

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American patriot, cultural icon and leader in our South Texas community, Freddy Fender, an accomplished artist whose appeal is ageless. Freddy proved his everlasting influence last month when he won the Grammy for Best Latin Pop Album.

A San Benito Texas, native Freddy was born Baldemar Huerta. He began his career as a teenager recording Spanish language recordings of popular English language songs that found an audience in Mexico and Latin America in the 1950s. In the 1960's his career took off in the United States with the hit, "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights."

Those wild, early days eventually put him on a more disciplined path. He went back to school and worked as a mechanic, but he continued singing.

His number one hit, "Before the Next Tear-drop Falls," was his re-entry into popular culture. That album went multi-platinum, and Fender won best male artist of 1976. In the latter part of the century, he spread his wings, expanded upon his talent and worked with Robert Redford in the movie "The Milagro Beanfield War" and other non-traditional projects.

He found his stride, working different parts of the entertainment industry. But he never strayed far from the bounds of music, working with The Texas Tornados.

Very recently, Freddy and his family were tested in the fire when Freddy survived a near-death experience. After a protracted illness Freddy received a kidney from his daughter, thus cheating death, and is still singing and writing his songs.

Freddy's Grammy Award-winning album this year captured the yearning for a simple, romantic return to youth. The cover has a 4-year-old Baldemar Huerta dressed as a cowboy astride a painted pony. "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" is 10 boleros with little accompaniment, allowing the classic Fender voice to carry the Spanish language bolero with charm and ease. Boleros are poignant ballads generally featuring sophisticated guitar picking and sensual rhythms.

The one thing for which Freddy is known in South Texas is his generosity of spirit in establishing a scholarship fund for average students. An average student himself, and an avowed troublemaker in his youth, he has a unique understanding of the challenges before a young person who has either made a mistake, made only average grades, or both.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Freddy Fender, a great American treasure . . . a South Texan, a friend, and lifelong cultural icon in North American music.

HONORING THE 2002 PASADENA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND THE LAWRENCE-CEDARHURST FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pasadena Strawberry Festival as it celebrates its 29th anniversary, kicking off this year's festival with an opening ceremony at the Pasadena Fairgrounds on May 17, 2002. The multi-cultural weekend event draws a crowd of more than 30,000 to enjoy the strawberries, entertainment, food, activities and fun.

The Strawberry Festival began in 1974 when Helen Alexander, better known as Miss Helen, "planted a seed" to promote the grand opening of the new Pasadena Historical Museum. The seed Miss Helen planted grew into today's Pasadena Strawberry Festival, named to honor Pasadena's heritage as the Strawberry Capitol of the World.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival is a two-and-a-half day multi-cultural event produced by hundreds of volunteers on the Pasadena Fairgrounds. Continuous live entertainment, arts and crafts, children's games, carnival rides, a fabulous variety of goods, special acts and demonstrations, and of course, "Texas' Largest Strawberry Shortcake," are just a few of the Festival's features. Proceeds from the festival funds scholarships, books for college libraries, and community projects that preserve and promote the study of Texas history.

This year the Pasadena Fire Department and the Pasadena Strawberry Festival have invited the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department from Long Island, New York, to participate in the Pasadena Strawberry Festival Parade on May 11, 2002. Lawrence-Cedarhurst and the Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department have become sister fire departments and Pasadena has traveled to New York on several occasions to participate in parades Lawrence-Cedarhurst has hosted. There will be approximately 23 firefighters from Lawrence-Cedarhurst including the Chief, one Assistant Chief, four Commissioners and other officers and members. Lawrence Cedarhurst, the first volunteer fire department on the list to be called out for mutual aid to New York, has been to ground zero numerous times and aided in the plane crash on November 12, 2001 in Belle Harbor Queens on the Rockaway's Peninsula. Pasadena Police Chief Paul Cobb and Pasadena Fire Chief Jerry Gardner are Grand Marshals of the parade. The Honorary Grand Marshal of this year's parade will be one of Lawrence-Cedarhurst's members, Charles "Monty" Seaman. Monty is on the Advisory Board and has been a volunteer at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival for more than 10 years. He has been with the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department for 43 years and has held a variety of positions, such

as Chief, Assistant Chief, President of the Fire Department Benevolent Association and is presently Commissioner. Monty is the brother of Sharon Andreno, President of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain the 2002 Pasadena Strawberry Festival will be grand and exciting, while maintaining the warm, country charm of the original Festival. However, this year's festival of community takes on a new meaning after the tragic events of last year. The selfless acts of the firefighters in New York and around the nation remind communities everywhere of the unyielding commitment to the public good held by so many public servants throughout the country. I welcome the members of the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department to Pasadena and recognize and applaud these protectors of our neighborhoods for their work on our behalf.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the International Criminal Court as it comes into existence at a United Nations ceremony in New York City. As my colleagues are aware, since coming to Congress I have been highly supportive of an I.C.C., and I strongly believe in its principal, that human rights abusers who commit crimes against humanity or genocide should be brought to justice.

Several years ago, I visited the Hague, and was deeply moved by the intense law enforcement and criminal justice efforts there to bring abusers to justice. A permanent international criminal court which can bring future perpetrators of war crimes to full and complete justice is in our national interests.

Support for the International Criminal Court is nearly universal among our allies, among those ratifying the Rome Treaty are our closest friends in the war against terrorism, such as the United Kingdom. The European Union has a common position supporting the court and the list of ratifying countries includes so many of our closest allies that many commentators have referred to the ICC as the Court of the Democracies.

I feel strongly that if we are not to ratify the Rome Treaty at this time, at a minimum, adopt a policy of constructive engagement with the Court. We must be engaged to ensure that we use our Security Council referral power in a responsible manner to both deter war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to ensure that those who commit such crimes are brought to justice. As leaders of the free world, we must recognize that the only way to achieve a court that we can live with, is to stay engaged in the continuing negotiations over the scope, purpose, and construction of it.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Again, I commend the nations who have taken the leadership and effort to become members of the Court and look forward to its role in international justice.

HONORING JAMES UKROP FOR HIS
DEDICATION TO PROFESSIONAL
PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Ukrop for his dedication to professional pharmaceutical services. The Virginia Pharmacists Association Research and Education Foundation will present Mr. Ukrop with the Rx for Excellence Award, in recognition of his leadership and commitment to pharmaceutical services.

The award honors Mr. Ukrop's promotion of public welfare through the development of professional pharmaceutical services in the pharmacies located in Ukrop's grocery stores. Since the opening of the first Ukrop's pharmacy in 1989, Mr. Ukrop has provided leadership and innovation in creating first class pharmacies that provide customers with extra services, care, convenience, and value.

Fifteen of the 21 Ukrop's pharmacies have fully operating wellness centers that offer non-traditional pharmaceutical services. These services include blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose testing, cholesterol screening and immunizations. These operations provide a convenience and much-needed service to Ukrop's customers.

Mr. Ukrop's vision and commitment to others has been a driving force behind the advancement of the pharmacy profession. His leadership in the development of the profession is invaluable and something for which we are all extremely grateful. I am honored that such a remarkable citizen resides in the seventh district of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring James Ukrop for his dedication to the people of Virginia and to the profession of pharmacy.

MR. CHEOW TECK CHANG, THE
QUINTESSENTIAL 21ST CENTURY
CAPITALIST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great businessmen in the global village, Mr. Cheow Teck Chang, the President of VT Systems Incorporated, the operating headquarters of Singapore Technologies in the United States.

I came to meet Mr. Chang while working with Singapore Technologies to persuade them to bring an aspect of the Engineering Group to Corpus Christi, TX. Currently, the Corpus Christi City Council and Singapore Technologies are finalizing the details of their new venture, one that promises a host of new jobs for south Texans.

Mr. Chang is the quintessential 21st century capitalist. His company is a global engineering

enterprise specializing in aerospace, electronics, land systems and marine fields. He is the man his company trusted to lead their efforts in developing the North American markets.

Mr. Chang is certainly the man to develop these lucrative markets for his company. He is trustworthy, detail-oriented, as well as an extraordinary businessman.

He juggles many balls. In addition to the incredible workload of developing American markets for his global company, Mr. Chang is also president of the ST New Business Group, responsible for investments in new technologies, capabilities and services.

He came to his current position rich in experience. He served in the Republic of Singapore Air Force until 1990, and then joined the ST Aerospace Group where he moved quickly up through the ranks through various operations and management positions.

He graduated with honors from the National University of Singapore and recently completed a management program at Harvard Business School.

I have appreciated his gentle humor, his incredible business sense, and his ability to see around the corner in the world of finance. We are golf partners and friends, and I am grateful for the work he has done in south Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Cheow Teck Chang, one of the great businessmen in our global economy.

HONORING TONY J. SIRVELLO III

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tony Sirvello, Administrator of Elections, Office of the County Clerk, Harris County, TX, on the occasion of his retirement on June 30, 2002. He has been a fixture in the local electoral process for more than two decades and he will be missed.

A native Houstonian, Tony Sirvello, graduated from St. Thomas High School in Houston, received his BA in Political Science and Law Degree from the University of Houston, and was admitted to the Bar in Texas in 1973. He also served in the U.S. Army where he received a Medal for Meritorious Service. He has worked in the elections' division of the Harris County Clerk's Office since 1973 becoming Elections Administrator in 1980.

In all that he has done, Tony has been a leader, organizer, and innovator. He will leave office just as the county implements his long-standing dream to replace the old voting system with a new computer-based system. The county's \$25 million eSlate voting system, which combines small computer voting machines with high-tech optical scanners, will be used for early, mail-in, and Election Day voting in the November general election. Officials have been phasing in the new system since last year.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my friend on his retirement and commend him on a job well done. I am pleased to join Tony Sirvello's family, friends and colleagues in honoring him for his accomplishments and his steadfast commitment to the citizens of Harris County. His dedication to public service and his profes-

sionalism are examples for us all. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the work he has done to execute the electoral process in Harris County and thus the essential function of our democracy.

IN CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN
RELATIONS ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, twenty-three years ago on this date, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Since the passage of that historic bill, the TRA has been very successful in providing our friend and ally, Taiwan, with a legal mechanism to ensure that Taiwan would be "protected" if attacked. At the same time it has brought a level of stability and peace to that island nation and given the Taiwanese people an opportunity to become an economic leader in the Asian, and in the global, marketplace.

President George W. Bush, reiterated our national commitment to the TRA while visiting China earlier this year. At that time he stressed our commitment to Taiwan security under the Taiwan Relations Act. I also support Taiwan's entrance into the World Health Organization.

As we celebrate this 23rd anniversary of the TRA, it is my hope that peace and stability will continue in the Taiwan Strait and that we can continue to work with the ally we have in Taiwan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall Nos. 81 and 82. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 81 and 82.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 80, on approving the journal. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 81, H. Res. 377, Recognizing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commending the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 82, H.R. 3958, the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Settlement Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

VAISAKHI GREETINGS TO THE
SIKH NATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 13, is Vaisakhi, the birthday of the Sikhs. It marks the day on which the last of the Sikh gurus, Guru Gobind Singh, consecrated the Khalsa Panth. It is the Sikhs' most important holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Sikhs in America, in Khalistan, and around the world a happy Vaisakhi Day.

This important occasion is usually marked with parades and services in the Gurdwara. It should also be a time for the Sikh Nation to focus on freedom.

Sikhs have made many contributions to this country. They have been leaders in agriculture, law, medicine, and many other fields. One Sikh, Dr. Dalip Singh, a mathematics professor from California, served two terms in this House from 1959–63. He was the first person from the subcontinent to serve in Congress.

As is the regular practice, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has issued a Vaisakhi Day greeting to the Sikh Nation. He urges the Sikhs to use this occasion to begin a peaceful movement to reclaim their lost sovereignty and freedom. I urge all my colleagues to read this outstanding letter.

The time has come for America to cut off its aid to India and to support a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Christian Nagaland, and in the many nations seeking their freedom from India. These are the best measures to ensure freedom, peace, security, and prosperity in South Asia.

VAISAKHI MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION, MAR. 25, 2002.

KHALSA JI: Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh!

This is a time of celebration of our 303rd anniversary of the Khalsa Panth. It is also time to look back at our history. The Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. ("In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi.") Banda Singh Bahadur established the first Khalsa rule in Punjab from 1710 to 1716. Then there was a period of persecution of the Sikhs. Again Sikhs established a sovereign, independent rule from 1765 to 1849, when the British annexed the Sikh homeland, Punjab, into British India.

To regain freedom from the British, Sikhs were on the front line of the fight. The Sikh Nation gave about 80 percent of the sacrifices during this freedom struggle when they formed only 1.5 percent of the Indian population. At the time of the independence of India, Sikhs were equal signatories to the transfer of power from the British. Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah was very wise and well educated and he did not trust the majority Hindu leadership. He got an independent Pakistan for the Muslims. The Sikh leadership should have gotten an independent country for the Sikhs at that time, but they were fooled by the Hindu leadership of Nehru and Gandhi so Sikhs took their share and joined India on the promise that they would have the glow of freedom in the northwest part of India.

Khalisa Ji, we have seen this "glow of freedom" in the form of the attack on the Gold-

en Temple in June 1984, when over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Punjab in a single month. The next massacre of Sikhs occurred after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in Delhi. There was a mass murder of Sikhs throughout India, including Delhi. The Sikhs were pulled out of trains and burned alive. Sikh truck drivers were pulled out of their trucks. Tires were put around their necks by Hindu militants and they were burned to death. In Punjab, this genocide continued under Beant Singh's government. Sikhs were arrested, tortured, and then cremated and their bodies were declared "unidentified."

Since 1984, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered. 52,268 are rotting in Indian jails under TADA, which expired in 1995. Many of them have been in illegal custody since Operation Bluestar in 1984. Only last month, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush to get these political prisoners released. Jaswant Singh Khalra, who exposed the government killing of Sikhs in fake encounters, became a victim of the Indian police himself. He was kidnapped outside his house and murdered in police custody. He documented 6,018 Sikhs who were secretly cremated by the government in three cremation grounds, Patti, Tarn Taran, and Durgiana Mandir. Subsequently, Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO) chairman Justice Ajit Singh Bains said that about 50,000 Sikhs were secretly cremated in this manner. Even Akal Takht Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke was murdered by SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna and then his body was disposed of.

