADA AND BRITAIN AT BEHEST OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Students Federation, was detained at the airports in Vancouver and in London last month, apparently at the behest of the Indian government. According to information I have received, Dr. Sandhu was detained overnight and then deported on a plane to London. The Indian government kept all the papers regarding the interrogation of the detained agents who were in constant touch with Indian officials in Delhi. According to Dr. Sandhu, he was told that he was a terrorist, yet no evidence to support this claim was produced by authorities in Canada. The same thing apparently happened to him on his arrival in London. All records of his interrogation were retained by the Indian regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government appears to be trying to capitalize on the world's heightened concerns about terrorism to harass innocent Sikhs beyond its own borders. In the case of Dr. Sandhu, it appears that India manipulated our friends in Canada and Great Britain so that they would detain Dr. Sandhu. The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent pamphlet denouncing the detention of Dr. Sandhu. It is very informative, I would like to place it in the Record at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Mar. 11, 2002]

SIKH ACTIVIST ARRESTED IN CANADA AND ENGLAND AT BEHEST OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT INDIA TERRORIZING SIKHS INTERNATIONALLY

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2002.—Dr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Student Federation, was arrested at the Vancouver airport on February 12 on the instructions of the Indian government. Canadian intelligence agents interrogated Dr. Sandhu while they were in constant touch with Indian officials in Delhi. According to Dr. Sandhu, he was told that he was a terrorist, yet no evidence to support this claim was produced by authorities in Canada. The same thing apparently happened to him on his arrival in London. All records of his interrogation were retained by the Indian regime.

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notable awards and accomplishments. She was named an award recipient as a National Young Investigator from 1994 to 1999 and was presented the Hardy Award in 1997 for exceptional promise of success in materials science. In 2000 she was honored with the Coble Award in recognition of outstanding research in ceramic science and in 2001 was presented with the J. Wagner Award for significant contributions towards the understanding of high-temperature, ion-conducting materials.

One of her greatest contributions to our community is the research which she is undertaking and the doctoral, masters, and senior these students which she is guiding along this journey. Dr. Haile’s time and efforts are certainly appreciated not only by the science community but also by the sixteen students which she mentors and guides so well. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Dr. Sossina Haile. The entire community joins me in thanking Sossina for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a place of academic excellence and continued research success.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES
HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, in order to maintain our position in the world economy America’s border security must be highly efficient, posing little or no obstacle to legitimate trade and travel. Yet, America’s borders—land, air, and sea—are our first line of defense in the war on terrorism. Our budget makes a bold step toward establishing the border of the future. It begins the process of integrating active measures abroad to screen goods and people, inspections at the border, and measures within the United States to ensure compliance, inspections of imports. Federal border control agencies are provided more resources to establish a seamless information-sharing system that allows for coordinated communication with the broader law enforcement and intelligence gathering communities. Funding the use of advanced technology to track the movement of cargo and the entry and exit of individuals is essential to the task of managing the movement of hundreds of millions of individuals, conveyances, and vehicles.

Customs: The 2003 Budget increases the inspection budget of the Customs Services by $619 million, for a total of $2.3 billion. This additional funding increases the ability of the Customs Service to fulfill its critical border security role. Specifically, the additional resources in the 2003 Budget will allow the Customs Service to achieve two key objectives: Acquisition of Additional Personnel and New Technology.

Coast Guard: The 2003 Budget increases funding for the Coast Guard’s homeland security-related missions (protecting ports and coastal areas, as well as interdiction activities) by $282 million, to an overall level of $2.9 billion. After September 11, the Coast Guard’s port security mission grew from approximately 1–2 percent of daily operations to between 50–60 percent today. However, we must recognize that the Coast Guard’s other important missions, such as suppressing illegal immigration, drug interdiction and search and rescue remain vital to our constituents and coastal communities.

INS: We have also included sense of the House language that the $380 million in Function 750 will be used by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to implement a visa tracking system.

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

America’s first line of defense in any terrorist attack are our “first responders”—local police, firefighters, and emergency medical professionals. Properly trained and equipped first responders have the greatest potential to save lives and limit casualties after a terrorist attack. The FY 2003 Budget directs $37.7 billion to homeland security, up from $19.5 billion in 2002.

As a first step in our commitment to improving “consequence management” we passed H.R. 3448, the Chemical and Biological Terrorism Response Act of 2001. H.R. 3448 is intended to better prepare America for bio-terrorist threats or other public health emergencies by improving America’s ability to respond effectively and quickly to such threats. This sweeping legislation will cover everything from public health preparedness and improvements, to enhancing controls on deadly biological agents, to protecting our food, drug and drinking water supplies. Our Budget proposes to spend $3.5 billion on enhancing the homeland security capabilities of America’s first responders—a greater than 10-fold increase in Federal resources to ensure that the people on the frontline of our defense have the training, equipment and technology necessary to protect them and protect our homeland.

DEFENDING AGAINST BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM

One of the most important missions we have as a Nation is to be prepared for the threat of biological terrorism—the deliberate use of disease as a weapon. An effective bio-defense will require a long-term strategy and significant new investment in the U.S. health care system to defend against attacks on our population and economic attacks against our agricultural infrastructure. The President’s Budget for 2003 devotes $2.4 billion to jump-starting the research and development process needed to provide America with the medical tools needed to support an effective response to bio-terrorism.

This new funding will focus on: (1) Infrastructure. Strengthen the State and local health systems, including by enhancing medical, veterinary, and public health surveillance and capability, to maximize their contribution to the overall bio-defense of the Nation. (2) Response. Improve specialized Federal capabilities to respond in coordination with State and local governments, and private capabilities in the event of a response capability to build up the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile. (3) Science. Meet the medical needs of our bio-terrorism response plans by developing specific new vaccines, medicines, and diagnostic tests through an aggressive research and development program. (4) Agriculture. I introduced HR 3198 because I believe threats of agricultural bioterrorism should receive the same level of priority as other terrorist threats. The FY 2003 budget makes important steps in this direction by calling for $74.4 billion in spending, an increase of $11 billion over the FY 2002 budget, and $6 billion above actual budget outlays in FY 2001. Significant funding increases in the agriculture budget that relate to homeland security and the protection of agriculture are a $48 million increase for animal health monitoring, a $19 million increase in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program for improved point-of-entry inspection programs and a $12 million increase for programs to expand diagnostic, response, management and other technical services within the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS).

NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Nuclear weapons technology is now almost 70 years old, chemical and biological weapons technology is almost 100 years old. Nuclear weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction, are no longer the exclusive province of the major powers of the First World. Since the Soviet Union became a nuclear power in 1949 five countries have established significant arsenals of nuclear weapons; China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, India, Pakistan, and possibly North Korea are also reported to have nuclear weapons.

With the break up of the Soviet Union, nuclear weapons materials and production equipment may be available on the international black-market or may be transferred from one state to another. Additional countries may therefore be able to develop nuclear weapons if they are able to obtain fissile material. Even terrorist groups may acquire and use radio- logical weapons that use a conventional explosive to disperse deadly radioactive material, evidence of such intentions has reportedly been found in Afghanistan.

Our Budget recognizes the importance of non-proliferation to our Homeland Security effort. The resolution accommodates the President’s request for $1.12 billion for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation in fiscal year 2003, a 39 percent increase over pre-September 11th funding: including International Nuclear Materials Protection, (increased 67 percent, to $233 million) Nonproliferation Research and Development, (increased 38 percent to $284 million) and Fissile Materials Disposition, (accommodates the President’s funding request of $350 million, a 40-percent increase above the previous year).

While much of our past focus has been on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons we must recognize that other weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical and biological weapons, also pose a very real and present threat. Earlier this week, President Bush articulated his administration’s doctrine for dealing with this threat, “Men with no respect for life must never be allowed to control the ultimate instruments of death. Against such an enemy, there is no immunity, and there can be no neutrality.” Our Budget provides the President with the resources he needs to continue our non-proliferation efforts and, if necessary, confront any nation posing a threat with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.
PAYING TRIBUTE TO DALE SHERFEY
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Penrose, Colorado. Over the years, Dale Sherfey has distinguished himself as a businessman, a community leader, and a vital participant in maintaining civic responsibilities throughout the region. Dale’s achievements are impressive, and it is my honor to recognize several of those accomplishments today. Dale is a generous soul whose good deeds and actions certainly deserve the recognition he has recently received.

