by all who knew and loved him. He was a per-
son of unquestioned integrity and of unpara-
leled morality, and is truly an inspiration to us 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 person that 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 pride 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-
iment 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 organization which serves the underprivileged with disabilities in other nations.

The Mobility Project has distributed wheel-
chairs and other mobility aids, along with sur-
plus medical supplies and physical therapy equip-
ment, 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 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 training to the ranch, welding, sports 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-
ization. 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 COMMUNITY 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, Aishling 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 has worked for her ef-
fort 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 Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth vol-
unteers 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 singlet out from such a large group of dedicated student 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 sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—make an important role in our world, and that America’s spirit continues to hold tremen-
dous promise for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM PROTECTION 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-
urity Administration with the additional tools they need to fight activities that drain re-
sources from Social Security and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

Many Social Security and Supplemental Secu-
ry 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-
lion 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 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-
lated in stopping benefit payments to those who have committed crimes. In that year, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Incomes 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 program 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 disabil-
ities are able to receive needed help navigat-
ing 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