The Badal government was forced to conduct an inquiry into the killing of Jathedar Kaunke. It was done by three Punjab police officials under the leadership of DIG Tiwari. He submitted a report to the Badal government, which has not been made public as of today. How could a democratically elected Akali government hide the murder of the Akal Takht Jathedar by not releasing this report, which was conducted by its own order?

The Badal government was the most corrupt one in Punjab's history. They invented a new term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. There was a fixed amount of money for government jobs. Bags of money were received by Mrs. Badal in return for these jobs. The Punjab economy deteriorated under Badal and the Punjab government had its largest debt ever. It is bankrupt now. Badal made three promises to get elected. He promised to free the political prisoners, to punish the police officers who carried out atrocities against the Sikh Nation, and to appoint a commission to investigate atrocities. He did not keep any of them.

The Sikh leadership is completely under Indian government control, whether it is the Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann, and others or the Congress leadership of Punjab under Captain Amarinder Singh or former Chief Minister Mrs. Bhatthal. Changing parties and faces every election will not solve the problems of the Sikh Nation. Congress is no better than the Akalis and the Alkalis proved to be the worst enemies of the Sikh Nation. How could an Akali government keep 52,268 Sikhs in jail without charge or trial for the last 16 years? It is shameful and a black mark on the present Akali leadership. They have cashed in on the sacrifices and good will of the pre-independence Akali leadership.

Khalisa Ji, the only solution to this quagmire is the formation of a Khalsa Raj Party under new, honest, dedicated, and committed leadership. The time is now to do it. Let's not waste time and prolong the suffering and agony of the Sikh Nation under the present corrupt Akali leadership which is controlled

by the Indian government and is determined to wipe out the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion. The only remedy is to sever our relationship with Delhi completely, once and for all, and declare the independence from India and start a peaceful agitation to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

The victory of the Congress Party was a massive rejection of the Akalis, who were elected five years ago to reject the Congress Party. However, the Congress Party remains the enemy of the Sikh Nation. In the last two elections, the Sikh Nation has soundly rejected both parties. Neither supports the interests of the Sikh Nation; neither can be trusted by the Sikh Nation. The time has come to discard the present Akali leadership that has betrayed the Sikh Nation.

We must press for action against the police officials who carried out the police kidnapping and murder of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra. These would be good first steps for the Sikh leadership and for the new government in Punjab. But we must continue to pursue our ultimate goal of freeing the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

The Sikh Nation is sovereign and it must have its sovereign, independent country. Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. Remember "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Sikhs can never forgive or forget the desecration of the Golden Temple. This is the history and tradition of the Sikh Nation. The time has come to form a Khalsa Raj Party to liberate Khalistan. The new Sikh leadership must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. The only way the Sikh Nation can prosper is to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The freedom of the Sikh Nation will bring prosperity, stability, and peace to Punjab and to South Asia.

Panth Da Sewadar,

Dr. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DONALD
FRACASSI

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mayor Donald F. Fracassi, city of Southfield, and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to southeastern Michigan. A long-time community activist, every person with whom he has worked and the people of Southfield, Michigan, are eternally grateful for all he has accomplished in his more than three decades of public service.

Dean of Southeast Michigan mayors, Donald has also been a Southfield businessman since 1957. He is chairman of the South Oakland County Mayors Association and founder of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association. Mayor Fracassi has also been involved in the National League of Cities, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and the Michigan Association of Mayors and Metropolitan Affairs Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Donald Fracassi is a man of great dedication and commitment to his community. The Jewish War Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary, the Southfield Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Air Force Association Straubel Chapter #369 have all recognized his outstanding service. Mayor Fracassi has also served as the Honorary Co-Chair of the United Negro College Fund Mayors' Scholarship Ball since 1996, and serves

as Honorary Host for such events as Israel's 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services Anniversary Banquet, and the Annual Lem Tucker Scholarship Program.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I submit this tribute to be included in the archives of the history of our country. It is men like Donald who make this Nation great. Although Southfield is sad to lose his services, I wish him well in his future endeavors.

TED MALIARIS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ted Maliaris for his dedication to our great nation through his music. Ted is leading the "A Tribute to America Tour" following the tragic events of September 11.

Ted was born in South Florida in January of 1969. Music has long been a part of his life, inspired particularly by his grandmother and the sweet sounds of her violin. A farmer by trade, Ted feels a close connection to the land of this great country, and he used his time on the farm to develop the music which he now shares with so many people. Two years after deciding to follow his dream, Ted had even recorded his first album with The London Symphony Orchestra.

To stir inspiration and patriotism all across America, Ted Maliaris is now touring the United States performing "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" which was composed by his mother, Ann S. Miller, who dedicated the Anthem to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I urge all our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great American, Ted Maliaris.

TRIBUTE TO DR. J. PATRICK MORAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American patriot, Dr. J. Patrick Moran of Corpus Christi.

Dr. Moran is a much beloved physician in the Coastal Bend of Texas and is being honored by the Spohn Health System next week with the Physician Leadership Award. He is receiving this recognition for his excellence in health care service to our community.

Dr. Moran has practiced medicine for 40 years at Spohn Hospital, and prior to that, interned at hospitals around the world. That international experience prepared this Minnesota native for much of what he has seen in his South Texas practice.

The totality of his experience makes him the "go-to" guy for young doctors and other health care providers in the area who get stumped on a medical question.

I consider Dr. Moran a brother and depend on him for wise counsel, as well as for back channel information about what is being said in Corpus Christi regarding a host of issues. He knows what people are saying.

We remain very close and keep in touch with each other despite our wild schedules. Dr. Moran literally has his finger on the pulse of the community and works hard to find ways to improve quality of life for our citizens.

He is a giant in the South Texas area and in the larger Texas medical community, and I am delighted he is receiving the recognition he so richly deserves. He embodies all that a doctor should be.

This man of faith holds a special place in the hearts of many of our friends and neighbors. Like many great men, he is supported by his beautiful wife of many years, Nancy, and their children, Pat Jr., Serena, Colleen, and Maria.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this special patriot. Please join me and the Spohn Health System in honoring him for the work of his lifetime with the Physician Leadership Award.

HONORING MORRIS AND SCOTT ATLAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Morris and Scott Atlas upon their receipt of the Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). For 15 years, the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League has recognized leaders within the legal community for exemplary contributions to the legal community and the award, named in memory of Karen H. Susman, a distinguished civic leader and former chair of the ADL regional board, salutes the recipient's outstanding civic activities and their continued dedication to the mission of the ADL.

It is certainly fitting that this year's recipients are Morris and Scott Atlas. They have been long-time friends of my family and myself and are two of the most distinguished individuals I know. Morris Atlas is among the "builders" of today's Rio Grande Valley and a leader of the University of Texas School of Law, from which he graduated. His son, Scott Atlas, is among the most prominent litigators in Texas. His clients have included both powerful corporations and the least powerful within our society. Above all, Scott, like his father, has been active in the development of Houston as a world-class city.

Morris Atlas is the Managing Partner of the McAllen, TX, law firm, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., which he founded in 1952. Morris has worked hard to expand and improve higher education in the state of Texas. He chaired the Pan American University Board of Regents and was instrumental in the effort to bring that institution into the University of Texas System. His involvement was instrumental in securing \$245 million in improvement funding for five South Texas universities in the UT System. He is a Life Member Trustee and part President of the UT Law School Foundation and currently chairs the Chancellor's Council of the UT System.

Morris has long been committed to the delivery of health care and human services. He has served on the boards of McAllen General Hospital and the Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Cancer Center, the Scott & White Memorial Hospital

Board of Visitors, the State Board of Public Welfare Task Force for the Evaluation of Medicaid, and the Senate Committee for the Study of Human Services Delivery. He was a leader in the efforts to bring a university rural health care program to South Texas.

Scott Atlas' service to the community has earned him the praise and respect of his colleagues and neighbors. A partner at Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Scott is a graduate of Yale and the University of Texas School of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Texas Law Review. He has built a reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer in business disputes and a leader and innovator in the delivery of pro bono legal services. He recently argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court, and obtained his client's release from a life sentence. He is currently Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association's 65,000-member Section of Litigation and previously served as a member of its governing Council and Executive Committee.

Scott is largely responsible for Vinson & Elkins' national reputation as an innovator of pro bono legal services. The law firm has received numerous local, state and national awards for their work. In 1983, Scott organized the Texas Appointment Plan, which recruited and now coordinates over 125 law firms statewide to provide volunteer attorneys to indigents on federal court appeals. Scott has received the ABA's Pro Bono Award for "contribut[ing] significant work toward developing innovative approaches to the delivery of volunteer legal services to the poor," and was named "Lawyer of the Year" by the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Anti-Defamation League in recognizing the selflessness and commitment to the public good of Morris and Scott Atlas. The Atlas family tradition of service to the community is an example for future generations. The work of these two men gives life to the mission of the Anti-Defamation League—standing steadfast on the front-lines against racism, prejudice and bigotry of all kinds. I commend both Morris and Scott on receiving this award and more importantly, their work to promote tolerance and build respect among diverse racial, religious and ethnic groups.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnstown, CO, celebrating its 100th year.

Johnstown was platted by Henry J. Parish in 1902. Mr. Parish named the town in honor of his son, John Parish, who was in a Denver hospital ill with appendicitis at the time. Henry Parish told his son if he got well, he would name the town after him, hence the name Johnstown. Many of the streets in Johnstown were also named in honor of John's brothers and sisters, and these streets still exist today.

Since it's founding, Johnstown has been a wonderful place to live. It exemplifies the quintessential country town. Johnstown's friendly residents enjoy strong family values and are

also active in the community. Not only is Johnstown a great place to start and raise a family, it is also a great place to retire.

As a town located in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Johnstown is a source of pride for the community and the people of Colorado. Throughout the course of history it has been the home of many Coloradans. It is with honor and pride I wish Johnstown a happy 100th birthday. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Johnstown, CO.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I regret that I cannot vote for this bill today, but unfortunately the way the Republican leadership has brought it to the floor makes that impossible.

There are many things in this bill that I support, especially provisions similar to those in H.R. 2695. That bill, introduced by the gentleman from New York, Mr. HOUGHTON, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude stock options and employee stock purchase plans from the definition of wages for purposes of employment taxes. This is a clarification that is very important to many of my constituents and to other people across the country and that needs to be enacted without unnecessary delay.

I also support enactment of most of the other provisions of this bill—particularly the sections dealing with tax penalties and interest, collection procedures, confidentiality and disclosure, and tax administration. They are desirable improvements in current law.

But that isn't true with regard to another provision—the one dealing with the disclosure of information about donations to and expenditures by certain political groups.

Under section 527 of the Tax Code, limited tax-exempt status is available for "issue advocacy" groups organized for the primary purpose of accepting contributions and making expenditures to influence elections at the Federal, State, or local level. Until 2 years ago, these "527" political organizations did not have to report to anybody about the source of their contributions or the beneficiaries of their expenditures. They could and did operate free from public scrutiny and free from public accountability.

That changed with enactment of the 527 Organization Disclosure bill, which now is Public Law 106-230. Under that law, if the groups want to keep their tax-exempt status they generally must let the public know where they get their money and the political purposes for which it is spent. I strongly supported that important change. But one provision of this bill threatens to undo much of that important reform by retroactively exempting some groups that now are covered by the disclosure law.

I understand that some careful adjustment of the scope of the disclosure legislation might be appropriate, but I am concerned that the exemption in this bill is so broad that it might in effect create a major loophole that could be

exploited by groups that would not be subject to comparable disclosure requirement under applicable law. That could go far to undermine the campaign-finance reform so recently signed into law.

If this bill had been brought to the floor under more normal procedures, there would have been more time for debate on this and other provisions, and the House could have considered amendments to lessen the possible abuse of this exemption. However, the Republican leadership instead has insisted on using a procedure that limits debate and does not allow any amendments.

I cannot support that approach, and I cannot support the bill's provisions related to these political groups. So, under the procedures chosen by the Republican leadership, I have no choice but to vote against the entire bill today. My hope is that if the bill does not pass today, the Republican leadership will bring it back under a fairer procedure that will permit changes that would allow me to vote for its passage.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act. In an otherwise non-controversial bill, Republicans have, once again, displayed their true agenda by inserting a provision to circumvent the campaign finance reform bill that was just signed into law. It is the height of hypocrisy for the House Republicans to pass broad campaign finance reform in March and then create loopholes to the law in April.

In 2000, Congress passed a law that requires campaign finance reporting disclosure of section 527, non-profit political organizations. While most 527 organizations report their activities to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and their income tax to the IRS, there was a subset of 527 organizations, both conservative and liberal, are active in political advertising and direct mail. Prior to enactment of the 2000 law, however, these organizations were not required to disclose who they received contributions from or how much. Congress corrected this specific campaign finance problem by requiring disclosure of those making large contributions to these types of 527 organizations. And just last month, Congress passed and the President signed broader campaign finance reform legislation. The bill before us today guts the success of these two campaign finance bills by creating a new loophole for section 527 organizations to raise and spend soft money contributions without having to disclose the activity to anyone.

To protect the integrity of campaign finance reform, Congressman DOGGETT offered an amendment in the Ways & Means Committee to ensure that section 527 political organizations could not circumvent our new campaign finance laws. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have already made big plans to use these loopholes for raising money, so the amendment failed along party lines. A recent

report by Public Citizen shows that the existing section 527 IRS disclosure system suffers from serious flaws and allows many of these groups to skirt the law. We should be correcting the shortcomings of the 2000 law and strengthening the disclosure system—not weakening it. Our Republican friends, however, want more loopholes so they can keep stuffing their pockets with soft money cash.

It is time for this Congress to put an end to campaign finance reform hypocrisy. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 3991.

HONORING BILLIE WARD

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Billie Ward in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her community.

Billie Ward is retiring on April 17 as the executive director of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center—capping a lifetime of community service in southeastern Connecticut.

Billie has left a mark on southeastern Connecticut like few others have. As its executive director, Billie led the PNC through a period of unprecedented growth. She also played a pivotal role in organizing the PNC's Senior Summit, an important brainstorming effort that laid the groundwork for the formation of the Tri-Neighbor Transportation coalition—a collaborative effort to provide transportation for the elderly and handicapped and ensure that these individuals arrive to their medical appointments safely and on time.

In addition to her work with the PNC, Billie has been actively involved with numerous professional associations and has received numerous awards. Groups like the Rose City Land Trust, the Thames Valley Council for Community Action, MASH, the Basic Needs Network, the Rotary Club, the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut and the Southeastern Connecticut AIDS Project are just a few organizations that have been blessed with Billie's hard-work and service.