Dale is the owner and operator of a local feed store in Penrose, a successful business he has run for many years. He has carried on a long tradition of quality guidance and service to his many clients in the area, resulting in an operation dedicated to remaining true to high standards of honesty and integrity. His success in the industry has led to several honors including a recent tribute presented by the Colorado House of Representatives. Throughout his success, Dale and wife Kathy, have remained active in their community. They have actively volunteered their time and energies to many local community organizations and Dale is frequently seen about the area lecturing to A+H groups and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Sherfey’s achievements have also recently been rewarded by his community through the Penrose Chamber. The chamber named Dale the Penrose Chamber Distinguished Citizen of the Year, an award given awarding Dale and well deserving individual who has selflessly given of themselves to directly benefit their community. It is now my honor to congratulate Dale on his most recent and well-deserved award from this organization by bringing his good deeds to the attention of this body of Congress, and this nation. Dale Sherfey has been a model citizen for Penrose and Colorado and I extend my thanks for your efforts. Keep up the good work and good luck to you and your wife Kathy in your future endeavors.

CELEBRATING AS AFGHAN GIRLS RETURN TO SCHOOL
HON. HILDA L. SOLIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the end of a five-year ban on girls attending school in Afghanistan.

On Saturday, for the first time since the oppressive Taliban regime usurped control of Afghanistan, young women will finally be able to return to school free of fear of punishment, violence or even death. It is fitting that we celebrate this new beginning today—March 21st, New Year’s Day in Afghanistan—for today is truly a new day for this desert nation in central Asia. Women in Afghanistan have been deprived of education under the Taliban regime and the prejudice against girls’ education was a black mark on a nation’s achievements.

Today, girls who once shared a few outdated books and a handful of pens and notebooks now have access to some of the 40,000, 10,000 School-in-a-Box kits, 7.8 million, textbooks and 18,000 chalkboards provided by the UNICEF Back-to-School Campaign.

Today, women and girls who once hid their instruments of learning under their shawls as they cautiously made their way home after a lesson can now carry books through the streets without fear.

Prior to the Taliban war that propelled the Taliban to power, women in Afghanistan, and especially the capital of Kabul, were highly educated and employed. Seventy percent of school teachers, 50 percent of civilian government workers and 40 percent of doctors in Kabul were women. And at Kabul University, females comprised half of the student body and 60 percent of the faculty.

In fact, the Afghani Constitution, which was ratified in 1964, had an equal rights provision for women contained within it. It is clear that in order for women in Afghanistan to regain a position of equality, quality education programs must be made available to the girls in Afghanistan.

I commend UNICEF and the Interim Afghan Government for the Back-to-School effort and look forward to seeing more than 1.5 million children on the school-house steps on Saturday.

NO—TO REVIVING MILITARY CONSCRIPTION
HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation expressing the sense of Congress that the United States government should not revive military conscription. Supporters of conscription have taken advantage of the events of September 11 to renew efforts to reinstate the military draft. However, reviving the draft may actually weaken America’s military. Furthermore, a military draft violates the very principles of individual liberty this country was founded upon. It is no exaggeration to state that military conscription is better suited for a totalitarian government, such as the recently dethroned Taliban regime, than a free society.

Since military conscription ended over 30 years ago, voluntary armed services have successfully fulfilled the military needs of the United States. The recent success of the military campaign in Afghanistan again demonstrates the ability of the volunteer military to respond to threats to the lives, liberty, and property of the people of the United States.

A draft weakens the military by introducing tensions and rivalries between those who volunteer for military service and those who have been conscripted. This undermines the cohesion of military units, which is a vital element of military effectiveness. Conscripts are also unlikely to choose the military as a career; thus, a draft will do little to address problems with retention. With today’s high-tech military, retaining the most important personnel issue and it seems counter-productive to adopt any policy that will not address this important issue.

If conscription helps promote an effective military, then why did General Vladisvao Putin, Chief of the Russian General Staff, react to plans to end the military draft in Russia, by saying “This is the great dream of all servicemen, when our army will become completely professional.” Instead of reinstating a military draft, Congress should make military service attractive by finally living up to its responsibility to provide good benefits and pay to members of the services and our country’s veterans. It is an outrage that American military personnel and veterans are given a lower priority in the federal budget than spending to benefit politically powerful special interests.

Mr. Speaker, the most important reason to oppose reinstatement of a military draft is that conscription violates the very principles upon which this country was founded. The basic premise underlying conscription is that the individual belongs to the state and individual rights are granted by the state, and therefore politicians can abridge individual rights at will. In contrast, the philosophy which inspired America’s founders, expressed in the Declaration of Independence, is that individual rights are natural, God-given rights which cannot be abridged by the government. Forcing people into military service against their will thus directly contradicts the philosophy of the Founding Fathers. A military draft also appears to contradict the constitutional prohibition of involuntary servitude.

During the War of 1812, Daniel Webster eloquently made the case that a military draft was unconstitutional: “Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained, that you must take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of Government may engage it? Under what concealment has this power lain hidden, which for the first time in the state, with a tremendous and baleful aspect, to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty? Sir, I almost disdain to go to quotations and references to prove that such an abominable doctrine had no foundation in the Constitution of the country. Enough, I know that the instrument was intended as the basis of a free government, and that the power contended for is incompatible with any notion of personal liberty. An attempt to maintain this doctrine upon the provisions of the Constitution is an exercise of perverse ingenuity to extract slavery from the substance of a free government. It is an attempt to show, by proof and argument, that we ourselves are subjects of despotism, and that we have a right to chains and bondage, firmly secured to us and our children, by the provisions of our government.”

Another eloquent opponent of the draft was former President Ronald Reagan who in a 1979 column on conscription said: “... it is a premise which says that we belong to the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption is wrong, and the Nazis thought it was a great idea.” President Reagan and Daniel Webster are not the only prominent Americans to oppose
conscription. In fact, throughout American history the draft has been opposed by Americans from across the political spectrum, from Henry David Thoreau to Barry Goldwater to Bill Bradley to Jesse Ventura. Organizations opposed to conscription range from the American Civil Liberties Union to the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, and from the National Taxpayers Union to the Conservative Caucus. Other major figures opposing conscription include current Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman. United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, and from the National Taxpayers Union to the Conservative Caucus. Other major figures opposing conscription include current Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand up for the long-term military interests of the United States, individual liberty, and values of the Declaration of Independence by cosponsoring my sense of Congress resolution opposing reinstatement of the military draft.

A.D. AND SHIRLEY McGREGOR: A GIFT OF LOVE AND GENEROSITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special couple, A.D. and Shirley McGregor of Spaulding Township, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a loving commitment to each other and their community. They have not only shared their tremendous capacity for love and giving with their son, Allen, his wife, Nancy, and granddaughter, Nicole, but they have both literally played Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at the piano playing the McGregors have become synonymous with the Yuletide spirit as they have donned the McGregors were not involved in one or another activity. A.D. and Shirley have volunteered for various organizations since before they were married at Fordney Avenue Baptist Church in 1952. In fact, as a young girl, Shirley used to accompany her father, Elmer Hopkins, when he sang and played the organ for local organizations. Both A.D. and Shirley learned at an early age that they had a responsibility to perform some of their blessings to the wider community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating A.D. and Shirley for fifty years of marital happiness and for a lifetime of giving. I am confident their kind hearted generosity will continue to know no bounds.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE JESIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Joe Jesik and recognize his contributions to this nation. A resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Joe began his service as a sailor during World War II when he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific Theatre. During his tour, Joe was stationed on the light cruiser USS Honolulu, which was involved in numerous engagements and battles throughout the South Pacific. He was recently awarded several decorations for his service over five decades, and it is my pleasure to recognize his awards and service before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The USS Honolulu was involved in numerous engagements throughout the war and is credited with the sinking of a Japanese cruiser, four destroyers, and four enemy aircraft. Joe’s exploits and service to his country were recently brought to light by his immediate family through a surprise ceremony attended by almost two hundred relatives. At the ceremony, Joe was presented with several long overdue decorations for his service to his nation during the war. Among the decorations awarded at the ceremony are the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Thanks to his loving family of twelve sons and daughters, and his dedicated wife Lucille, Joe is now properly recognized by his nation for his service to our armed forces and commitment to his nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege that I recognize Joe Jesik and his selfless sacrifice to this nation. Many men and women of his generation gave their lives long ago so that today we can enjoy the right and privilege of freedom. Joe Jesik served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself, to his family, and a grateful nation. It is an honor to recognize the service of this veteran before this body of Congress today, as he certainly deserves the thanks of this grateful nation. Thanks Joe for your service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

HONORING ANNE CONSIDINE FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO CYHA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special person from my district. Special, because she embodies the characteristics of a special place. Anne Considine is an extra-ordinary person who has demonstrated how an individual can impact their corner of the world in very ordinary ways. Her corner of the world is Charlestown, Massachusetts, where she is being honored this Saturday evening for her twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association (CYHA).