Mr. Speaker, Billie Ward 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. Billie is 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 Congress.

Keep up the good work Billie, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
DIANE AHRENS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD my tribute to an outstanding public servant, an advocate for the most vulnerable in our society, a fearless reformer who rooted out cronyism in our county government, and a role model to the young women in the

Fourth Congressional District—the late Commissioner Diane Ahrens.

Commissioner Ahrens served 20 years on the Ramsey County Board. Elected in 1974, she was the third woman ever to serve as a Ramsey County Commissioner. Ahrens was known as the conscience of the County Board for her commitment to assisting those in need. She worked to deliver services to the mentally ill, victims of abuse or neglect, the disabled, the influx of Hmong immigrants in Ramsey County, those with HIV/AIDS, and many others in need. She was a passionate advocate for human services.

As Marilyn Krueger, a former St. Louis County Commissioner said, “She was always concerned with the welfare of others, a social worker at heart, she was fierce, unafraid and compassionate.”

In addition, Ahrens was an advocate of reform; she was not afraid to change a county employment system that allowed board members to award contracts and employment to their unqualified personal friends. She helped initiate a study that brought about the hiring of a professional staff to manage Ramsey County administration.

Former Ramsey County Manager Terry Schutten said this about Ahrens in a letter to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, “. . . I have worked with myriad State and local elected officials. Diane stands out as one of those elected representatives who exemplifies what democracy is all about, as well as the principles we fight for in our country’s war on terrorism.”

Mr. Speaker, having personally worked with Commissioner Ahrens, I can attest to the legacy of honest and passionate work she left for the young women and men who will follow in her footsteps of public service. I know she will be remembered for her generosity of spirit and her trail-blazing initiative. The residents of Ramsey County and the Fourth Congressional District owe her a debt of gratitude for her service on our behalf.

WELFARE TO WORK MEANS DIGNITY OF PAYCHECK AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress will reauthorize the landmark welfare reform law that we first passed in 1996. I am pleased to announce that President Bush’s proposed welfare reforms build on our successes in that historic 1996 welfare reform law by encouraging personal responsibility, continuing to focus on strengthening families and helping more welfare recipients find work and secure their independence.

Back in 1996, Members of Congress worked together to reach a historic, bipartisan agreement to reform the welfare system. These efforts resulted in one of the greatest public policy successes in decades as millions of Americans went from welfare to work. Since 1996, welfare dependency has decreased dramatically. The number of individuals receiving cash assistance has dropped by 56 percent, more single mothers are employed, and child poverty rates are at the lowest level since 1978. These reforms are more than simply a win for

taxpayers who for years and years supported an ineffective system with their hard-earned tax dollars. The new system has provided opportunity for millions of Americans who jumped at the chance to improve the quality of their lives by getting a job and providing for their families, all while achieving the dignity of doing it on their own. Our ‘Welfare to Work’ reforms helped those less fortunate with a hand up, instead of a handout.

Every state has benefited from these reforms, and in my New Jersey’s 11th Congressional District, we have witnessed many success stories. Here are just a few examples:

1. An HIV-positive single mother, with one child and separated from an abusive husband, entered the Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in 1995. Her case manager arranged transportation and childcare for her, which allowed her to complete sufficient college courses for entry into the Morristown Memorial Hospital School of Cardiovascular Technology. She was one of 12 students accepted into the competitive, demanding program and graduated fourth in her class. While attending school, she gained valuable work experience through the Alternative Work Experience Program. On completing training, she began working in a doctor’s office. Post TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) childcare facilitated her ability to have excellent attendance and, ultimately, a promotion to Cardiovascular Technologist at \$40,000 per year.

She has purchased a home and is a foster-parent to several children. After extensive marriage counseling and family therapy, arranged through her case manager, she reunited with her husband in 1999. She credits her case manager with providing counseling, training, and support services in “turning my life around in ways I could never imagine before I entered the TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) program.”

2. A 23 year-old domestic violence victim and single mother of two small children entered the AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children) program in 1995. At her case manager’s urging, she enrolled in a GED course. TANF childcare and transportation support enabled her to obtain her high school diploma and gain admission to the County College of Morris. Her case manager arranged a part-time, on-campus job for her. She received childcare and Medicaid that allowed her to complete her Associate’s Degree without interruption. She attended William Paterson College as a part-time student while participating in the Alternative Work Experience Program. The Alternative Work Experience Program is a combination of work experience and training activities. In 2000, after extensive counseling with her case manager, she decided that she would work full-time and attend college at night. She had lost her driver’s license so her case manager accessed Welfare-to-Work funds to provide transportation to Group Job Search and other support services.

In July 2001, with her case manager’s assistance, her driver’s license was reinstated and she started working full-time. Her children are receiving post-TANF childcare and Medicaid and she credits these services with allowing her to concentrate on work. She is earning \$25,000 per year and is rightfully proud of her many accomplishments.

3. A 21-year-old mother of one had been displaced from her home due to domestic vio-

lence and was living with her grandmother. Her TANF case manager accessed Welfare-to-Work funds for her to attend training as a computer programmer at Chubb Institute. TANF childcare and Medicaid allowed her to successfully complete her training. Through the Group Job Search Program, she obtained employment as a Graphics Design Technician at \$19,000 per year. She continues to receive post TANF childcare assistance. Now, she is a candidate for promotion to a higher paying position and thanks her case manager and the TANF program for “getting my life on the right track, in a very short time.”

4. A young mother in 2001 could not work because of childcare problems and expenses. She found employment through the Job Search Program and also attended training to become a home health aid while continuing to work. She was very focused, diligent and worked very hard to upgrade her earning ability and through the Work First Program, her childcare expenses were supplemented and she was helped financially with purchasing an automobile. Today, she is off welfare, working and is doing well.

5. A husband, his wife and two daughters entered this country as political refugees from Vietnam. He was incarcerated during the Vietnam War and as a result was diagnosed with malnutrition. Due to his frail health, he found it difficult to find steady employment. He was placed in a Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) at a local Board of Social Services. He was so successful in that position that the Board hired him for a permanent position and he has remained gainfully employed, providing for his family, for more than a year.

Even with these notable successes, much remains to be done to improve the welfare system for those in need and to help welfare recipients on the path to independence. While more than three million welfare recipients have been removed from a system that promoted an indefinite dependency and have been placed into jobs, there remains two million people who have yet to follow in the footsteps of these success stories and find the personal independence that comes with the dignity of a job.

With the President’s leadership and a bipartisan effort in Congress, our next round of reforms will help ensure \$22 billion annually is available for welfare programs that prepare recipients for work and help with childcare. We will also continue to ensure that the mission of our “Welfare to Work” reforms is to strengthen families. It is vital that Federal policy maintains support for low-income working families by expanding childcare and health insurance for children. Additionally, we will continue to make sure the Earned Income Tax Credit provides income supplements of up to \$4,000 per year to single mothers leaving welfare to work.

Finally, much of the success of the reforms passed in 1996 is due to the greater flexibility given to states by the Federal government to implement innovations in welfare programs. Our renewed reforms will strengthen the Federal/state partnership and expand upon measures to provide flexibility to states to improve coordination across programs so that more adults can achieve independence from welfare while gaining greater financial and social security for their families and their future.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. GARVEY,
NATIONAL SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Robert J. Garvey, Sheriff of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, who is being honored this year by the National Sheriffs' Association as the "Sheriff of the Year."

The National Sheriffs' Association established the Ferris E. Lucas award in 1995 to recognize an outstanding sheriff each year for superior efforts made to improve the office of sheriff on local, state and national levels, and for involvement in one's community above and beyond the responsibilities required by the job. For his outstanding service and exemplary contributions to the profession, Sheriff Garvey will be presented with this award in June at the Association's national conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

When you look at Bob Garvey's remarkable career, it is clear that this recognition is well deserved.

After his appointment to fill the unexpired term of the late Sheriff John F. Boyle, Sheriff Garvey was elected to serve the citizens of Hampshire County in 1986, 1992 and 1998. He is a past President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA), State Director to the National Sheriffs' Association, and Chairman of the MSA Education and Training Committee.

Sheriff Garvey operates the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections, which in 1990 was the first in Massachusetts to be accredited by the American Correctional Association. At the time, the facility was called a 'showcase-institution' by an Association spokesperson. The jail has subsequently been re-accredited every three years. This is a great accomplishment and a testament to Bob's organizational and leadership abilities.

Sheriff Garvey also spearheaded the development of the TRIAD program in Massachusetts, in particular in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. TRIAD is a crime prevention program focused on addressing the safety and consumer protection needs of seniors. Along with Sheriff Macdonald of Franklin County, District Attorney Scheibel and local police departments, Sheriff Garvey and his deputies work with seniors and protective service agencies to reduce the vulnerability of older citizens to crime. This successful local program led to Sheriff Garvey's being named Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National TRIAD Corporation.

Once again, I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend Bob Garvey on this high honor from the National Sheriff's Association. We should all aspire to his level of professional and civic dedication.

IN HONOR OF PEGGY WAYBURN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a final tribute to one of the true heroes of the

environmental movement. Peggy Wayburn passed away recently in San Francisco after a lifetime of environmental activism that saved ecosystems, changed maps, and enriched our lives. A kind, vibrant woman whom I was proud to know, Peggy's work will benefit our country forever, but she will be sorely missed.

Having graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College in 1942, Peggy Cornelia Elliot moved to San Francisco where she met and married Dr. Edgar Wayburn. Peggy and Edgar created a bond that changed the course of land conservation forever. In Peggy's eighty-five years, she and her husband successfully helped preserve millions of acres. We are so thankful for the efforts that brought us the Redwood National Park, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the greenbelt from the Point Reyes Seashore to Sweeney Ridge along the Pacific Coast, and the expansion of Mount Tamalpais State Park.

Peggy had a national impact as well. When Peggy and Edgar visited Alaska nearly 30 years ago, they were captivated by the beauty of the landscape and dedicated themselves to preserving its majestic vistas, lofty mountains, and free rivers. The national campaign that resulted from that visit, and the hundreds of visits that followed, led to the passage of the Alaska Lands Act, the largest public lands bill in the history of Congress. One of Peggy's five books, Alaska: the Great Land, is credited with eliciting national support for the bill.

Peggy Wayburn published four other books through the Sierra Club, all of which built awareness of the beauty of and need for preserving land. The Edge of Life offers a comprehensive view of the Bolinas Lagoon; the Lagoon later became a National Natural Landmark. Adventuring in the San Francisco Bay Area is a wonderful guide for residents and visitors for enjoying the land we are blessed with.

Peggy served as a trustee of the Sierra Club Foundation, a board member of Audubon Canyon Ranch, director of the Point Reyes Seashore Foundation, and helped found People for Open Space.

I am proud to join my constituents in thanking and praising Peggy Wayburn for her dedication to the forests of California and the wilderness of this nation. Peggy and Edgar Wayburn brought great leadership and commitment to our nation's conservation policy. They are stars in the constellation of environmental pioneers who have inspired us and given future generations a lasting natural heritage.

To Dr. Wayburn and the Wayburn family, Diana, Laurie, Cynthia and William, we share your loss, and we are grateful for every day Peggy had with us.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. This vital piece of legislation serves as the basis of America's strong relationship with the country and people of Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law on April 10, 1979. The passage of this act

codified the mutually beneficial political, commercial, and cultural ties shared by our two nations.

Over the past 23 years we have witnessed the transformation of our Asian ally flourish into a multiparty, pluralistic democratic government respectful of its citizens' political and human rights. Taiwan stands as a model nation to its neighbors.

I wish to also recognize and thank Taiwan for its support and assistance immediately following the tragic events of September 11.

On this anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I feel certain that the strong relationship between our two nations will continue for many more decades to come.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND
TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to introduce a House resolution condemning violence and terrorist attacks in the Israel and the Palestinian Territories. As I come to the floor today, it is with a heavy heart for the families of the more than 400 Israelis and 1,200 Palestinians who have lost their lives over the past year to continuing violence in the Middle East. I also come to call attention to those who will undoubtedly lose their lives to future acts of violence if the United States fails to intervene today.

In the past year, more than 1,500 people have had their right to live stripped from them as a result of unending violence in the Middle East. Since January 22, Israel has fallen victim to more than 35 suicide attacks, or more than an attack every day for the past 9 weeks. Just last week, 43 innocent Israelis were murdered in multiple suicide bombings, while another 125 were wounded. Moreover, more than 1,100 Palestinians have been killed since violence erupted less than one year ago. As violence in Israel continues, the total number of Israeli and Palestinian deaths and casualties continue to increase every day.

Clearly, the need for immediate U.S. leadership in the region is critical. The President's recent decision to send Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region is obviously a step in the right direction. However, I fear that while Secretary Powell's presence in the region may help in temporarily curbing the violence, a permanent solution to this ongoing conflict is impossible without the President's personal intervention and absolute commitment to the peace process.

The past four Administrations have shown that, when determined, the President can succeed in bringing together Israel and her neighbors. Whether in Egypt or in Jordan, we see the fruit of past Administration's labor in the permanent peace accords that Israel signed with both of these countries in 1978 and 1994, respectively. Subsequently, we see in the Madrid Conference, Oslo Accords, Wye River Memorandum, Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum, and the Camp David II negotiations, that a historical willingness for peace and coexistence exists among Israelis and the Palestinians.

Furthermore, the international community has historically looked to the United States as the guiding light for peace in the Middle East. Precedent shows that when a U.S. administration is actively and publicly engaged in the region, peace agreements between Israel and her neighbors occur. Unfortunately, in the weeks preceding Secretary Powell's trip to the Middle East, the Administration—at the highest of levels—appeared to remain largely dormant.

Now, don't get me wrong, Mr. Speaker. I remain as ardent of a supporter of Israel, her right to exist as a Jewish state, and her right to protect herself, as I did the day I was first elected to Congress. At the same time, the idea of a Palestinian state is one that has already been accepted in Israel, the United States, and every country in the world. Nevertheless, achieving a Palestinian state cannot and will not be done by means of terrorist attacks on Israel. Palestinian radicals expressing their desire for an independent Palestinian state by blowing themselves up in a Jerusalem cafe is counter productive to the Palestinian nationalism they are fighting for. Rightfully so, Yasser Arafat must be held accountable for the agreements that he has already made. If he cannot deliver, then we must find someone who can.

Mr. Speaker, while some have turned pessimistic that a peaceful solution is possible, I remain hopeful that with direct presidential involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a peaceful solution is indeed plausible. Like so many of my colleagues, I remember vividly the handshake on the White House south lawn between the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat showed us then that peace was possible. Today, it is time for all of us to show Israel and the Palestinians that peace remains the only real solution.

I urge the House to move swiftly and pass this needed resolution.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the twenty-third anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8) to reaffirm our commitment to the security of Taiwan.

First, I believe it is important to remember that this law was enacted "to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, . . . to declare that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern; . . . to make clear that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means; . . . to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character, . . . and to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan."

Even though we do not have official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, we have many "unofficial" contacts. Taiwan and the United States share common interests in many areas, such as trade and investment, science and technology, education, culture and security. The recent legislative elections in Taiwan shows that it shares our commitment to true democratic values and serve as a model for other nations in the region. We also share a respect for the freedom of the press, which I hope continues.

On the twenty-third anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, I hope we will continue our cooperation with the democratically elected government of Taiwan by taking a number of steps; such as allowing Taiwan officials and our officials to meet freely in Washington and Taipei, improving Taiwan's access to our government agencies, and helping Taiwan become a member of appropriate international organizations such as the World Health Organization. The officials of Taiwan were chosen by the twenty-two million people of Taiwan to represent them and we should respect their choice. Taiwan is our seventh largest trading partner, and there are many critical economic, trade, health, security, and other issues which its officials need to discuss with our government officials as well as officials of international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the recent formation of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus shows our support for the Taiwan Relations Act and our commitment to maintaining the military balance across the Taiwan Strait to counter the buildup on the Mainland. Therefore, I rise today to commemorate the twenty-third anniversary of the Act, to restate our commitment to the security of Taiwan, and to show our support for cooperation between Taiwan and the United States. Thank you.

QUALITY CHILD CARE ACT OF 2002

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to help New Mexican children and their parents access quality, affordable child care. My bill would provide federal funds to help day care centers cover the costs of getting accredited. For many children, child care centers are an introduction to the world of learning. It's critical to start a child off on the right foot. That's why I am focusing on federal child care programs for low-income families and people working their way off welfare. We need to make sure that all children in child care have access to high quality, affordable programs.

This bill will make a real difference for childcare centers that rely, at least in part, on federal block grant funds. It will help day care centers provide the quality of care that children need. In New Mexico we have more than 22,000 children in federally subsidized child care programs.

The Quality Child Care Act of 2002, will increase funding to help child care centers pay for the cost of accreditation. Currently, federal law requires that 4% of Child Care and Development Block Grant funding is used for child care quality programs. The bill will increase

the current 4% funding requirement to 8% and would require that 4% be set-aside to help child development centers and homes pay for the costs associated with accreditation.

CCDBG is a federal program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that provides grants to states to subsidize the child care expenses of low-income families with children under age 13, as well as for activities intended to improve the overall quality and supply of child care for families in general.

Education is my personal passion. In the coming weeks I intend to introduce two more bills focused on early childhood education.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of thousands of students across the United States today. These students are participating in the National Day of Silence that calls attention to the treatment that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students encounter each and every day. In my home state of New York there are 167 schools participating.

Since 1999, the Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network has conducted surveys to document the experiences of LGBT students in high schools across our nation. In the 2001 survey, over 900 LGBT students were surveyed in 48 states and the District of Columbia. What they found should send a shiver up the spine of every member of the House of Representatives. The sad fact is that LGBT students face taunting, harassment, and physical violence. 85% of these students reported hearing homophobic remarks, such as "fag-got" or "dyke." 24% reported hearing such remarks from faculty or school staff, 65% reported being sexually harassed. And most disheartening, 42% were physically harassed because of their sexual orientation.

Our children go to school for one reason! To learn! As a former educator, I can guarantee you that if a student is worried about being harassed or beaten up, he or she is not paying attention in class—he or she is not learning. We have an obligation to make sure that our schools are safe. Anything else is a failure on our part as a Congress and as a society.

The students participating in today's National Day of Silence deserve our strong support. They are taking a stand for themselves, their families, and their friends. Schools, such as the Horace Mann School and Yonkers Middle High School, are leading the way in teaching our children to respect each other, to appreciate differences, and to ensure that all our children have the opportunity for a safe and fruitful education.

National Day of Silence is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network and the United States Student Association. I want to congratulate these organizations and the hundreds of schools and thousands of students for a job well done.

THE FAIRNESS, SIMPLIFICATION
AND COMPETITIVENESS FOR
AMERICAN BUSINESS ACT OF
2000

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Fairness, Simplification and Competitiveness for American Business Act of 2002". It would address a number of tax issues facing U.S. multi-national corporations and provide a way to comply with a ruling of the World Trade Organization that our present tax law provides a prohibited export subsidy to these companies.

Much has been made about multinational corporations avoiding U.S. corporate income taxes by all sorts of arrangements, including use of offshore entities, re-incorporations/inversions, agreements to avoid loss of foreign tax credits, earnings stripping, sales/lease-backs of assets, etc. There is nothing inherently illegal in what is being done. Does it go to the edge? Probably. I believe much of this activity is motivated by our outmoded international tax laws. We have known for some time that the laws are far behind and 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. Ours is a terribly complex system of worldwide taxation, with exceptions for deferral of taxes on certain income earned abroad, and a foreign tax credit system that attempts to minimize double taxation.

At the same time, we have tried to alleviate the disadvantage to our multinationals by such provisions as the Domestic International Sales Corporation, replaced by the Foreign Sales Corporation, then replaced by the Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000. All of these provisions were aimed at leveling the field for U.S. multinationals, as contrasted to foreign multinationals. The latter typically operate under territorial and value added tax systems that provide tax relief for exporters. The FSC and ETI provisions have been estimated to reduce U.S. tax revenues by over \$4 billion annually.

The ETI system was enacted after the U.S. lost its appeal of the WTO ruling that the FSC was a prohibited export trade subsidy. A case was brought on the new ETI, and it too was held to be an export trade subsidy. Again, the U.S. lost on appeal. So what do we do now?

The bill introduced would do two things. It would provide a number of international tax fairness and simplification changes to the Internal Revenue Code. The bill would include all of the provisions of a bill introduced on March 20, 2002, H.R. 4047, as well as provisions to improve the interest allocation rules and provide a permanent subpart F exception for "active financing" income (the current exception expires for tax years beginning after December 31, 2006). In addition, the bill would repeal the ETI. These changes would be effective January 1, 2003).

The goal is to promote fairness, simplification and competitiveness in the U.S. international tax provisions to benefit U.S. multinational corporations, and to pay for those changes with the revenue generated from repeal of the ETI provisions.

I believe this approach would result in a number of benefits. It would settle the WTO dispute, provide benefits in our present system to the U.S. multinationals, and would not preclude future changes to our entire corporate system, if that is the desire of Congress. I would welcome my colleagues' support of this legislation.

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
STEWART AND STEVENSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today it gives me great pleasure to call attention to one of my constituent companies that celebrated its 100th anniversary on April 5th, and would like for the rest of the House to join me in offering congratulations to Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc., of Houston, Texas.

Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc., provides power systems, parts and services to the following industries: Military, Marine; Oil & Gas; Agriculture; Industrial; Highway & Transit; and Airline Ground Support as well as being the designer and manufacturer of the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) with more than 16,000 built to date for the U.S. Army.

The company traces its roots in wheeled vehicle manufacturing and support to its beginning when blacksmith C. Jim Stewart and carriage-maker Joe R. Stevenson formed the company in 1902 in Houston. The company's wheeled vehicle products have evolved from this modest beginning as the technology has progressed through the 20th Century leading to the world's premiere medium tactical military truck—the FMTV.

During a series of celebrations at their Houston headquarters as well as at their truck assembly facility in Sealy, Texas, and other locations in the United States, S&S employees and their guests will join in honoring one hundred years' of contributions to their military and commercial customers. It is great having them as constituents, and I wish them another one hundred years of success.

Mr. Speaker, I won't go into all the details now, but I ask unanimous consent to include a history of Stewart & Stevenson in my remarks.

HISTORY OF STEWART & STEVENSON SERVICES,
INC.

Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc., a technology-driven, billion-dollar, century old corporation headquartered in Houston, Texas, has long been a leader in the design and manufacture of specialty equipment for the oilfield, airline, defense, and power generation industries. A major distributor of industrial engines and equipment to a broad spectrum of businesses worldwide, the company provides complete 24-hour parts and service support of all of its product lines.

The company was founded in 1902 when two enthusiastic, young craftsmen committed their talents and resources—\$300 each—to form a partnership. C. Jim Stewart, a blacksmith, and Joe R. Stevenson, a carriage maker, signed a contract and began business as C. Jim Stewart & Stevenson, Houston's first "carriage repair and horseshoeing parlor".

The venture thrived with hard work, integrity and a dogged determination to get the

job done right, even when others said it couldn't be done. The original partnership agreement clearly defined these principles, as well as the duties of each "partner." Stewart was to do the blacksmith work and Stevenson the woodworking, with the provision that "both shall do such things in and about said business which shall be necessary."

The business expanded steadily and more craftsmen were added to perform the ever-increasing workload. The two partners made sure that the people they hired were not only experts in their fields but willing to pitch in and help out wherever needed, establishing a hiring policy that still serves the company today.

Handcrafted carriages, buggies and wagons were the pride of the new organization. In 1905, the company was presented the first opportunity to work on an automobile, a 24-horsepower Dixie Flyer roadster built by Southern Motor Car Co. which had been badly burned. The damage was so extensive that a new, wooden four-door body was handcrafted and installed. This job marked the transition from horseshoes to horse power, and reminds today's employees of how essential innovation and versatility are to Stewart & Stevenson's past and to its future.

By 1938, Stewart & Stevenson had built many vehicle bodies and become a distributor for General Motors' trucks and Detroit Diesel engines. The company became proficient at coupling diesel engines to various pieces of equipment to supply the agricultural, industrial, petroleum and marine markets.

One of Stewart & Stevenson's first government contracts was to supply mobile diesel generators, capable of running on Russian M-4 heavy fuel and operating in severe weather conditions. The company was the second-largest supplier of diesel generators under the "Lend-Lease" Program during World War II. Other wartime projects included the overhaul of thousands of U.S. Army trucks and jeeps and the remanufacture of 4,000 diesel engines from Sherman Tanks.

Throughout its history, Stewart & Stevenson has been involved in mobile equipment and wheeled vehicles. From overhauling Jeeps and tanks during World War II to building sophisticated truck-mounted petroleum exploration systems and the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles and rugged airport ground support equipment, the company has established a solid foundation based on a true, wheeled vehicle heritage.

Today, Stewart & Stevenson is a billion dollar corporation that consists of four major business segments: Specialty Wheeled Vehicles, which consists of Stewart & Stevenson Tactical Vehicle Systems, LP (TVS) and Stewart & Stevenson TUG; Power Products, Petroleum Equipment, and Strategic Operations. TVS manufactures the U.S. Army's most reliable and capable off-road multipurpose trucks—the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV). These include 2.5- and 5-ton troop carriers, wreckers, cargo trucks, vans, dump trucks, and a variety of specialty vehicles. Stewart & Stevenson TUG manufactures aircraft ground support equipment that includes aircraft tow tractors, pushback tractors, baggage tow tractors, belt loaders, air start units, air conditioning units and container loaders, as well as mobile railcar movers, which are sold under the "Rail King" trademark.

The Power Products segment designs, manufactures and sells specialty equipment that utilizes power components for numerous industries: petroleum, marine, on-highway, transit (bus), power generation, and agriculture. The company serves as distributor

of many of these power components, representing the products of Detroit Diesel®, Electro Motive Diesel (EMD®), Waukesha®, Deutz®, Allison®, Thermo King®, John Deer® Hyster® and Mercury MerCruiser. Its distribution territory includes much of the southwestern and western U.S., Mexico, and Central and South America.

The Petroleum Equipment segment manufactures equipment for the oil and gas exploration, production and well stimulation industries. Products include marine riser systems, blow-out preventers and controls, high pressure valves, coiled tubing systems, acidizing and fracturing systems, and compression molded rubber products. Strategic Operations designs, markets and packages diesel and gas generator sets from the ground up to fit specific customer applications. These generator power systems use some of the most respected names in the engine industry: EMD®, Deutz®, Waukesha® and Detroit Diesel®.

The more than 4,000 people employed by the corporation today carry with them a tradition of service, innovation, fair dealing and integrity, which began back in 1902.

Stewart & Stevenson's growth through the past 100 years has been achieved by virtue of its dedicated people, innovative design and engineering, quality manufacturing and a relentless "can do" attitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF DR. KATHY HUDSON

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the exemplary work of Dr. Kathy Hudson, who is leaving after 10 years of service at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health which is located in my district.

For the past seven years Dr. Hudson has served with distinction as the Director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Communications and the Assistant Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). While at the NHGRI, Dr. Hudson has provided focus and leadership in numerous areas, she has played a particularly important leadership role in public policy and public affairs issues relating to NHGRI programs including the Human Genome Project, the international effort to decipher the human genetic code and apply the results to improving human health.

Dr. Hudson has directed efforts to identify barriers such as genetic discrimination that could impede the fair and equitable application of genetic information to public health and has led development of policies to protect privacy and prevent genetic discrimination. In this regard, she was instrumental in the development of an Executive Order signed in February 2000 that banned discrimination in Federal employment based on genetic information. She has also provided exceptional technical advice to my staff and many others in drafting legislation on genetic nondiscrimination. I understand that one of Kathy's major regrets in leaving the NHGRI is not having seen the passage and signing of genetic nondiscrimination legislation. I look forward to seeing that milestone reached soon and hope to invite her back to the celebration.

Before joining the NHGRI, Dr. Hudson was senior policy analyst in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. She advised the assistant secretary on national health and science policy issues involving the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Prior to that, Dr. Hudson worked in the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment as a congressional social policy and to the nation's health, Dr. Hudson's work has exemplified the best of government service, and the difference in our nation's well being that a dedicated scientist can make.

I wish Dr. Hudson all the best in her new venture as the Director of the Genetics and Public Policy Center at the Johns Hopkins University, and on behalf of the Congress and the country, I thank her for her outstanding government service.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO MOVIE GALLERY FOR THEIR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TROOPS

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a company headquartered in my Congressional District which has answered the call to assist America's war on terrorism in an exemplary manner.