Plain and simple, Anne Considine is a “hockey mom”. Long before the political pundits of the 1990’s realized the power of women have in impacting political change, Anne Considine was improving her community through youth hockey. For the children in the family car for early morning ice time is an expected duty of a hockey parent in Boston. However, twenty-five years ago in most families, and in most neighborhoods, that would have been dad’s job alone. Long before women reached Olympic and World Cup glory, Anne Considine was known as someone who could tighten a mean skate. Anne’s influence in her community did not stop at the rink or at the doorstep
of her home at 10 Tufts Street in the Bunker Hill Housing Projects.

Anne’s dedication to the neighborhood of Charlestown is well known throughout the community. Anne’s passion for hockey, however, is what allowed her to reach out to her community and her neighbors as someone who could relate to them. This is especially true since she was a CYHA coach, president and parent, there was no one more tenacious on the bench or in the boardroom. As tough a competitor as Anne could be at times, people dealing with her knew that she possessed a hockey attitude spurred from a mother’s love. This passion was not limited to just her children but was felt by all the children of Charlestown Youth Hockey. During Anne’s tenure with CYHA, her guidance was available to all the athletes regardless of their ability to play or pay.

Charlestown has seen many of its young hockey players move on to compete at the high school and college level. Some are fortunate enough to have enjoyed professional careers. Still others have won Olympic Gold. These exceptional athletes were no more important to Anne than those whose careers peaked at the youth level. Regardless of how important to Anne was Anne’s dedication to the neighborhood of Charlestown. On behalf of all the hockey players in Charlestown, I want to thank Anne Considine for her years of dedication to the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association.

KYRGYZSTAN’S RELEASE OF AZIMBEK BEKNazarov

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday authorities in Kyrgyzstan released Azimbek Beknazarov, a parliamentarian who had been in jail since January 5. The decision was made after disturbances in the Ak-Su District of the Bishkek region. This was a protest against the release of Askar Akaev, a former president of Kyrgyzstan.

The independent and opposition media in Kyrgyzstan have also been under severe pressure, usually in the form of libel cases which official authorities use to fine newspapers out of existence so they cannot report on corruption. In January 2002, the authorities issued Decree No. 20 which prohibited manda-

tory official inventory and government registration of all typographical and printing equipment, while imposing stricter controls on its imports.

So when legislator Azimbek Beknazarov was arrested on January 5, his colleagues in parliament, members of opposition parties and human rights activists reacted strongly to the latest step in an ongoing campaign to clamp down on civil society. Since January, human rights groups have heard the message and now have to make a critical decision: either to try to find a common language with society or to crack down. If they choose the former, Kyrgyzstan may yet realize its promise of the early 1990s; if they choose the latter, more confrontations are likely, with unpredictable ramifications for Kyrgyzstan and its neighbors.

The United States has a real stake in the outcome. We are in Central Asia to make sure the region cannot use the region to plan attacks on us or recruit new members. But all the region’s states are led by men determined to stay in power indefinitely. This means they cannot allow society to challenge the state, which, in turn, insures that discontented, impoverished people with no other outlets could well be attracted by radical ideologies.

We must make it plain to President Akaev that we are serious when we declare that our war on terrorism has not put democracy and human rights on the back burner. And we must insist that he implement his OSCE commitments, as well as the pledge he made in last month’s bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the United States. That document obligates Kyrgyzstan to “confirm its commitment to continue to take demonstrable measures to strengthen the development of democratic institutions and to respect basic human and civil rights, among which are freedom of speech and of the media, freedom of association and public assembly, and freedom of religion.”

The events earlier this week have given us a wake-up call. We had better understand properly all its implications.
AFGHAN GIRLS RETURN TO SCHOOL

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable event that will be taking place this week in Afghanistan. For the first time in five years, Afghan girls will be allowed to enroll in school without fear of the Taliban.

The collapse of the Taliban regime has enabled the Afghan citizens to enjoy new personal freedoms that were once forbidden.

Women and girls were not allowed to go to school to attain a basic education. Many illegal schools were set up in private homes during the repressive regime because women and girls did not want to give up their education. During this time, if any of these underground schools were discovered, these women and girls wound up in jail, were severely beaten, or sometimes even killed.

This week marks a time for celebration. Women and girls will no longer be threatened and harmed from pursuing their right to an education. I celebrate with the Afghan women and girls on their return to school and join my colleagues in celebrating this momentous event in empowering women around the world.

THE HOSPITALIZED VETERANS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2002

HON. SUSAN DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure to introduce the Hospitalized Veterans Financial Assistance Act of 2002 and thank my Veterans Affairs Committee colleagues, Committee Ranking Member LANE EVANS, Benefits Subcommittee Ranking Member SILVESTRE REYES, and fellow Benefits Subcommittee member CORRINE BROWN who have joined me on this important legislation.

I would also like to thank the authors of the Independent Budget who brought this critical issue to our attention. In short, current law subjects many hospitalized veterans to a financial hardship. Let me explain further.

An inequity exists in current law controlling the beginning date for payment of increased compensation based on periods of incapacity due to hospitalization or convalescence. Hospitalization in excess of 21 days for a service-connected disability necessitates at least one month’s convalescence or causes complications, or where immobilization of a major joint by cast is necessary, a temporary total disability rating is awarded effective the last day of hospital admission or outpatient visit.

While the effective date of the temporary total disability rating corresponds to the beginning date of hospitalization or treatment, under current law (38 U.S.C. §5111) the effective date for payment purposes is delayed until the first day of the month following the effective date of the increased rating.

This provision deprives veterans of any increase in compensation to offset the total disability that occurs during which temporary total disability occurs. This deprecation and consequent delay in the payment of increased compensation often jeopardizes disabled veterans’ financial security and unfairly causes them hardships.

The Hospitalized Veterans Financial Assistance Act of 2002 would allow for payment of benefits in all hospitalization and convalescent claims to begin effective the first day of the month in which hospitalization or treatment begins.

Mr. Chairman, once again the nation’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are on foreign soil either engaged directly with an enemy or on alert to respond as necessary to assure our citizens’ right to live in freedom.

Let us in Congress assure these dedicated men and women that we will provide for those who bear today’s and tomorrow’s battles and not force them to endure a financial hardship.

President Abraham Lincoln said it best, “…what is fairly due from us here, in the dispensing of patronage, towards the men who gave up their lives, by the stroke of a bir-then of saving our country . . . is that, other claims and qualifications being equal, they have the better right; and this is especially applicable to the disabled soldier.”

TRIBUTE TO MR. CLIFFORD C. LAPLANTE

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and a great American. Mr. Clifford C. LaPlante. LaPlante is about to retire after more than 50 years of dedicated service to our country and to the defense and aerospace community.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Cliff began his most distinguished career in the aeronautical arena with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. An acquisition specialist, Cliff dedicated himself to ensuring that American forces were equipped with the most capable equipment that American industry could provide. As we hear in the media about the critical roles of Air Force systems such as the C–5 Galaxy and the KC–135 aerial refueling fleet, I would point out to my colleagues that these systems were developed and deployed under the watchful eye of Cliff LaPlante.

As an Air Force legislative affairs officer, Cliff became well known to the members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. He quickly became an asset to members and staff alike for his concise and timely responses to the many questions that arose during consideration of Defense department budget requests. The reputation Clif developed as a trusted and admired member of the Air Force’s legislative team is rewarded on himself as well as the U.S. Air Force.

My personal association with Cliff began in 1970 when Cliff decided to forego a much-deserved promotion to full Colonel in favor of joining The Boeing Company as its first full time liaison representative to the Congress. During his eight years with Boeing, Cliff continued the fine legislative work he had begun with the Air Force and he became involved in many vital defense programs such as the AWACS Airborne Early Warning Command Post and the KC–135 re-engining program.

In 1979, Cliff began the General Electric Company chapter of his career, which has lasted twenty-three years. Cliff continued to build on the legislative work he began during his tenure with the Air Force and Boeing and was at the very center of the major defense issues of the day. Cliff distinguished himself with his role in the KC–135 re-engining program and during “The Great Engine War” where GE competed, and won, a place for its F110 engine on the F–16. American business schools now view “The Great Engine War” as a classic case study on how defense procurements should be done.