The Movie Gallery, based in Dothan, Alabama, was recently asked by the Civil Air Patrol to participate in Films for Troops. This endeavor is designed to bring a piece of home to our men and women in uniform stationed on the front lines thousands of miles from our shores.

When approached to help, The Movie Gallery rose to the challenge by collecting over 800 videos and DVDs of current top movies from America's major motion picture studios. These movies, in turn, will be packed and shipped to our troops in Afghanistan.

I am proud to endorse the Movie Gallery's efforts to bring the sights and voices of home to our sons and daughters and mothers and fathers on the battle lines of freedom.

We are one nation in this fight to preserve our liberty. The Movie Gallery deserves our gratitude for bringing all of us—near and far—a little closer together during these difficult days.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER DAVIS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues in Congress the news that Mrs. Hester Rachel Wallis Davis celebrated her 106th birthday on this past Easter Sunday, March 31, 2002.

Mrs. Davis, a resident of Missouri's First Congressional District, was born in Tennessee

in the year 1896. She moved to St. Louis at the age of 16. Six years ago, on her 100th birthday, Willard Scott recognized her on the NBC Today Show and she was honored by the Mayor of St. Louis, Freeman Bosley, Jr. Later that same year, Mrs. Davis suffered an illness that required two brain surgeries. She recovered and continues to be alert and keeping up with current events.

Mrs. Davis is the oldest and most cherished living member of the Temple Church of Christ in St. Louis. And although her eyesight is failing and she can no longer read the Bible, she has a prodigious memory which supports her interpretations and pronouncements. "Mother Davis" as she is known by those who share her life, enjoys company and always has words of encouragement and prayers for her visitors. I am told that Hester Davis remembers the joys and challenges of youth and is always empathetic and supportive of the younger generations. The staff of the B-J-C Medical Center have expressed astonishment at Mrs. Davis' youthful appearance, her lack of some of the ailments attributed to aging, her pleasant attitude and her communication skills.

Mrs. Davis has had to curtail some activities in recent years, she is no longer able to visit the jail where she brought encouragement to the incarcerated. Today, she counts her doctors, lawyers, pastor and friends among her family. She is a genuine inspiration to all who have come to know her and she will be forever remembered as one of the most adored and beloved members of the St. Louis community.

I salute Mrs. Hester Rachel Wallis Davis for her outstanding commitment to life. She is certainly a remarkable woman of strength, determination and spirit who is an inspiration to many generations.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT OF 2002

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2002, to eliminate the congressional review period of 30 days and 60 days respectively, for civil and criminal acts passed by the D.C. City Council. This bill is the fraternal twin of H.R. 2995, the District of Columbia Fiscal Integrity Act of 2001, which would allow the District's budget to become law upon enactment by the District government. Under the current system, all acts of the Council are subjected to this Congressional layover period, and the District's budget cannot become law without congressional approval. Experience demonstrates that these are unnecessary and undemocratic requirements that add nothing except an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to an already overburdened city government and to Congress and its processes.

Since the adoption of the Home Rule Act in 1973, over 2000 acts have been passed by the council and signed into law by the Mayor. Only 43 acts have been challenged by a congressional disapproval resolution. Only three of those resolutions ever passed the Congress and two involved a distinct federal interest.

Bills to correct for any federal interest, rather than placing a hold on 2000 bills, would have saved considerable time and money for the District and the Congress.

It is important to emphasize that this bill does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. The D.C. Subcommittee could continue to scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the City Council if it desired, and to change or strike legislation under the plenary authority over the District that the Constitution affords to the Congress. My bill merely eliminates the automatic hold placed on local legislation and the need to pass emergency and temporary legislation to keep the District functioning.

The hold on legislation forces the City Council to pass most legislation using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed concurrently on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the large, rapidly changing city remains running. The Legislative Autonomy bill would eliminate the need for the District to engage in the byzantine process of enacting emergency and temporary legislation concurrently with permanent legislation. The Home Rule Charter contemplates that if the District needs to pass legislation while Congress is out of session, it may do so if two-thirds of the Council determines that an emergency exists, a majority of the Council approves the law and the Mayor signs it. Emergency legislation, however, lasts for only 90 days, which would (in theory) force the Council to pass permanent legislation by undergoing the usual congressional review process when Congress returns. Similarly, the Home Rule Charter contemplates that the Council may pass temporary legislation lasting 120 days without being subjected to the congressional review process, but must endure the congressional layover period for that legislation to become law.

I ask my colleagues, who are urging the District government to pursue greater efficiency and savings, to do their part in giving the city the tools to cut through the bureaucratic maze the Congress itself has imposed upon the District. Congress has been clear that it wants to see the D.C. government taken apart and put back together again in an effort to eliminate redundancy and inefficiency. Much of that work is in progress or has been accomplished, and Congress has taken note of improvements which eliminate such inefficiency in the D.C. government. Congress should therefore eliminate that part of the bureaucracy that for which Congress is solely responsible by granting the city budgetary and legislative autonomy. Eliminating the hold on D.C.'s budget and legislation would save scarce D.C. taxpayer revenue and simultaneously eliminate the advance congressional review that helps depress the city's bond rating. At the same time, Congress would give up none of its plenary power because under Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution, the Congress can intervene into any District matter at any time.

The limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize a greater measure of meaningful self-government and Home Rule. This goal can be achieved without prejudice to congressional authority. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my District on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call numbers 80, 81, and 82. The votes I missed include roll call vote 80, on Approving the Journal; roll call vote 81, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Res. 377, Recognizing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commending the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations; and roll call vote 82 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3958, the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Settlement Act. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 80, 81, and 82.

HONORING ALBERTA SEBOLT
GEORGE IN RECOGNITION OF
HER TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF
OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize in the Congress today Alberta Sebolt George, President of Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, who is retiring later this year after more than thirty years of service to the museum. I have worked closely with Alberta over the years, and can personally attest to the fact that the in-coming president of the Village has a tough act to follow.

Alberta Sebolt George began working at Old Sturbridge Village in the early seventies. In her tenure at the village, she has greatly increased the educational role the museum has played in the community. Alberta Sebolt George, a former teacher herself, has worked diligently to develop programs in the state geared to helping students learn through collaborative programs between their schools and the museum.

In 1993, Alberta Sebolt George was named Chief Executive Officer of the Old Sturbridge Village Museum. She has been honored by many for her service to the museum community as a whole. Most recently, however, she has been recognized with the American Association of Museums Distinguished Service Award, which will be formally presented this May in Texas.

Alberta's accomplishments are many. The list of positions she holds in addition to that of President at the Village is long. She holds a Presidential appointment to the National Museum Service Board and is currently on the Visiting Committees at Longwood Gardens. She is a Corporator of the Worcester Art Museum. She has served as President of the New England Museum Association, as Vice Chairman of the Board of the American Association of Museums, Senior Associate for the Getty Museum Management Institute, Chair of

the Worcester County Convention and Visitor Bureau, President of the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies, has chaired the local school committee and has written extensively on learning and managing in museums.

Ms. George's contributions have been recognized repeatedly through the numerous awards and honors she has received. In 1999, she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Service from the University of Massachusetts where she earned her bachelor's degree. The American Association of Museums honored her with their Educator Award for Excellence, and the New England History Teachers gave her their Kidger Award for outstanding teaching.

I have worked closely with Alberta in her leadership position at Old Sturbridge Village. Together we have had success in targeting federal resources to the Village so that the museum's collection can be shared over the Internet in an on-line learning program.

I wish Alberta much joy and health in her retirement with her husband Al George. I am sure that between her gardening and her travel that her retirement years will be as fruitful and productive as her long and distinguished career has been. Best wishes to you, Alberta, on your retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS
ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which was signed into law on April 10, 1979, by President Jimmy Carter. For more than two decades, the Taiwan Relations Act has served to provide the Republic of China on Taiwan the necessary security to grow ever stronger. Economically, Taiwan is now a member of the World Trade Organization and one of the strongest economic entities in the world. Politically, it is a strong and growing democracy whose people enjoy all the liberties and freedoms inherent in such a system.

It is my hope that the Taiwan Relations Act will continue to serve as the basis of our relations with democratic Taiwan. That means we must continue to assist Taiwan in meeting its legitimate security needs and continue our contact with representatives of the Taiwan government. They are democratically elected leaders of one of our largest trading partners and our continuing dialogue with them is fundamental to a mutually beneficial relationship.

In closing I would like to commend the good work that Ambassador C. J. Chen and his able staff have been performing here in Washington. Through their efforts, I am certain that the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, anchored in the Taiwan Relations Act, will enjoy continued strength in the years ahead.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROVIDE
MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR COM-
PRESSION SLEEVES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to provide Medicare coverage for compression sleeves and stockings used to treat lymphedema.

Lymphatic obstruction is the blockage of the lymph vessels, which drain fluid from tissues throughout the body. Lymphedema causes painful swelling in the arms or legs.

Lymphedema occurs in 10–15% of the women who receive mastectomies, but lymphatic obstruction can be caused by many things including trauma, tumors, and post-surgical and post-radiation therapy.

A compression sleeve or stocking will compress the swollen tissues caused by lymphedema and prevent fluid from building up. A compression sleeve can help control the pain, yet Medicare does not cover compression sleeves and stockings. My bill will correct this oversight.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and help women who have undergone a mastectomy and now suffer from lymphedema.

THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Taiwan Relations Act, which has enabled Taiwan to prosper and grow to become an ally of the United States. In the last two decades, Taiwan has had many achievements. The economy of Taiwan has flourished to the point where the country is regarded as an economic superpower. Politically, Taiwan has transformed into an open, multi-party democracy, home to more than 93 political parties, and a nation that respects the human and civil rights of its citizens. There are many reasons for Taiwan's phenomenal success, but one reason is the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over twenty years ago, the United States signaled to the world that we recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Taiwan, and over twenty years ago, the United States created a mechanism to preserve and protect the freedom of the Taiwanese people. The Taiwan Relations Act worked, and has been instrumental in preserving peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979.

Taiwan is a model for democratic transformation that I hope the People's Republic of China will one day emulate, not threaten. I join the Taiwanese people in seeking a peaceful resolution to the tensions between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. The United States will continue to be an ally of the Taiwanese and assist in maintaining the security and stability of Taiwan. We must also help Taiwan to participate in international activities

and organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the United Nations. I look forward to broadening and deepening our friendship with Taiwan for the mutual benefit of the people of both the United States and Taiwan.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and the world community in commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Scarcely 50 years ago we saw the end to World War II and one of the most heinous atrocities humanity has ever borne witness to. Hitler's Nazi regime was responsible for the murders of nearly six million Jewish men, women and children and more than 11 million people in total.

This memorial holiday is intended to insure that we never forget that tragedy and the lives lost. At a time when our own nation is battling similar destructive forces of hatred in the form of terrorism, it is imperative that we never forget our history and evil's legacy.

To keep this critical knowledge from being lost, it is our responsibility as a nation to teach our children about their past. In this spirit, I have introduced H.R. 1620, the Holocaust Education Assistance Act. This bill will provide funding to educational institutions and organizations, enabling them to teach the generations to come about the crimes of the Holocaust.

Upon receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace, the late Prime Minister of Israel Yitzchak Rabin said:

"We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail."

Ensuring that we never forget the past is a crucial step to realizing peace in our future.

IN TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS MATTHEW A. COMMONS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Private First Class Matthew A. Commons, an American hero.

PFC Commons died on March 4, 2002 in Afghanistan while trying to rescue another American soldier. He was one of eight servicemen killed that day during an intensive battle with the Taliban and al Qaeda. PFC Matthew A. Commons was a professional soldier, a man who had earned the respect of his fellow soldiers, and he is remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Matthew Commons was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, raised in Indianapolis and also lived in Boulder City, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia. In high school, Matthew was an

accomplished honor student and class officer. He then spent a year at the University of Nevada at Reno, but decided in July 2000 to become an Army Ranger because he wanted to serve his country. He had planned to finish college after his four-year tour and become a history teacher like his father. In December 2001, he visited his father's history classes at Carl Sandburg Middle School in full battle fatigues to discuss his life as a Ranger. Matthew had also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with his Army buddies, a celebration that included hats and banners sent by his mother Patricia Marek, who had just moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew's Army unit had been sent to Afghanistan on a secret assignment in January. Through he frequently spoke by telephone with his father, he had not been allowed to disclose his location. In speaking of his son, Greg recently said, "I'm real proud of him. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved the Rangers . . . He gave his life to save the life of another Ranger."

Military service is not new to the Commons family. Both of Matthew's grandfather's served in World War II, where his grandfather Marek earned a Purple Heart. Additionally, Matthew's father Greg served in the Marines in the Vietnam War.

Besides his mother and father, Matthew leaves his brother Aaron, his father's second wife Linda Chapman, and two half-brothers, Thomas and Patrick. Matthew, who was buried at Arlington cemetery, has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, I hold out the example of this fine young man, a great American, who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty. I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to the entire Commons family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time. May they be comforted by the precious memories of their beloved son and brother.

As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the unique challenges faced by the men and women serving in our military today. It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Matthew Commons and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 226 years.

Matthew Commons answered the call of his country, and his death will forever place his name on the roll of heroes who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others. His life and unyielding commitment to duty and honor should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Private First Class Matthew A. Commons.

THE FEDERAL COURTS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, Representative Howard

Berman, a bill that will enhance the operations of our federal courts: H.R. , the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2002."

In July of 2001, H.R. 2522, the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2001", was introduced by Mr. Berman, and myself, at the request of the United States Judicial Conference. It contains provisions that the Conference believes are needed to improve the Federal Court system. These proposals cover judicial process improvements and judiciary personnel administration, benefits, and protections.

On July 26, 2001, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2522. Based on the testimony received and the discussion of the entire text, Representative Berman and I are introducing a new bill which contains those proposals that we believe will be most successful in improving the Federal Judicial System.

H.R. is necessary legislation for the proper functioning of our Article III U.S. Courts. It is non-partisan and non-controversial. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by the Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is Alicia Wadle, of Girl Scout Troop 446.

She will be honored in June of 2002 for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls, age 14-17 or in grades 9-12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four Interest Project patches, earn the Career Exploration pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Award project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council, Alicia began working toward the Girl Scout Award in 2000. She completed her project in the area of beautification of school property. Alicia assisted a local elementary school in updating a school playground in need of repair. She completed a ground mural of the United States, enabling children to learn about each state. Alicia also scraped and painted and refurbished playground equipment.

The earning of the Girl Scout Award is a major accomplishment for Alicia, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due

her for this significant service to her community and country.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND RECOGNIZING THE ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work accomplished by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), recognize the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and commend its founder and chairman William Denis Fugazy.

NECO's mission is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice, and bring about harmony and unity among all people. Since its founding in 1984, the multi-ethnic coalition has sponsored programs, activities, and education initiatives designed to break through the walls of ethnic misunderstanding and ignorance. NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the United States consisting of more than five million family members. It serves as an umbrella group for over 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritage, culture, and religion.

In the past, NECO has raised more than \$1 million during the refurbishing of Ellis Island for its Immigrant Wall of Honor, where the landmark names of 200,000 immigrants to the U.S. are inscribed. They also contribute resources to the Forum's Children Foundation, a sister humanitarian organization, whose mission is to bring children requiring life-saving and life-enhancing surgery from disadvantaged countries to the United States.

NECO also is involved with immigration/racial issues and community relations. They have worked with the New York City Mayor's Office, the New York State Governor's office and the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) on developing strategies to eliminate anti-immigrant feelings, promote ethnic tolerance and understanding, and prevent hate crimes. They have worked to enhance the quality of living among all Americans by collaborating with community groups in the coordination of programs such as the Family Exchange Peace Program that bring thousands of school children and their families together to raise awareness of the City's diverse racial and ethnic heritage and the James Byrd Jr. scholarship that provides tuition support for students graduating from high school.

In 1986, NECO established the Ellis Island Medals of Honor Award that pays tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Over 17,000 individuals are nominated each year. To date, approximately 1,400 American citizens have received the award. These individuals are remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, and business executives, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford,

George Bush, Richard Nixon, Mario Cuomo, George Pataki, Bob Hope, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Barbara Walters, and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Finally, the success of NECO can be attributed to its Founder and Chairman of the Board, William Denis Fugazy. The energy that Mr. Fugazy brings to his philanthropic work is evident in the numerous accolades bestowed upon the NECO. His passion for honoring ethnic Americans, who through their achievements and contributions, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations, is truly a blessing.

HONORING ASSEMBLYMAN

MICHAEL N. GIANARIS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a rising star in New York politics, Assemblyman Michael N. Gianaris, for his deep commitment to public service and his neighborhood of Astoria in New York City. Assemblyman Gianaris will be honored this coming Saturday, April 13th by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Democratic Club for his contributions to the organization and the entire community.

A native and lifelong resident of Astoria, Mr. Gianaris was born to Nicholas and Magdalene Gianaris. After attending Public School 84, Junior High School 141 in Long Island City, he went on to prestigious pursuits by graduating Summa Cum Laude from Fordham Law School, and earning his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. Civic service became a passion early, beginning in 1988 when he served as Chair of a voter registration committee which registered more than 10,000 voters in the New York metropolitan area. He quickly plunged into public service as an aide to my predecessor, Congressman Tom Manton and later served as Governor Mario Cuomo's Queens County Regional Representative. In both of these positions, Mr. Gianaris worked to ensure that the residents of Queens had full access to government services.

Before he sought elected office, Mr. Gianaris practiced as a litigator in private practice for more than two years. He also served as Associate Counsel to the New York State Assembly, where he worked on several measures that were enacted into law.

In addition, Mr. Gianaris has served the his community in many capacities, including serving as a member of Queens Community Planning Board #1, Legal Counsel to the United Community Civic Association, and a Board Member of the Eastern Orthodox Lawyers Association.

In 2000, Mr. Gianaris took his legislative knowledge and extensive familiarity with the community to the voters of New York's 36th Assembly District, winning the seat by a large margin. Since his election to the New York Assembly, Mr. Gianaris has exhibited strong leadership on environmental issues by fighting to reduce pollution from Queens powerplants and other sources. Environmental protection and the health of Queens residents will continue to be the top priorities for Assemblyman Gianaris.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Assemblyman Michael N. Gianaris for investing so much in his community. He has only just begun what will be a long and distinguished life in public service to the people of Queens.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY A. MATHENY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Terry A. Matheny, of South Carolina, a courageous and dignified man for his personal strength and volunteer work with physically and mentally challenged individuals.

Mr. Matheny was born with a congenital birth defect called clubfoot, which took several surgeries and many years of rehabilitation to overcome. He graduated from Fairmont State College in West Virginia from which he received a Bachelor of Science degree. Mr. Matheny received a Master of Science degree from West Virginia University. He is currently working with the USDA-REE-Agriculture Research Service and has worked at the Coastal Plains, Soil, Water, and Plant Research Center in Florence, South Carolina for twenty-three years.

Mr. Matheny's life experiences led him to develop a strong desire to help others less fortunate than himself. He has been actively involved with helping physically and mentally challenged individuals for the past eighteen years. In 1983, Mr. Matheny became a member of the local Civitan Club and Civitan International, which is a volunteer community service organization. Mr. Matheny has been a coordinator and helper in the South Carolina State Special Olympic Games. His involvement in the Special Olympics includes helping to supervise sporting events, helping with the awards ceremony, helping to provide entertainment between sporting events, and helping to serve lunch for hundreds of Special Olympians and volunteers.

His long career achievements include six USDA-REE ARS Certificate of Merit awards for outstanding performance of duties at the center. Mr. Matheny has served on the American Society of Agronomy's Student Essay Committee for three years. He has also been involved in the Civitan's adopt-a-dorm project, which adopted one of the housing units at the Pee Dee Mental Retardation Center. Mr. Matheny also helped organize and construct a park at the Pee Dee Mental Retardation Center.

I commend Mr. Matheny for his service to the physically and mentally challenged individuals who have dreams of participating in the Special Olympics and helping to turn those dreams into reality. Mr. Matheny is a fine citizen in every respect and I wish him continued success and Godspeed. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Terry A. Matheny.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my reluctant vote against H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act.

I am pleased that the House proposes to make several reasonable adjustments to the tax code on the eve of the April 15 tax return filing deadline. During my time in Congress, I have supported tax relief in all its forms, including reductions in income taxes, estate taxes and the marriage tax penalty, as well as common sense reforms that simplify the federal income tax code for all tax-paying Americans.

I strongly support the provisions of this bill that would waive penalties that taxpayers are forced to pay for first-time, unintentional errors on their tax returns. H.R. 3991 permits the IRS to waive penalties for such errors committed by a taxpayer with a good history of tax compliance. This provision enjoys widespread bipartisan support, and is long overdue.

Further, I support the provision in this legislation that will reduce interest and penalties that taxpayers must pay due to IRS errors. Under H.R. 3991, all taxpayers will have 21 days to return an erroneous refund before the government can begin to charge interest.

Additionally, I am pleased that this measure would extend to April 30 the due date for electronic filing and paying individual income taxes.

While I support the provisions in H.R. 3991 that would simplify the tax code for individuals and small businesses in the Third District of Kansas, I am frustrated that this bill includes language that would exempt from federal reporting requirements "527" political groups that currently are required to comply with state and local election reporting laws that are "substantially similar" to the federal rules.

I have significant reservations about voting for a bill that could partially reverse the recent success of campaign finance reform legislation. Simply, the provision that the Ways and Means chairman added during committee consideration of this measure goes too far. This language would allow special interest groups to avoid federal election laws by organizing at the state and local levels.

While I fully expected opponents of campaign finance reform to attempt to undermine the legislation that President Bush signed into law on March 27, I am surprised and extremely disappointed that supporters of the campaign finance status quo have attached this anti-reform language to an otherwise non-controversial taxpayer rights bill that I want to support. Consequently, I intend to vote against this legislation. I hope reformers in the other body will block any congressional attempts to rollback reasonable reporting requirements that will shine the light of day on special interest money in the political system.

Madam Speaker, the American people share a widely held belief that special interests

and the very wealthiest campaign contributors wield too much influence in our government. This belief is corrosive to citizen participation in our democracy. The recent passage of the most significant campaign finance reform legislation in thirty years, which will ban soft money and limit issue ads, should make our campaigns and elections more open and hopefully will counter a growing cynicism in our country toward politics and political candidates.

I will continue to support simplification of the federal tax code for individuals and small businesses across the country. At the same time, however, I made a promise to my constituents that I will fight to reform the campaign finance system during my time in Congress, and I intend to keep my word by voting against this bill. I hope that the House will have an opportunity to consider a clean version of the taxpayer rights legislation. If so, I will vote for this important legislation. For now, I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in urging the other body to oppose any attempts to exempt special interest 527 groups from common sense disclosure requirements.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my opposition to the inclusion of the controversial "527" provision in this bill.

I am appalled by the Leadership's efforts to railroad us on this issue. By manipulating the rule to try to prevent the Minority from offering amendments, the Leadership has clearly shown that they support the old way of conducting campaigns. This otherwise bipartisan bill has now become mired in these blatant attempts to undo the progress we've made on campaign finance reform.

We recently passed landmark bipartisan legislation that enacted real reforms in the way we finance our elections. As part of that effort, this body voted for stricter disclosure requirements for groups who sponsor so-called "issue ads" so that we could bring honesty back to the American political process.

Now here we are less than two months later, and the Leadership is already trying to open up loopholes in existing law so that some organizations would be exempt from filing reports about contributions and expenditures.

What would this mean for the end to soft money? These supposedly independent groups would become the channels for Big Money to continue to control our elections.

We've voted to take soft money out of politics. A vote for this legislation is a vote against the American people.

HONORING RONA POPAL ON HER DEDICATION TO HELPING IMPROVE THE LIVES OF AFGHAN WOMEN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rona Popal on her distinguished dedication to helping and empowering women in Afghanistan.

Rona Popal is a 20-year resident of Fremont, California who was born in Afghanistan. She recently returned to her country of birth because she feels she has a responsibility to help women overcome the obstacles of their daily lives in Afghanistan. Oppressed under the former Tallban government, and still not equipped to handle the realities of daily life, women in Afghanistan enjoy few civil rights.

Driven by an intense desire to help the people of Afghanistan in any way she can, Rona Popal handed money to the poverty-stricken on the streets of Kabul and met with interim Chairman Hamid Karzai on her recent trip.

Now she intends to form a partnership between a school for the deaf in Kabul and the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. She also plans to work on projects to help women in Afghanistan become self-sufficient.

Rona Popal is the founder of the Afghan Coalition and the Afghan Women's Association International, two groups in the United States that work to improve the lives of Afghan citizens.

I am honored to commend Rona Popal on her inspiring and selfless efforts to improve the lives of women in Afghanistan.

VETERANS HOME LOAN PREPAYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have recently introduced H.R. 4042, the "Veterans Home Loan Prepayment Protection Act of 2002" to protect veterans by prohibiting additional and unfair interest charges to veterans when they prepay their Department of Veterans Affairs Guaranteed Home Loans in full, such as during loan reduction refinancing.

Imperfections in existing law currently permit residential mortgage lenders under title 38 to select cutoff times for acknowledging receipt of prepayments in full for veterans. These cutoff times sometimes occur early in the business day and can permit interest to accrue on two different mortgage loans simultaneously until the prepayment in full is recorded on the following business day. This can be up to 90 dollars in extra cost to the veteran for a 24-hour delay and hundreds of dollars over an extended holiday weekend.

This amounts to unfair enrichment for the lender. At least one case exists where a lender established a cutoff time for prepayments BEFORE the start of their business day. This lender was guaranteed at least one day of extra interest on every prepayment action without any additional risk!

The provisions of H.R. 4042, require lenders to accept and record prepayments in full whenever the lender is open for business and an officer of the lender is present in an official capacity. If these conditions are met, the prepayment in full is recorded on that calendar day.

There were over 77,000 VA loan refinances in 2001, and almost every one involved a prepayment in full. The amount of money involved is not overwhelming, yet we must ask, is this additional interest fair and should this burden be borne by those who have served? I urge my colleagues to support the "Veterans Home Loan Prepayment Protection Act of 2002."

COMMENDING PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to recognize and commend Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), an organization that has dedicated itself to the well being of some of America's most catastrophically disabled veterans for over 50 years.

PVA traces its origins back to February 1947, when delegates from seven groups of paralyzed veterans from around the country met at the Hines VA Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, to form a national organization to address the inadequacy of veterans health care, specifically for severely disabled veterans. At this meeting they immediately set some very specific goals, including increasing funding for the needs of spinal cord injured veterans and establishing a grant program to provide specially-adapted housing so that paralyzed veterans could leave the hospital and live more independent lives at home.

PVA was Congressionally chartered as a veterans' service organization on August 11, 1971 and since that time has continued to develop a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of its members—veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction. PVA has more than 40 chapters and sub-chapters nationwide and nearly 20,000 members. In addition to its Washington, D.C. headquarters, PVA operates 58 service offices around the country to serve the needs of all veterans seeking Department of Veterans Affairs' claims and benefits.

PVA has used its expertise to become a leading advocate for quality health care not only for spinal cord injured veterans, but for all other veterans as well. They continue to press for research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction. They also assist veterans who apply to receive benefits that are available as a result of military service.

Mr. Speaker, for 16 years, PVA has co-authored The Independent Budget: A Comprehensive Policy Document Created by Veterans for Veterans, in cooperation with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), AMVETS, and The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The Independent Budget takes a comprehensive look at the current and future needs of

veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and makes specific recommendations for federal funding. As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have found The Independent Budget to be a very useful tool in developing our Committee's recommendations for veterans funding. I wholeheartedly recommend that all Members of the House, if they have not already done so, obtain a copy and read it.

PVA created the Technology and Research Foundation in 1975, now named the Spinal Cord Research Foundation (SCRF), to support research to alleviate, and ultimately end, medical and functional consequences of paralysis. In 1980, PVA endowed \$1 million for a Professorship in SCI Medicine at Stanford University. PVA also created the Spinal Cord Injury Education and Training Foundation (ETF) in 1987 to support innovative education and training programs designed to assist individuals with spinal cord injury or dysfunction, their families, and doctors who provide direct care. In 1988, the PVA-EPVA Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration Research at Yale University was founded in order to focus the energies and talents of some of the world's leading scientists in the development of new treatments, and ultimately a cure, for spinal cord injury and related disorders. It is a model of inter-institutional cooperation, that brings together the strengths of Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Yale University, all with the singular goal of restoration of function in people with spinal cord dysfunction.