Now, after more than 50 years of dedicated service to his country, the Congress and the aerospace community, Cliff is about to retire from GE and will begin what is perhaps his most noble endeavor. Together with his wife, Cecilia, Cliff has established a charitable foundation, “Children Come First,” that is dedicated to helping underprivileged children in Pakistan. Those of us who have worked with Cliff know that he will bring the same spirit and vigor that has exemplified his past undertakings to his foundation and that he will certainly continue to “Bring Good Things to Life” for underprivileged kids.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all my colleagues in the House who have known and worked with Cliff over the years when I say we will miss him but wish him well in the next chapter of his fascinating career.

HONORING OTTERBEIN COLLEGE, NCAA MEN’S DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, while the big school college basketball championship is still to be decided, we in Central Ohio are already celebrating the Otterbein College Cardinals’ victory in the NCAA Men’s Division III championship game. The Cardinals came from 11 points behind in the second half to crush Elizabethtown 102–83 and bring the national title home to Westerville, Ohio.

The victory topped a spectacular season for Coach Dick Reynolds and his squad. The Cardinals finished first in the tough Ohio Athletic Conference during the regular season, then won the conference tournament en route to an overall 30–3 record. It’s a homegrown success story too, with every player coming from the Buckeye State and 11 of them from the Central Ohio area.

Otterbein is no stranger to basketball success. The Cardinals’ title came in their third trip to the Final Four in Reynolds’ 30 years with the program.

Their games weren’t on ESPN and you won’t find them on your tournament bracket sheet. But some of the best basketball in the
Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, I was in Florida participating in my close friend Ted Winkney’s wedding as his best man and therefore, missed four recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 65, yes on recorded vote number 66, yes on recorded vote number 67, and yes on recorded vote 68.

Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this month the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. (GSUSA) is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Additionally, the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County is celebrating its 80th anniversary. I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Girl Scouts in Wisconsin’s First Congressional District: the Girl Scout council of Kenosha County, the Girl Scouts of Racine County, and the Girl Scouts of Racine County.

Juliette Gordon Low believed girls needed a supportive community for girls and young women to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. On March 12, 1912, Ms. Low assembled twelve girls in Savannah, Georgia, for the first Girl Scout meeting. The idea spread quickly. In 1918, six years after that inaugural meeting, Kenosha County organized its first meeting and joined the Girl Scout movement. Four years later, in 1922, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. awarded the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County its official charter.

The Girl Scout Law, on which the Girl Scout mission rests, encourages all girls to uphold values such as honesty, fairness, and responsibility, while developing respect and compassion for the world around them. Girl Scouts continue to build on this foundation by adopting the practice of these values to the contemporary issues facing girls today.

In contrast to those first twelve Scouts 90 years ago, Girl Scouts today is comprised of over 2.7 million girls and 900,000 adult volunteers in the U.S. Globally, that number tops 11 million members in over 140 countries. Currently, the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County proudly maintains an active membership of 3200 Scouts. To put that in perspective, one in nine girls are involved in Girl Scouting nationwide, while in Kenosha County, one in every six girls is a Girl Scout.

Girl Scouts depends on its volunteers and its community. As with all Girl Scout Councils, the secret behind the success of Scouting is the hard work of the adult volunteers. This well-qualified team of volunteers works with the Council to organize and encourage the Scouts. Additionally, the support of the community is integral to the Girl Scouts. Troop meetings take place in local schools, churches, and other community centers, and outreach activities demonstrate the importance of community businesses and organizations. The strength of these relationships is visible in Southeastern Wisconsin. The adult members, businesses, and organizations work together to open doors for young women to learn and expand their horizons.

For 90 years, Girl Scouts has empowered girls with the values and skills it takes to become the next generation of leaders. The Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County, the Girl Scouts of Badger Council, and the Girl Scouts of Racine County, like Councils all over the world, are helping girls to grow strong and build the necessary foundation to be successful in all they do. It is with admiration that I congratulate the Girl Scouts and all who support them on the first 90 years of remarkable service, and wish them all the best on the next 90 years.
Mr. Speaker, please join me and the many friends, family and colleagues of P.J. Corr in commending P.J. Corr for his lifetime of service to this nation, his community and his family. We look forward to his continued leadership and inspiration in the years to come and we wish him continued happiness and success.

HONORING UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As the world celebrates this day, we must reflect and take action against the existing discrimination and hate within our borders. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11th, thousands of assaults have been reported across the country on people of South Asian, Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and Jewish backgrounds. By October 11th, the Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee had already collected more than 700 reports of hate crimes in the month following September 11th. People have been physically and verbally attacked, others shot and killed, temples were firebombed, and houses were vandalized. Innocent Americans, touched by the devastation of September 11th like the rest of us, must not be singled out for hate just because of their skin color or religious beliefs. We in Congress condemn this hate and violence. But we must do more. It is time to take the next step and strengthen our current laws to protect victims who are chosen because of their gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or disability. It is our duty. It is especially important that our children learn that hate crimes will not be tolerated. This is why we must pass H.R. 1343, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001, which would elevate the status of hate crimes within federal law and ensure that state governments and local police have the tools needed to fight and prosecute these crimes. This bill would not take away the ability of state and local authorities to continue prosecuting most hate crimes. It would allow federal officials to assist over-stretched states and local officials investigate and prosecute these crimes. It would also provide states and localities with grants designed to combat hate crimes committed by juveniles. Sadly, the proliferation of hate crimes goes beyond the backlash from September 11th. The Southern Poverty Law Center estimates that last year alone, over 50,000 hate crimes took place. In the summer of 1999, the Midwest, including my district in Illinois, was rocked by the killing spree of Nathaniel Smith. A follower of the World Church of the Creator, Benjamin Smith killed Ricky Byrdsong, an outstanding role model in the community and a constituent, and Won Joon Yoon, a student at Indiana University. The Jewish Community in my district was also assaulted in the Sabra slaughter. The weekend after the September 11th attacks, I marched in solidarity with the South Asian, Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and Jewish communities to stand against the terrorist attacks and the attacks on the community. I saw not only overwhelming sadness, but the fear of violence on the faces of those walking with me. Members of my community and the district that I represent were afraid to send their children to school. They did not want to leave their homes even to go grocery shopping. But I also saw the commitment from community members to combat bigotry and racism.

Those who commit hate crimes perpetuate the sense of terror in our communities and undermine the ideals of our nation. This is why it is so important that hate crimes be recognized for what they are and punished accordingly. These crimes not only devastate victims and their family and friends, but they devastate the community to which the victim belongs. This community becomes stricken with grief as well as the fear that they could be next. The violence inflicted on those based solely on skin color or religion violates the very essence of what our nation is about. Our country represents tolerance and acceptance. We must pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I am proud to represent one of the most diverse districts in the nation and I will work to protect and honor the civil rights of all our people, without any exceptions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID NURSING FACILITY QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. DAVE CAMP
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Medicare and Medicaid Nursing Facility Quality Improvement Act of 2002.

This session, legislation has been introduced on numerous important long term care issues ranging from criminal background checks for nursing home staff to additional funds to support inspections. The legislation provides the lion’s share of financing for long term care. A variety of other financing and regulatory proposals have been introduced or are being discussed. This gives us an important opportunity to discuss a broad range of options intended to improve the quality of care provided to residents in long term care facilities. Today, I am introducing legislation that would improve the quality of care in our nations nursing homes where thousands of our most frail and elderly seniors live. It is my hope that these provisions, perhaps combined with other valuable proposals can be enacted into law.

My legislation will provide incentives for the best facilities to improve and give facilities experience with quality of care issues additional opportunities provide better care for residents. I believe the changes will also focus regulatory efforts on improving outcomes, fostering innovation and ensuring that the federal and state oversight system is more fair and accurate, to the benefit of residents and providers alike. This legislation would:

Alleviate the shortage of well-trained staff.

The legislation would also restore the ability of more facilities to train nurses aides in order to help hundreds of facilities in Michigan as well as many others across the nation respond more effectively to the shortage of long term care workers and to the needs of their residents. Unfortunately, current law prevents nursing facilities from training nurses aides on site for a full two years after the original problem that led to the prohibition on training is remedied. This penalty is highly counterproductive. It does not serve the interests of residents and hinders rather than enhances the provision of quality care.

Flexibility and innovation. The legislation would allow for an eighth state survey and certification waiver demonstration program so states can adopt innovative regulatory process for nursing homes that focus on improving resident outcomes. States should work together with consumers, providers, labor representatives and other involved parties to craft innovative systems that can improve the quality of care. For example in the state of Washington there is broad support among all key stakeholders for such a waiver, and I believe other states would come forward with valuable waiver applications if such a process were available. In addition, states would be given some narrow additional discretion to waive state regulations that could harm resident quality of life. These incentives would provide additional opportunities for technical assistance to help all facilities improve the quality of care. The legislation would expand the full range of incentives to encourage nursing homes that are providing the best possible care to exceed their already high standards, while facilitating the provision of technical assistance and advice on best practices to facilities that need to improve care for residents. Such measures will help both good facilities to implement even more effective care practices and assist those facilities in their efforts to provide excellent services. Current law provides many penalties to deter and punish those who provide low quality care but strangely absent are incentives for the overwhelming majority of responsible nursing facilities to improve the quality of care.