PVA also coordinates the activities of two coalitions of professional, payer, and consumer groups that develop clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) defining standards of care for people with spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis. The Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine, composed of 19 organizations, has published six professional guidelines and three consumer guides to date. The Multiple Sclerosis Council, made up of 23 organizations, has likewise published CPGs.

PVA's Government Relations staff is well-known here on Capitol Hill and has been especially helpful to our Committee as we have developed and moved legislation to improve the delivery of services and benefits to America's 25 million veterans. Its Advocacy Program is a leading advocate for civil rights and opportunities that maximize independence of individuals who have experienced spinal cord injury or disease, or other severe disabilities and PVA played an important role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It continues its advocacy as an active member of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities.

Likewise, PVA's Architecture Program has played an important role in the lives of severely disabled veterans. It assists the private sector and government at all levels with quality accessible design and construction of VA facilities, affordable and accessible housing, and adoption of appropriate and uniform accessibility standards and codes. PVA's Health Analysis Program keeps a constant eye on the performance of the VA health care system as well as other health care systems in the public and private sector.

PVA also runs a Sports and Recreation Program dedicated to promoting a range of activities for its members and other people with disabilities, with special emphasis on activities

that enhance lifetime health and fitness. The organization sponsors the PVA National Bass Trail which is officially sanctioned by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.). Likewise, PVA created the National Trapshoot Circuit to give individuals with disabilities a chance to participate in the recreational and competitive sport of trapshooting. Most notably, PVA co-sponsors the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and other wheelchair sports programs along with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Games encourage veterans to become aware of their abilities and potential, as well as wheelchair sports that are available, while promoting a spirit of healthy activity and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who work with PVA on a regular basis, we have come to rely on the dedication and expertise that this organization brings to Capitol Hill. I want to recognize the hard work and sacrifice that all of their officers, members and volunteers have made in order to improve the lives of their fellow veterans and fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as America continues our war on terrorism, like the wars of the last century against fascism, nazism and communism, the brunt of the battles will be borne by our men and women in uniform. Our nation has a sacred obligation, as President Abraham Lincoln said so eloquently, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." And we especially have an obligation to care for those who have suffered the most to protect our freedoms, such as paralyzed veterans.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is an honor to work hand-in-hand with Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the other veterans service organizations as we seek to improve the lives of paralyzed veterans and all of America's veterans and their families.

TRIBUTE TO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AND HEALTH SYSTEM OF SOUTH
BEND, INDIANA

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Memorial Hospital and Health System of South Bend, Indiana for its outstanding commitment to community service and for winning the Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service, sponsored by the American Hospital Association, Baxter International Foundation, and Cardinal Health Foundation. Each year only one institution earns this award, widely recognized as one of the most significant honors in the health care industry for demonstrating exceptional commitment to community service. This year's recognition of Memorial's innovative health care programs and expedited access to care is a fitting tribute to a community treasure.

Memorial has always demonstrated that strong community relationships and comprehensive programs are keys to quality community health. It is therefore appropriate, but not surprising, that Memorial has been honored for its proactive role in establishing a tithing system in which Memorial has allocated ten percent of its annual budget surplus, total-

ing \$20 million in nearly 100 community health programs. While Memorial was involved in community service long before it started tithing, this has most certainly contributed to a healthier community and encouraged other potential donors. Tithed funds have been used entirely for community outreach initiatives, including a children's health museum that has hosted more than 48,000 school children. I visited this museum and was deeply impressed by its unique approach to learning and helping kids understand healthy habits and safety. Additionally, Memorial has also established and expanded self-help groups for seniors and an enrichment program for homeless toddlers. These programs are just a few of the innovative approaches Memorial is pursuing to deliver first rate health care to the underserved population.

I am also particularly impressed by Memorial's active partnership with the South Bend Heritage Foundation, a neighborhood revitalization organization that repairs run-down houses and sells them at affordable prices to people who might not otherwise be able to own. I was proud to find that the spirit of community service is so strong here that more than 30 Memorial staff members have "adopted" one such house in a disadvantaged neighborhood near the hospital campus and are volunteering hours of their personal time and energy on rebuilding it, aiming for completion by this Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate Memorial Hospital and Health System for winning the Foster G. McGaw Prize, and for its extraordinary and continued dedication to bridging the health care gap for Hoosiers. I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Memorial many more years of continued success. On behalf of a deeply thankful community, I salute Memorial's president and chief executive officer, Philip Newbold, and his entire staff for a job well done in earning this distinguished award.

HONORING ATHENA GEORGAKAKOS
ONORATO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Athena Georgakakos Onorato for her lifetime of distinguished service to the business world as well as the neighborhoods of Astoria and Jackson Heights in New York City. Ms. Onorato will be recognized on Saturday, April 13th by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Democratic Club for her long commitment to the organization and her community.

Born to Antonios and Maria Georgakakos in New York City and raised in Astoria, Queens, Ms. Onorato learned to play the piano at the early age of five, thanks to her piano teacher-mother. Ms. Onorato studied music at the New York College of Music where she received her piano diploma at age 20. Ms. Onorato also earned a B.A. in Economics from New York University. Upon graduation, she was employed as an economist at the American Petroleum Institute and became the first woman hired at Texaco, Inc. as an economist.

In 1987, Ms. Onorato joined Apple Bank for Savings and became Assistant Vice President

and Branch Manager when a new branch opened in Astoria in 1989.

In addition to her distinguished business career, Ms. Onorato has been tremendously active in her community, serving as President of the Hellenic University Club of New York, as well as the Broadway-Astoria Merchants and Professionals Association. She has served as a Board Member both of the Queens College Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Greek American Homeowners Association. She has also served as Second Vice President of the United Community Civic Association.

Ms. Onorato was honored by the Broadway-Astoria Merchants Association in 1992 as "Woman of the Year" and in 1995 she was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in recognition of her ethnic and professional contributions, which was awarded by National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO).

In 1993 the former Athena Georgakakos married State Senator George Onorato, and they reside in Jackson Heights.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join the many others in her community in recognizing Athena Georgakakos Onorato for her lifetime of community involvement as prominent businesswoman and civic leader.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VERDELL G.
STONE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Verdell G. Stone of Ridgeway, South Carolina. A woman dedicated to her faith and to her community, Mrs. Stone has served as a lifelong role model for others and has always been a woman of strength, integrity, and dignity.

Mrs. Stone has been a leader and matriarch for her family of eleven children, fifteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, as well as numerous other children in her church family and community. She has taken the responsibility of teaching them and bestowing upon them her Christian values by being an example. Mrs. Stone has served faithfully as a member of Antioch Baptist Church for more than fifty years, where she has held numerous positions of leadership, such as President of the Missionary Society, the Senior Choir, and Jubilee Choir. She is a former President of the Usher Board, and currently holds the title of Mother of the Church.

Because she has always served her family, her church, and her community with distinction and honor, the Ridgeway Community and the citizens of Fairfield County have deemed it appropriate to recognize Mrs. Stone for her many years of dedicated service. Mrs. Stone will be honored with a Verdell G. Stone Appreciation Day, this coming Saturday, April 13, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Verdell G. Stone, a woman whose contributions to her family, church and community are outweighed only by the immeasurable gratitude of those whose lives she has touched. We all appreciate Mrs. Stone for her many years of community and Christian service and extend to her our best wishes, and Godspeed.

A COMMEMORATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ERNESTINE ANDERSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, jazz often has been called the only musical art form to originate in the United States. Beginning in the late 1800s, the music grew from a combination of influences, including black American music, African rhythms, American band traditions and instruments, and European harmonies and forms. Much of the world's best jazz is still being written and performed right here in the United States.

One of the key elements of jazz is improvisation—the ability to create new music spontaneously. This skill is the distinguishing characteristic of the genuine jazz musician. Improvisation also raises the bar for soloists. They must not only be performers and reproducers of others' ideas but true composers as well. This is what gives jazz "fresh" excitement at each and every performance.

Jazz soloists are exceptional, undeniably unique individuals. I am fortunate to represent a district, encompassing the City of Seattle, which has produced more than a few of these. Ernestine Anderson is one such person, and on March 1st, the Rainier Club of Seattle honored Ernestine Anderson by bestowing upon her the title of Laureate.

"A voice like Honey at Dusk" . . . that's the way legendary music producer Quincy Jones described her . . . and, he ought to know! Jones began his career in Seattle right around the same time Ms. Anderson launched hers. Anderson, Jones and Ray Charles were all part of the vibrant Seattle music scene in the 1940s and 50s.

Born in Houston, Texas, Ernestine Anderson grew up listening to and singing blues and gospel music. When she was 12, she entered a talent contest and so impressed bandleader Russell Jacquet that he hired her to sing with his band. Relocating to Seattle with her family when she was 16, she soon discovered Jackson Street, the hub of Seattle's jazz scene, and started singing with the bands there. At 18, Ms. Anderson left Seattle to tour with the Johnny Otis band and, a few years later, joined Lionel Hampton's band. She settled in New York City in the mid-50s and recorded with saxophonist Gigi Gryce—bringing her greater acclaim in the jazz world.

She recorded her first solo album, "Hot Cargo," in 1958 for Mercury Records, and that same year was featured at the very first Monterey Jazz Festival—now the oldest continuous annual jazz festival in the world. It goes without saying they have invited her back numerous times, including the 40th anniversary celebration four years ago. One year later, Ernestine Anderson was named Best New Vocal Star by DownBeat critics, and was featured in *TIME Magazine*.

Musical tastes change, however, and individual singers or groups and the type of music they perform periodically go out of style. There was no exception for American jazz artists during the early mayhem of the Beatles, Rolling Stones and other rock groups who spearheaded the "British Invasion" of the mid-60s. To make a living many, including Ernestine

Anderson, migrated to Europe, where jazz appreciation was still strong and growing. After a few years, however, she returned to Seattle and went into semi-retirement—performing only occasionally in local clubs.

Ernestine was special. The people of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest had recognized that early on. It was only a matter of time before other jazz enthusiasts around the country realized that again. One who did, bass guitarist Ray Brown, was instrumental in bringing Ernestine to the attention of Concord Records. He resuscitated her career, gave her backing, and produced her first albums for the label.

From that second beginning, Ernestine has gone on to greater heights, including more than 30 albums, four of which have received Grammy nominations. She has performed at all of the major jazz festivals in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia. She was one of 75 women chosen by Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Brian Lanker for the book, *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*, a work which put her in the company of Rosa Parks, Leontyne Price, Barbara Jordan and Toni Morrison.

In October of last year, Ernestine Anderson was named one of Seattle's most influential citizens. She has been featured in an exhibit at the Experience Music Project along with Ray Charles and Quincy Jones as part of the history of jazz in Seattle. She also was named one of Seattle's most generous philanthropists by Seattle Magazine for her donation of time and talent to numerous charities including Rise 'n' Shine, the Detlef Schrempf Foundation, the Alliance for Education, the Garfield High School Jazz Band, and many other youth organizations.

An avid sports fan, she frequently has sung the national anthem at major sports events across the country. Her annual appearances at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley during the week between Christmas and New Year's are eagerly anticipated, and New Year's Eve with Ernestine consistently ranks as one of Seattle's premiere events of the year.

The Rainier Club has made a wise choice in naming Ernestine Anderson, Laureate. She is undoubtedly one of the best ambassadors of and for the arts in the Pacific Northwest. I congratulate her on a long and distinguished career, and wish her nothing but success for many years to come.

A POEM BY ROBERT GRAVELINE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit this poem written by Robert Graveline, a constituent of mine from Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

September Eleven Two Thousand One
 September Eleven The Date, The Year, Two
 Thousand One.
 Early That Tuesday Morning, World Towers
 Came Undone.
 Peace And Pride Were Shattered, By A Fa-
 natic Few,
 Thousands Died In Terror; They Did Not
 Have A Clue.
 Emergency Workers Hurried, To This Place
 Of Death, Where

Men And Women Both—Would Draw Their
 Final Breath.
 Buildings Dropped To Ground Zero, Next,
 The Pentagon,
 Earlier Signs Of Terror Missed; We Could
 Not See Beyond.
 Revere All Who Died; Include Flight Ninety-
 Three,
 Expecting To Lose Their Life, They Fought
 On Valiantly.
 Life Goes On As It Should, We Will Certainly
 Overcome.
 Embracing God Our Father; Let Us Pray,
 That His Will, Be Done,
 Valor's Flag Unfurled Once More, By New
 York City's Finest,
 Every Life At Risk That Day; Some Died Be-
 stowing Their Best.
 Nature Renews Our Spirit; We'll Mourn And
 We Will Repair,
 The Dead We Will Never Forget, They Know
 We Deeply Care.
 Wrecked And Torn Apart, Skyscrapers And
 Human Beings,
 Once Burned Twice Remembered, Vigilance
 Now, By All Means.
 Thanks Be To God, Our Father, May He
 Bless The U.S. of A.;
 Heal Our Minds And Bodies; Protect Our Re-
 maining Days.
 O 'America The Beautiful—May You Forever
 Stand,
 Until The End Of Time; Deal With All Life's
 Demands.
 Still; With All That Has Happened: Death,
 Destruction; Harm,
 Ashes, Fire; Total Loss, New York Has Not
 Bought The Farm.
 Now We Are On The Mend, Badly Bent, We
 Did Not Fold;
 Declared War On Terror, No More, Do We
 Have To Be Told.
 Out Of All This Comes A Will, A Bonding
 With Each Other;
 Not To Be Caught Unaware, To Love Our Sis-
 ters And Brothers.
 Ever Thankful To Be Alive, Yet, Life Is Not
 As Before.
 Some Of Our Loved Ones Are Missing, Death
 Came; Knocked At Their Door.

HONORING PETER KELLY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Kelly, a proud veteran, a tireless civic leader, and above all, a loving family man. The Powhatan and Pocohontas Democratic Club of Queens will pay tribute to Mr. Kelly this coming Saturday, April 13th for his contributions to the organization and the entire community.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Kelly was born in Manhattan, the middle child and only son of Peter and Catherine Kelly. At age four his family moved to the Bronx where he attended Our Lady of Refuge Grammar School and Evander Childs High School.