Insure fair and accurate survey results. Residents, families and health care providers are best served if all disputes concerning survey reports on long term care are resolved quickly and cost-effectively through an independent review process. In fact, in my home state of Michigan providers and regulators are able to resolve many disputes through an independent dispute resolution process. Unfortunately, in many states the process is not independent enough of the state regulatory agency to provide for fair and impartial review. Our independent process in Michigan, as well as the independent systems in several other states can offer many lessons for nationwide replication. Michigan’s additional steps are needed to insure that all citations, even those that do not result in the immediate imposition of a penalty, can be subject to an appeal. Basic fairness and the principles of due process require us to allow nursing facilities to appeal all publicly reported deficiencies.

Ensure proper medical care. The legislation would prohibit government inspectors from overturning the orders of patient’s own physicians. Inspectors are charged with evaluating the medical condition of nursing home patients and for making sure nursing facilities provide the best possible care. However some inspectors, even though they are not physicians,
overturn doctor’s orders. The changes could endanger a resident’s health. Patients do not lose the right to the care prescribed by a personal physician simply because they have entered a nursing facility. When government inspectors substitute their judgment for that of a physician, nursing home providers must choose between the doctor’s orders and government sanctions. An efficient and fair system requires that without fear of punishment, nursing home providers be allowed to follow a doctor’s orders in keeping with the best interest of their residents. Optimal quality care means that patients should enter nursing homes with the assurance that the care prescribed by their physician is the care they will receive.

I hope this legislation fosters a constructive debate over the best ways to improve care for residents and that involved stakeholders can come together to reach consensus on the need for changes in the current system. I am pleased that already the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Lutheran Service in America, the Council for Health and Human Service Providers of Homes and Services for the Aging, the Catholic Health Association, and the United Church of Christ Ministries of the United Church of Christ make a pledge to support this important effort.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SIGNED A “PEACE PLEDGE” TO STOP THE SPREAD OF WAR TO IRAQ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCICH. Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 individuals from 40 countries and 48 states have signed the Campaign for Conscience Peace Pledge. “I support peace for Iraq, I grant permission to use my name and city publicly as an opponent of the ongoing economic and bombing war on Iraq, and of any escalation of that war.” This Peace Pledge has been endorsed by the American Friends Service Committee, the American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, the Education for Peace in Iraq Center, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Voices in the Wilderness, and the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility.

A state breakdown of signatories is below with a representative sample from Ohio.

Pricilla Smith, Akron; Helen Thompson, Akron; Gary Blaine, Akron; Sara Cutlip, Akron; Tom Gentry, Jr., Akron; John Howell, Athens; Lynda Nye, Blduffton; Jean Temple, Brunswick; Amy Spangler, Chillicothe; William Joiner, Cincinnati; Cynthia Maxey, Cleveland; Fathi Flanagin, Cleveland Heights; Brenda Joerger, Cleveland Heights; Francis Chiappa, Cleveland Hts.; Mark Chupp, Cleveland Hts.; Melissa Bragg, Columbus; Connie Hammond, Columbus; Morton Sanders; Nathan Ruggles, Cuyahoga Falls; Robert Williams, Cuyahoga Falls; Christina Irene, Dayton; Jana Schroeder, Dayton; Ramona Nash, Dublin; Marion Kim, East Canton; Sarah Le, Eaton; Joan Slonczewski, Gambier; Margaret Banning; Gambier; Susan Klein, Girard; William Nichols, Granville; Mike Pess, Kent; Russell Andrews, Jr., Kent; Brad Clinehens, Maplewood; Michael Zabib, Massillon; Susan Mogaarvey, Nashport; Jane McCullum, Newbury; Diana Roose, Oberlin; Sadie Taylor, Oberlin; Richard Taylor, Oberlin; Geraldine S. McNabb, Oberlin; Ryan Van Lenning, Oxford; Patrick G. Coy, Peninsula; Erin Nash, Shade; Lydia Kuttab Brenneman, St. Marys; Donna Schall, Stow; Sharon Havelak, Sylvania; Matthew Wallace, Toledo; Nanor Souztkin, Toledo; Robert Gibson, Warren; Elizabeth Gibson, Warren; Heather Brutz, Warrenville Heights; Kyle Kent, Wooster; Rev. Richard Judy, Youngstown.

STATE BREAKDOWN


GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. JERRY LEWIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, March 25, 2002, marks 181 years since Greece declared its independence from the occupying Ottoman Empire. On March 25, 1821, the Greeks rose against the tyranny with an overwhelming conviction to defeat an overpowering foe. After 400 years of lingering repression and oppression, the brave elected to take a stand and fight for valued liberty and independence. Ultimately, freedom prevailed.

Since September 11, Greece has joined our effort to fight terrorism and bring those responsible for that heinous act to justice. We share the common goal of deterring future terrorist acts. Although it is and will be a difficult fight, unity and alliance with Greece is one of the keys to our ultimate victory.

The war of independence that Greece fought, and ultimately won, reminds us today that independence and liberty do not come without cost. We look to these shared values to help us endure these trying times.

Madam Speaker, we as Americans are inspired by the Greek people and recognize the struggles they have overcome to attain independence. I congratulate them on 181 years of freedom.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING WILLIAM CROWE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, William Crowe has received the Excellence in Education award from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; and

Whereas, William Crowe has been with Buckeye Local High School for 29 years; and

Whereas, William Crowe has worked to bring the joy of learning into the lives of his students; and

Whereas, William Crowe must be commended for his service to the community, taking on numerous leadership roles for the betterment all;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing William Crowe as a recipient of the 2002 Excellence in Education Award.

RECOGNIZING THE USS “RALPH TALBOT” FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. PAUL RYAN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the meritorious service of the destroyer USS Ralph Talbot during World War II.

Mr. Frank Urbanowicz, who lives in Janesville, Wisconsin, has worked tirelessly to establish formal recognition of the destroyer’s actions through the Presidential Unit Citation. While the Navy has not acted, I would like to share with you a brief history of the destroyer and the significance of its actions.

Early in his career, the USS Ralph Talbot entered World War II during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The destroyer reacted immediately, retaliating with gunfire and later patrolling the area in search of enemy submarines.
As the war in the Pacific intensified in 1942, the USS Ralph Talbot found herself near the Soloman Islands where, at Savo Island, the destroyer engaged in a heated exchange of gunfire with the enemy that left the ship badly damaged.

After repairs the USS Ralph Talbot reentered the conflict in 1943, taking an active role in late June and July with the New Georgia campaign in the Soloman Islands. Her vital actions include rescuing 300 survivors from the downed ship USS McCawley, providing cover to landing troops, and bombing enemy-held areas. These engagements had prompted a recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation by Commander Destroyer Squadron Twelve.

The USS Ralph Talbot continued patrol and escort duties in the region, as well as landing cover. In 1945, the destroyer commenced duties near Japan, facing difficulty early on with a kamikaze attack that again brought considerable damage. The attack, though, failed to dampen the resolve of the USS Ralph Talbot and her crew. She went on to continue patrolling and escorting for the remainder of the war. Following the war, the destroyer was used in atomic tests that ultimately led to her decommission, thus ending a career that earned 12 battle stars during World War II.

I share this with you in the hope that we may honor the dedication and fearless service of the USS Ralph Talbot and her crew. The efforts of this destroyer played a vital role in one of the most decisive times in our modern history.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I commend the service of the USS Ralph Talbot and believe we can all look to her with appreciation and gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY SUSPENSION BILL

HON. BOB ETHE RIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ETHE RIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to suspend the duty imposed on an ingredient used to develop products used by North Carolina farmers. Glufosinate-ammonium is the active ingredient used in two key herbicides, Liberty and Rely. Liberty is used to control weeds, particularly by corn and soybean growers. Rely controls nutrient and water robbing weeds and grass that plague apple, grape and tree nut growers.

Glufosinate-ammonium is the major cost component in the production of these herbicides, and the manufacturer of this ingredient will be suspending production for more than a year to retool its production facilities. Suspending the duty on this ingredient, currently assessed at a tariff of 3.7%, will allow for increased importation of Glufosinate-ammonium so that production of these important herbicides will not be interrupted.

I have been informed that there are no U.S. producers of Glufosinate-ammonium so the bill should receive approval by the U.S. International Trade Commission. I urge the Ways and Means Committee to act on my legislation when it considers the next miscellaneous tariff bill in the coming months.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS FOR WOMEN ACT OF 2002

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. SHAW, in introducing this bill aimed at making improvements in benefits for women under the current Social Security system.

In order to maintain fiscal responsibility, we were limited in the number and scope of the improvements we were able to make. However, the disabled widows, divorced retirees, and widows whose husbands died shortly after retirement who are affected by these improvements will certainly benefit from these changes.

Equally important as the benefit changes themselves, however, is what this bill symbolizes. It shows the importance of maintaining and preserving the defined-benefit Social Security system we have today. It shows how we are able to improve the fortunes of needy beneficiaries by building on the existing structure of the Social Security System. And it shows how the two parties are able to work together once they agree on the goal: to put aside Social Security privatization and instead improve Social Security’s guaranteed, lifelong, secure benefits.

I look forward to the swift adoption of these important benefit enhancements.

IN HONOR OF TERESA JOHNSON-HUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Teresa Johnson-Hunt in recognition of her tireless energy and passionate commitment to her community.

Teresa, affectionately called “Terry”, is the third oldest of seven children born to the late Nathaniel and Louise Haywood Johnson of Panama. She came to New York in the early sixties to pursue a career as a Fashion Designer. She graduated from the Mayer School of Fashion Design and the Fashion Institute in New York City.

She was employed as an Assistant Fashion Designer for twelve years at several prominent fashion houses in the “Fashion District”. Her career took her to many interesting places and gave her the chance to meet many influential people. One of her most memorable moments was her assignment to design costumes for a group of performers for the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Her professional accomplishments, include a certificate in Word Processing from Brooklyn College and a certificate in Health Administration from the City of New York’s Health Services Administration. After attending LaGuardia Community College, she decided to change careers and enter the field of healthcare. She started this new chapter in her life by volunteering as an EKG Technical Aide at what was then Greenpoint Hospital. She quickly decided that the caring and sensitivity to the pain and suffering of the patients affected her too personally so she decided not to continue in the health field. She immediately decided to refocus her studies. After taking business and computer courses at LaGuardia Community College, she obtained employment at Community Board No. 5 in Brooklyn. She currently serves as Assistant to the District Manager.

Her tireless energy and sincere concern for the well being and improvement of those around her has served so willingly and graciously is commendable. Terry is extremely proud to be a member of the National Council of Negro Women as well as the Women’s Caucus. She is a member of St. Claire’s Roman Catholic Church. She is married to Von R. Hunt, a former professional musician. She is the mother of two children, Delina and Gregory and the proud grandmother of Jenille, Gregory Jr., Obassi and Basaar.

Mr. Speaker, Teresa Johnson-Hunt has tireless energy and sincere concern for the well-being and improvement of those around her. She serves so willingly and graciously is commendable. Terry is extremely proud to be a member of the National Council of Negro Women as well as the Women’s Caucus. She is a member of St. Claire’s Roman Catholic Church. She is married to Von R. Hunt, a former professional musician. She is the mother of two children, Delina and Gregory and the proud grandmother of Jenille, Gregory Jr., Obassi and Basaar.

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next offering was a cover of Fats Domino’s Ain’t That A Shame, a song that propelled both Fats and Boone to stardom. He followed with a cover version of El Dorados’ At My Front Door, which quickly became his second record to reach the Top Ten.

Boone had his own way of doing R&B songs. His formula worked and his records sold well. He took on Little Richard, recording Tutti Frutti and Long Tall Sally, both of which he made into big hits. By 1957 Boone’s popularity had skyrocketed and the movie and television producers came calling. He appeared in 15 films, including Bernardine, April Love, and State Fair. From 1957 to 1960 he hosted his own television series The Pat Boone/Lovely Show. His final top-40 song was a novelty record, Speedy Gonzalez in 1962 and it peaked at number six.

Boone also had a number of country hits in the 70s, with singles Indiana Girl and Texas Woman and albums I Love You More And More Each Day and The Country Side Of Pat Boone. Pat has also been popular in the United Kingdom, where he had 27 records reach the top 40.

Pat Boone has always been a man of deep, personal faith. Over and over again, he has acted on his faith to help other people.

He should be recognized most of all for his self-sacrificing devotion to charity work and for simply carrying out God’s call to love him and to love others. Boone wrote a best-selling autobiography and dedicated the proceeds to establish a Christian college in Villanova, Pennsylvania. He has served as the national spokesman for the March of Dimes, National Association of the Blind and many other charities. Boone served for 18 years as the entertainment chairman and host of the National Association of the Blind and many other charities. Boone served for 18 years as the entertaiment chairman and host of the National Easter Seal telethon, which raised over $600 million for handicapped and disabled children.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor the great Pat Boone on behalf of the hundreds and hundreds of children whose lives have been made better through Bethel Bible Village children’s home in my hometown of Chattanooga, TN. For 25 years, Pat has not just associated his name with Bethel Bible Village, but he has put his heart and soul into its success. Each year, for the past 25 years, he has sponsored their largest fundraiser, the Pat Boone Bethel Spectacular, which has raised over $1.3 million to help children in the Chattanooga area whose lives have been shattered by crime and troubled homes. Pat’s involvement has brought national recognition to Bethel Bible Village, which has allowed them to expand their ministry exponentially. Pat Boone is a true friend to these children and his personal testimony has had such a positive influence on their lives.

Pat Boone is a recording legend and humanitarian role model who understands that the true joy of giving occurs when one doesn’t expect anything in return. Over his 40-year career as an entertainer, he has worn the hats of musician, actor, author, and radio host. His tireless commitment to helping others personifies the Biblical instruction that, “to whom so ever much is given, much is also required.”

**IN HONOR OF PASTOR PAULINE WILLIAMS GRIFFIN**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2002**

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin in recognition of her work as a leader in the Church of God in Christ Jesus, an educator, a counselor, community leader, professional woman, wife and mother.

Pauline Williams Griffin was born in Angier, North Carolina. She received her elementary and the first part of her secondary education in Lillington, North Carolina. After her family moved to New York City in 1944, she graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, she went on to attend Pace University, Bank Street College and The College for Human Services.

Her Bishop, Dr. W.H. Amos, Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, apostorpsed her as Elder of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. in 1965. Elder Griffin moved rapidly within this setting, as she became the state Mother of the Church of God in Christ Jesus for New York State. She is currently the General Mother as well as a Board Member of the Bank Street College Community Day Care Action Coalition. She is the Director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus Day Care Center as well as the Executive Director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus After-School Program at P.S. 81 in Brooklyn. Elder Griffin is also a member of Community Planning Board No. 3. She serves as the Director of a comprehensive program for young people which includes personal and health counseling and has been directly responsible for the enrollment of 60 students in the program of College for Human Services. In addition, she is Vice President of the Movement for Meaningful Involvement in Child Care. Elder Griffin serves as Vice President of the United Minorities, Inc., is a member of the New York State Citizens Coalition for Children Inc. and the Chairperson of the Concerned Foster and Adoptive Parents Support Group, Inc. as well as belonging to a host of professional organizations.

Pauline is married to Elder Clifton Griffin and is blessed with two lovely daughters, two sons and a beautiful granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin is a dedicated leader of her community and her church. She is committed to teaching the word of God and bringing the word to the greater community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

**RE-REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN DENYING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AZERBAIJAN**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

**OF NEW JERSEY**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2002**

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing re-registration campaign for religious organizations conducted by the State Committee for Relations with Religious Organizations, headed by Chairman Rafik Aliev potentially violates Azerbaijan’s commitments to religious freedom as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Azerbaijan must take steps commensurate with its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE documents to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice their religion or belief, alone or in community with others.

The State Committee, created last year to replace the Religious Affairs Directorate, has broad administrative powers, which Chairman Aliev seems willing to utilize in an attempt to ban minority religious communities through denial of legal registration. Recent reports indicate that of the 407 religious groups previously registered, only approximately 150 are currently under consideration for re-registration by the State Committee. An additional 200 organizations were unsuccessful in their initial application due to technical errors and were asked to resubmit these requests. While I am pleased that 80 groups have been approved, so far most are merely re-registered under the assumption that the State Committee is not specifically discriminating against minority faiths or religious groups.

Despite the extension of the re-registration deadline to the end of March, there is legitimate concern that groups may be denied registration, and thereby legal status, despite fulfilling all requirements. In addition, although this is the third registration campaign since 1991, reportedly about 2,000 more religious groups remain unregistered. Recently, a senior official at the 19th OSCE Committee declared unregistered groups will be closed down.

The fear that the State Committee will refuse to register religious groups for arbitrary reasons is supported by several statements from Chairman Aliev himself. For instance, he declared the State Committee hoped to introduce more stringent regulations to govern both religious organizations and individuals. He also said the State Committee can request a court to suspend activities of any religious organization conducting activities deemed illegal or to undermine national security. The State Committee has also limited the ability for religious communities to import religious materials. Reportedly, Chairman Aliev also stated “religious organizations must be controlled” and that “religion is dangerous.” This flies in the face of President Heydar Aliyev’s November 1999 public statements supporting religious freedom in Azerbaijan.

Also of concern are the heavy-handed actions against religious groups by Azeri Government officials and police officers. For example, on January 18, 2002 two Ministry of Security Ministry officers raided an unregistered Protestant church, Living Stones, which was meeting in a private apartment. The police and security officers searched the residence and seized religious literature. Ten individuals who were at attending the meeting were taken into custody, transferred to a police station and interrogated. While eight individuals were released, two church leaders, Yusuf Farkhadov and Kasym Kasymov, were given two-week prison sentences for violating Article 310 of the Administrative Code, which addresses “petty hooliganism.” The reported justification for the raid was that the church is not registered. However, Living Stones had attempted to register with the government, but only after 1½
years of waiting did the government decide their application contained errors and must be resubmitted. In addition, the church is listed as a branch of the Nehemiah Protestant Church, which is registered.

Many other religious communities are also concerned. It is feared that the Azerbaijan Jewish community will be able to register because the State Committee is favoring a separate Jewish group. The liquidation suit brought by Chairman Aliyev against the Love Baptist Church in the Natinonov district court continues to drag on. Liquidating the church due to allegations by its pastor is a disproportionate penalty and contravenes OSCE commitments. Illegal closures of churches by local officials, as in the case of the Gyanja Adventist Church on February 24, 2002, have not been halted by the State Committee. The closure of mosques under the pretext of state security is also a concern, as the government could ban unpopular groups, despite no proof of illegal activity.

The Helsinki Final Act commits that “the participating States will recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.” Mr. Speaker, I urge President Aliyev to ensure that the re-registration process is accomplished in accordance with the OSCE commitments.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am greatly alarmed by the re-registration campaign in Azerbaijan. This being the third time in a decade the government has required registration, it would seem Azerbaijan will continually “shift” minority religious groups until all are made illegal. Therefore, it is my hope that the Azerbaijani Government will choose to honor its OSCE commitments and allow religious communities to register without harassment or bureaucratic roadblocks. Members of Congress will be watching to see if groups highlighted in this statement are harassed because of their mention.

A TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE EUROPE
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jacqueline Europe for her dedication to her community.

Jacqueline founded the “Reach for the Stars” Child Development Center, a Christian centered day school approximately five years ago. Her motto is “every child is born with gifts and talents, and is capable of learning and becoming scholastically gifted.” Her vision is to expand the facility to include pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade, as well as continued service of the nursery school to accommodate the needs of her community. Jacqueline also co-founded the “Childcare Providers Business Coalition Inc.” whose forum is to make daycare providers a strong united political force. The agenda for the coalition is to effectuate positive changes in the childcare profession.

She is also a very active member of the Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, as a choir member, spiritual counselor and teacher for the Saturday Math and Reading program. She has been recognized as a “2001 Visionary” and as a “2001 Woman History Maker.” Mr. Speaker, Jacqueline Europe is devoted to serving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me honoring this truly remarkable woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. RONNIE SHOWS
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, regarding Roll Call votes on yesterday, March 19, 2002: On Roll Call 65, I would have voted YEA on Approving the Rules. On Roll Call 66, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 368, commending the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed thus far, in reconstructing the portion of the Pentagon that was destroyed by the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

On Roll Call 67, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2509, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Amendments Act.

On Roll Call 68, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2804, regarding the James R. Browning United States Courthouse.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. HENRIETTA SCOTT FULLARD
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Dr. Henrietta Scott Fullard’s dedication to her community.

Reverend Dr. Henrietta Scott Fullard’s life can be phrased as one of high achievements and a steward of educational excellence. One word that best describes her is “Teacher.” The word teacher maybe simple but a word that carries powerful meaning. Throughout her life, she has strived for educational excellence. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, a Master in Arts and a Master of Divinity. In addition, she received an honorary Doctor of Education and a Doctor of Divinity. Reverend Dr. Fullard has used her educational experiences and talents to not only serve as an educator on the high school level but as an advisor and principal. She was appointed the first principal of the newly formed Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet School in Cambria Heights, NY. Through her leadership and vision, she established educational partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Agriculture to have the students participate in science and technology research.

As a reverend, while Dr. Fullard was establishing her education agenda, she also served as a minister. She maintained a dual career for several years. Now, retired from many years of service with the New York City Board of Education, she is currently serving as pastor of the Bethel AME church in Arverne, New York. Her ministerial focus is to develop and promote programs and services that instill community empowerment, economic development, job opportunities and capital investments.

With this charge, she founded the Bethel Arverne Home Health Aide Training Program. Since the program’s inception, the program has successfully graduated three classes. In addition, she continues to be actively involved in many community, civic associations, and fraternal organizations.

Reverend Dr. Fullard has been a steward of both educational and spiritual upliftment for the Brooklyn community. Reverend Dr. Fullard is truly an educator. And, today it is my pleasure to bring her achievements to the attention of my colleagues.

RECOGNITION OF MARK GRIMMETTE
HON. PETER HOEKSTRA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the hard work and achievement of Mr. Mark Grimmette, who won the silver medal in the doubles luge at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic games. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time Mr. Grimmette has won an Olympic medal. He also won a bronze medal at the Winter Olympic games held in Nagano, Japan in 1998. In winning the bronze, Mr. Grimmette helped end a 34-year medal drought for America in the Olympic luge event.

In addition to his excellence in the Olympics, Mr. Grimmette is also a three-time U.S. national champion in the luge with his doubles partner, Brian Martin. The duo won the World Cup championship in 1998, and won two bronze medals during the 2001–2002 World Cup season.

Mr. Grimmette took his first luge slide at the age of 14 on a track he helped build in his hometown of Muskegon, Michigan, which is located in the 2nd Congressional District of Michigan. That slide began a momentous journey that has taken him to the top in Olympic achievement and ultimately earned him recognition as one of the world’s best lugers.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Grimmette represents a proud and longstanding Olympic tradition in Michigan. He has earned much deserved recognition for his achievements, and I salute him on his recent Olympic success.
IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN BROWNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BP

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Browne, chief executive of BP for his distinctive leadership on the issue of climate change. In 1997, at Stanford University, John Browne took a bold step; he broke from his peers in the oil and gas industry and set a target to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from company operations. The target he set was a ten percent reduction below a 1990 baseline by the year 2010. Just last week this same man again stood before an audience at Stanford to announce that the company had achieved the target, and done so eight years ahead of schedule. Importantly, this was done at no net cost to the company. Mr. Browne further announced that BP would continue its quest to reduce the carbon intensity of its activities and stabilize carbon emissions at current levels while growing the company. This, he said, would be achieved through focusing on technology improvements, gains in efficiency and through offering less carbon intensive products to customers.

Mr. Speaker, the actions on the part of John Browne and BP clearly demonstrate that a little bit of initiative can go a long way. This is leadership—we need more of it here in the U.S. on the matter of climate change, because this issue is not going to go away. I applaud the achievements of John Browne and the progressive company that he leads.

HONORING ROY C. NICHOLS

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Nichols for his lifetime of national and international public service. He has been a tireless champion for economic, social and civil justice for more than 50 years. He once stated, "education is critical in achieving national goals. Most people forget that the U.S. Constitution was written as a democratic course. The Republicans refuse to recognize John Browne, chief executive of BP for his distinctive leadership on the issue of climate change."

In the late ‘50s and throughout the 60’s, Bishop Nichols, then Pastor of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church in North Oakland, joined with national leaders to advocate for civic, economic and educational justice in the Bay Area. He was chair of the Berkeley NAACP Education Committee, President of the Berkeley Board of Education (four years before the school district became the first to voluntarily integrate schools), and hosted the first Black Panthers’ Breakfast.

Since 1968, Bishop Nichols has worked from several different positions to raise the principles of justice in the faith community. He was a member of the Executive & Central Committees of the World Council of Churches of Geneva, Switzerland; President of Christian Associates in Western Pennsylvania; President of the Council of Bishops for the United Methodist Church; President of the New York Council of Church Executives; and President of the African University Development Committee. Finally as we honor him tonight, I want to thank him on behalf of the entire 9th Congressional District for being a great religious and civil leader. Bishop Nichols has been a friend who has shared his wisdom and has given me support.

I take great pride in joining Bishop Nichols’ friends and colleagues to salute the extraordinary Roy C. Nichols.

BRING SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, last year the President convened a special, hand-picked commission to study Social Security reform. Unfortunately, the commission was comprised entirely of those who support private accounts as a precondition to any reform proposals they might consider. In December 2001, the commission disbanded after releasing a report in which it detailed three privatization options, each of which cuts benefits and requires massive general revenue transfers to finance private accounts.

President Bush continues to advocate these untested privatization plans as the single solution to Social Security’s future financing challenges, but he has thus far been unwilling to submit these schemes to the rigorous of the legislative process of advocacy, testimony, and amendment. If these plans are indeed credible options, they should be treated as such. They should be marked up in the House Ways and Means Committee and brought as soon as possible to the House floor for debate and a vote. Should any one of the measures prove feasible or desirable, it would subsequently be sent to the Other Body for additional debate and votes. Should both houses agree, the legislation would then be sent to the President of the United States for his signature or veto.

Sadly, it appears unlikely that Social Security privatization will follow this rational and democratic course. The Republicans refuse to place this issue on the agenda. They have scheduled no markups, no debate, and no votes on what will be a radical change to the most successful program in American history. Meanwhile, the President has indicated that he intends to move forward with these proposals next year.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a critically important program for millions in America, and the American people deserve an honest debate on these proposals now. That is why I am introducing this legislation. It is the only way the American people will get the debate they deserve.

Simply put, if neither the President nor the Republican majority in the House will submit the President’s privatization plans to the light of day, others will be forced to do it for them. It is with sincere hope and a firm belief in the need for an open and fair debate that I introduce this legislation to the House of Representatives. I now call on the Republican majority to bring this legislation to the floor.

IN TRIBUTE TO GLEN AND SALLY BECERRA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two of my constituents and friends, Glen and Sally Becerra, who for the second year are chairing the Simi Valley Education Foundation’s Lew Roth Dinner. Few passions are more important to the future of America than the education of our children. Lew Roth epitomized that passion during 23 years as a School Board trustee in my hometown of Simi Valley, California. We recognize in different parties, but we were bound by that belief. He was a true teacher and a good friend.

Lew founded the Simi Valley Education Foundation in 1989 to provide the business community and individuals with an avenue to improve our schools. The Lew Roth awards were founded after Lew died in 1991 to recognize other school personnel who share Lew’s passion for educating our children. Awarded during a gala dinner celebration, the awards honor a classified school employee, a manager, a teacher and a volunteer. This year’s recipients are PTA volunteer Annette Morgan, Garden Grove School Principal Lynn Friedman, Santa Susana School cafeteria manager Linda Pistachio, and longtime educator Peggie Nisette. They join an elite group more important than any Hall of Fame promoted regularly on television.

This year’s gala, to be held on Friday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, is a festival gathering that brings the community together to recommit to Lew’s ideals and his vision. Lew Roth awards are a huge commitment and one of the President’s choices that set the agenda for the evening helps shape the success of the foundation for the coming year.

And, the success of the evening depends largely on the people who chair the event, the cadre of other volunteers they assemble to assist them. It’s a huge commitment and one that Glen and Sally Becerra have taken on twice. It is anticipated that the galas last year and this year will have raised about $200,000 for the foundation.

I know personally of Glen’s and Sally’s commitment to family and community. They have two young children who are the loves of their lives. Sally is a dedicated mother and Glen a dedicated father who together actively nurture their children. In addition to serving as a foundation board member, Glen is a city councilman. They have long been active in their community, like their parents before them.
Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Gland and Sally Becerra on another successful event and thank them for their dedication and ensure our children receive a rich and rewarding education.

INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION AND FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2002

HON. AMO HOUGHTON
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, the “International Tax Simplification and Fairness for American Competitiveness Act of 2002.” The world economy continues the process of globalizing at a pace unforeseen a few years ago. Our trade laws and practices as well as our commitment to the World Trade Organization have encouraged the expansion of U.S. business interests abroad. However, our tax policy lags far behind and seems out of sync with our trade policy. In fact, our international tax policy seems to promote consequences that may be contrary to the national interest.

The United States is the largest trading nation in the world. In 2000, the value of our exports and imports of goods and services was about $2.5 trillion, or 25% of our GDP. Although the U.S. is not as dominant in the world markets as in the past, foreign earnings from 1990-1997 represented a greater percentage (17.7%) of all U.S. corporate net income than 40 years ago (7.5%). So our economy is becoming more trade dependent than ever.

We confront an economy in which U.S. multinationals face far greater competition in global markets. At the same time, U.S. companies depend more than ever on these markets for a much larger share of profits and sales. In light of these circumstances, the effects of tax policy on the competitiveness of U.S. companies operating abroad is of greater consequence today than ever before.

As we continue to discuss fundamental reform of our tax system, I believe it imperative to address the area of international taxation. In an Internal Revenue Code that is a monument to complexity, there is no area that contains as many difficult and complicated rules as international taxation. Further, it cannot be stressed enough as to the importance of continued discussion between the Congress and Treasury to simplify and make fair our inter-national tax laws. The Treasury’s publicly expressed intent to work with Congress this year to pursue meaningful simplification is very encouraging. The Joint Committee on Taxation issued a simplification report last year containing many simplification proposals. Some relating to the international tax area have been included in the bill.

No one is under any illusion that the measure being introduced removes all complexity or breaks bold new conceptual ground. It is also recognized that the enactment of the bill in its entirety is not likely. It is a list of options from which to choose for an appropriate Ways and Means Committee tax bill. I believe, however, that the enactment of any portion of this legislation would be a significant step in the right direction. Likewise, there are cost implications to enactment. There may well be trade-offs in this regard as we pursue other changes in the tax and trade areas. Lastly, the bill attempts to avoid rifle shot provisions or to create situations for abuse. The bill is subject to an ongoing review to make sure these situations do not exist.

The legislation would enhance the ability of the United States to continue as the preeminent economic force in the world. If our economy is to continue to create jobs for its citizens, we must ensure that the foreign provisions of our income tax law do not stand in the way.

There are many aspects of the current system that should be reformed and greatly improved. These reforms would significantly lower the cost of capital, the cost of administration, and therefore the cost of doing business for U.S.-based firms. This bill addresses a number of such problems, including significant anomalies and provisions whose administrative effects burden both the taxpayers and the government.

The focus of the legislation is to make the international area more rational. In general, the bill seeks in modest but important ways to: (1) simplify this overly complex area, especially in subpart F of the Code and the foreign tax credit mechanisms; (2) encourage exports; and (3) enhance U.S. competitiveness in other industrialized countries.

In summary, the law as now constituted frustrates the legitimate goals and objectives of U.S. businesses and erects artificial and unnecessary barriers to U.S. competitiveness. Neither the largest U.S.-based multinational companies nor the Internal Revenue Service is in a position to administer and interpret the mind-numbing complexity of many of the foreign provisions. Why not then move toward creating a set of international tax rules that taxpayers can understand and the government can administer? I believe the proposed changes in this bill represent a creditable package and a further step toward reform in the international tax area and urge your support.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN “JACK” DELMAGE

HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Private First Class John “Jack” Delmage, who served our nation in combat during World War II. Born March 24, 1919, Jack Delmage was 22 when he volunteered to join the Army as our nation joined the war. This week, more than 50 years later, Jack will finally receive full recognition for his service.

Jack Delmage joined the elite 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion where he earned his Parachutist Badge, known as “Jump” Wings. The 551st has an illustrious record of achievements, including the Army’s first daylight combat jump and the capture of the first German general. During his early missions, Jack earned the Combat Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge. As a result of his actions on August 15, 1944 in Operation Anvil Dragoon, Jack earned the French Croix de Guerre Medal with Silver-Gilt Star, awarded by the President of France to the 551st Infantry Battalion for the magnificent bravery displayed in the capture of Dragnaun. In addition, the Kingdom of Belgium awarded the 551st a commemorative ribbon for their efforts.

Through his distinguished military service in World War II, Jack Delmage earned a number of service medals, including: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and most recently, the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism displayed during the Battle of the Bulge.

Through an unfortunate misunderstanding, his comrades believed Jack was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge, and as a result, Jack never received these service medals. I am proud to join Jack Delmage this Saturday, March 23, 2002, in a ceremony to receive the medals and recognition he has earned and deserves.