Upon graduation, he went to work for the Daily News as a copy boy. He loved the outdoors and horses, which soon led him to work for trainer James Fitzsimmons as an exercise jockey. While he dreamed of life as a professional jockey, weight and world events prevented him from realizing his vision.

Mr. Kelly enlisted in the Air Force in 1950 during the Korean War. He was sent to Radio

Mechanic School at Scott Air Force Base in Bellville, Illinois. After graduation, he was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California where he spent the entire war fighting the battle of San Francisco. In 1955, he went to work for General Motors and worked his way up to Export Manager.

In the summer of 1956, he was introduced by a mutual friend to his lovely wife of 45 years, Mary Anne, in Rockaway. They were married in June of 1957 and had three wonderful children, Peter, a Civil Court Judge, Anne Marie, a Democratic District Leader—and my talented District Chief of Staff—Carleen. They now have a loving daughter-in-law Cathy, a terrific son-in-law Robert, and have been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, Christian, Bobby, Brian, and Meghan.

Mr. Kelly attended night school and graduated from Pace College in 1963. When his wife Mary Anne was elected District Leader in 1970, he was drafted into the Powhatan Democratic Club where he served very effectively as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He served in every capacity and performed every job associated with the organization. His dedication and untiring effort on behalf of the community and club earned him the respect of everyone who has ever known him.

Since retiring in 1991, Mr. Kelly has been devoted to being a loving husband, father, and more importantly, a grandpa. He can be spotted at his grandchildren's games on a regular basis. Although he has faced a recent health setback, he still possesses a great sense of humor and is loved by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge, here on the floor, the lifetime of contributions Peter Kelly has made to his country, his community and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 80, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING BERNARD BECKER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday April 10, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bernard Becker, South Florida's National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Mr. Becker has been a strong voice and a driving force behind the Jewish War Veterans as an influential leader in the fight against anti-semitism. Like all men and women of the Jewish War Veterans, Mr. Becker has courageously served our nation in the armed services, and is now working to ensure good relations between the U.S. and Israel—an increasingly meaningful objective.

Bernard Becker, an active member of the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954, proudly served our nation during the Korean

conflict. He subsequently served in the Air Force Reserve until 1958. Mr. Becker then served in a number of veteran leadership roles, and eventually with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, both as the National Commander and as a National Convention Co-Chairman. During his tenure with the organization, Mr. Becker has been consistently recognized for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Becker has served his country with honor and pride. I am confident that as the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America continue to fight bigotry and hatred, Mr. Becker will continue to lend his knowledge and leadership to this cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 81, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

APRIL 12, 2002, GRAND OPENING OF PANASONIC'S DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Panasonic for the April 12, 2002 grand opening at Hollywood's Universal Studios of a center that consolidates and expands Panasonic's R&D efforts to develop next-generation digital video compression technologies for the entertainment industry. This proximity to the entertainment community will result in new and better products for American consumers, while reinforcing Hollywood's preeminent position as the center of the global entertainment industry.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, Ltd., best known by its brand name Panasonic, and a worldwide leader in the development and manufacture of electronics products for consumer, business, and industrial needs, has a long record of close cooperation with Hollywood in developing new digital technologies for the studios, ranging from next generation optical disc development to advanced technologies for digital cinema and broadband distribution. Matsushita Electric established its High-Definition Telecine Center on the Universal Studios lot in 1993 with the mission of converting film-based content to High Definition video. Today HDTC is a leading high-definition center—digitally converting, restoring, and enhancing film for theatrical, cable and home video purposes.

In 1996, on the same lot, the company opened the Digital Video Compression Center, a pioneering DVD authoring center. The DVCC currently authors numerous studio titles and provides video compression, complex special editions, and multi-angle/multi-story authoring capabilities. Five years later, Panasonic Hollywood Lab, a division of

Panasonic Technologies Company, opened a research center to develop next-generation digital video compression and technologies for broadband distribution of video and other digital content. The new center, under the direction of Mr. Masayuki Kozuka, now will add a digital image evaluation facility to its areas of focus. Here industry professionals will interact with lab engineers to evaluate High Definition image quality for digital cinema, digital TV and next-generation optical disks, as well as highly compressed imaging for future mobile devices.

On this important occasion, my special congratulations go to Sukeichi Miki, chief technology officer and senior managing director of Matsushita Electric; Kazuo Toda, senior managing director of Matsushita Electric; Don Iwatani, chairman and CEO of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (Panasonic); Dr. Paul Liao, president and COO of Panasonic Technologies Company and vice president and chief technology officer for Matsushita Electric Corporation of America; and Ron Meyer, president and COO, Universal Studios. I am very proud to have this important digital technology research facility in my district, adding to Hollywood's recognized leadership in the entertainment industry.

TWO PATHS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this OpEd as it appeared in the Washington Times newspaper last week. Entitled, "Two Paths Towards Democracy" this OpEd brings to our attention the great efforts currently underway in the Republic of Congo to re-establish lasting democratic institutions and the rule of law. With parliamentary and municipal elections forthcoming in Congo, it is important that we encourage the country and its leaders along the path of further transparency and liberalization. Recent President elections, in which nearly 75 percent of registered voters cast ballots without fear of intimidation or violence, demonstrates that democratic gains are already being consolidated into a reliable political tradition.

Under President Sassou-Nguesso's stewardship, Congo has shown a remarkable recovery from nearly a decade of civil war. Without any external assistance, the president successfully began a process of national reconciliation, which will reach its crescendo during this month's historic elections. I am grateful to that country's very able ambassador, Serge Mombouli, for keeping me and my colleagues apprised of the many positive developments in his country.

As Africa's third largest exporter of crude oil, Congo is home to nearly \$2 billion worth of U.S. direct investment and is a strategic partner in our search for diversified sources of petroleum. Furthermore, Congo has developed as a key regional peacemaker, opening its door to over 100,000 refugees from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, while serving as a model to other countries seeking a recovery from decades of civilian conflict.

I am joined by my colleagues in saluting the leadership of our friends in the Republic of

Congo and pledge to them our full support and solidarity as they continue down the courageous road of reconciliation, peace and prosperity.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 24, 2002]

TWO PATHS TOWARD DEMOCRACY

So often, the news out of Africa focuses on death, disease and dictators. But there is another "D" which must not be overlooked, lest it be forgotten altogether, that is democracy. This past weekend presented two stark examples of how democratic movements are playing out across the continent.

Presidential elections in Zimbabwe have captured the world's attention for many months now, though not in a way that Africa's fledgling democrats would like. There could perhaps be no better example of either a deeply flawed election process or the slow and steady fall into political and economic anarchy than was seen this past weekend in Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

The demise of this once-strong democracy and economic power has again colored how we in the West engage with Africa, and seems to have lent credence to those in the Bush administration, led by Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who believe that "we have gotten little for all the aid money we have spent." But is it fair to apply this old "bad apple" adage to all of Africa?

On the same day that justice and democracy were purloined in Zimbabwe, they were restored and celebrated in the Republic of Congo, after nearly a decade of civil war and political upheaval. Long overshadowed by its much larger neighbor with a similar name, U.S. assistance and United Nations mediators poured into the Democratic Republic of Congo during that country's own war, while political violence that killed over 20,000 people and left nearly 800,000 homeless went largely unnoticed just across the border.

Since coming to power in 1997, Congo's de facto head of state, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, has had to rebuild the country from the ground up—largely on his own. His first order of business involved demobilizing and disarming former combatants from all political factions. After extending a cease-fire and blanket amnesty to these fighters, Mr. Sassou-Nguesso's government began a wildly successful weapons buy-back program.

The government then went even further, turning domestically conceived peace talks convened in 1999 into a dialogue of "national reconciliation without exclusion." Three years later, over 15,000 guns have been taken out of circulation and a new national police force is in place, composed of the manifold tribal, ethnic and political factions who were once at the center of the country's hardships. As a result, political feuds are now being settled within the halls of government and not on the field of battle. This rang particularly true last weekend when nearly 80 percent of registered voters turned out to vote "in favor of peace," as President-elect Sassou-Nguesso later said in explaining his subsequent electoral victory.

An IMF report, released last month, praised the "home grown nature" of Congo's post-war renewal, noting that President Sassou-Nguesso has laid "the foundations for lasting peace and stable political institutions despite limited external assistance." However the achievement of his campaign pledges of economic revitalization and political stability has not yet been fully realized. In this phase of the country's transformation, the United States has a vital role to play.

Home to one of Africa's largest Atlantic seaports and nestled on the banks of the River Congo, which itself supplies much of landlocked Central Africa with all nature of

supplies; Congo has long been a hub of commercial activity on the continent. Today, as Africa's third largest producer of crude oil, the country is looking toward international markets to assist in its economic turnaround. Congo is already home to nearly \$2 billion in U.S. foreign direct investment, but more is needed if present growth rates are to be sustained and increased.

An ambitious program of privatization of state-owned industries is already beginning to pay off for Congo, with the country's first sell-off, a flour mill, going to U.S.-based Seaboard Corporation. Ralph Moss, the company's Washington representative adds that "Our Congo investment is by no means our largest in Africa, but it has so far been our most profitable."

It is essential that in a balanced policy toward Africa, U.S. officials must do more than criticize the obvious shortcomings of the continent's remaining autocratic regimes. It should laud and provide recompense to those who have successfully enacted the kinds of political and economic liberalizations that will make them trusted and effective partners to the United States. On a day when two countries forged two different paths for the future, the imperative is as clear as ever.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PLATEAU VALLEY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the students of Plateau Valley School of Colbran, Colorado and thank them for their dedication to helping the victims of the terrible attacks of September 11th. As we all look for a way to help our nation come through these tragic and difficult times, let the efforts of the Plateau Valley students serve as a model for ways to contribute to this great and worthy endeavor. The children have tirelessly worked to raise funds to assist the victims and I am honored to recognize their achievements before this body of Congress and this nation.

Four days after the September 11th attacks on our cities, the students began an effort to raise money to donate to worthy charities in New York City. They began the Pennies for People campaign as way to raise such funding. Accepting pennies at a time, the students have raised the incredible amount of \$3,437.31 to donate to the charity of their choice. What charity would receive this donation has been the concern of great speculation by the students for some time. Recently, through a school wide vote, the Children's Feeding Network was designated the recipient of all the students's hard work. Through the charity, the donated funds will provide the necessary essentials to children who have lost parents in the World Trade Center attack. This is a wonderful charity directly assisting those in need and I am proud Plateau Valley Middle School has selected Children's Family Network as the recipient of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to recognize the students of Plateau Valley School and commend them for their desire to assist their fellow citizens. They have shown great kindness and compassion through their efforts and I am honored to represent them

before this body of Congress today. Their dedication and commitment to a noble cause have brought great credit to themselves, their community, and a thankful nation. I would like to extend to them a thank you, good luck, and keep up their hard work because all of you have made a difference in these children's lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 82, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of dedicated young men from Montezuma-Cortez High School in Cortez, Colorado. The group is the boys basketball team and for the first time in the school's last forty years, a sports team has taken home a State championship. This championship is the culmination of months of dedication and hard work and I am honored to bring their accomplishment before this body of Congress and this nation.

This championship team has dedicated long and strenuous hours in training and competing for this high honor. They entered the championship as underdogs to win the State Class 4A Tournament, but kept their spirits high, and diligently competed with the surrounding schools for this top honor. Their dedication, self-sacrifice, and honest commitment to achieving their goal have led this group of young men into Montezuma-Cortez High School history.

I am also grateful to the surrounding community and supporting student body that over the years have remained by the sides of these young athletes, no matter what their record or standing. Local support is the backbone of any great endeavor and I am proud this community has repeatedly risen to the challenge. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate two final people whose guidance and leadership had much to do with this winning season and ultimate State title, Head Coach Wade Mortensen and Assistant Head Coach Bob Archibeque.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their time and efforts to achieving a difficult goal. The Panthers of Montezuma-Cortez High School have made great sacrifices in their lives and have done a remarkable job representing their school, their community, and the State of Colorado. They have proven that hard work and dedication to a dream can ultimately lead to the final victory. Good luck in your future, gentleman, and I look forward to

watching your next season with esteemed pride and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 81, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KAREN
ADAMS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Karen Adams of Pueblo, Colorado, who peacefully left us in

February. Karen was a popular member and leader of the community and was often sought by many for her listening ear, advice, and warm smile. She struggled in a long battle with cancer, and as her family mourns her loss, I would like to take this opportunity to bring forth her accomplishments and gentle kindness before this body of Congress and this nation.

As a dedicated resident and business owner of the Pueblo community, Karen was often at the forefront of improving her surroundings. She, along with husband William, proudly operated Sunscapes Rare Plant Nursery, a successful horticulture business in the area. Remarkably, Karen managed to run this business while raising a family that appreciated and valued the importance of hard work, honor, and perseverance. She raised her sons Greg, Mark, Will and daughter Beth to be respectful individuals who are determined to succeed in their pursuits. Karen's influence touched many lives outside of her immediate family and she was known as a loving friend to many.

Karen was a true lover of the outdoors and could often be found improving her natural surroundings. She was often spotted along the highway or interstate cleaning and beautifying

the area and eventually founded the Pueblo Clean Community Commission in the 1970s. She could be found improving the appearance of the city by lending her time and energy to beautifying several sites with rock gardens to improve their aesthetic appearances. She contributed to her community as a member of several wonderful organizations including the Pueblo Zoological Society, the Historical Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Foundation, and was a horticulturist at the Pueblo Zoo. Her efforts and leadership to improving her community and its residents are remarkable and they will indeed be missed by a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute Karen Adams and the great strides she took in establishing herself as a valuable leader in the Pueblo community. Her dedication to family, friends, work, environment, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and a grateful nation. Although Karen has left us, her good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those she touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to Karen's family and friends during this difficult time of remembrance and bereavement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 12

9 a.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act.
SD-226

APRIL 16

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the Technology Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including the Advanced Technology Program.
SR-253

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine problems relating to the availability and use of fake or fraudulently issued driver's licenses, focusing on what state and federal governments can do to improve the system.
SD-342
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold oversight hearings to examine medical privacy issues.
SH-216

10:15 a.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine aviation safety and capacity issues.
SD-138

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Mexican relations.
SD-419

Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
To hold closed hearings to examine terrorist watch lists.
SH-219

APRIL 17

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Corporation for National and Community Service.
SD-138

10 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the monetary policy and the economic outlook in the context of the current economic situation, focusing on the economic rebound now underway.
Room to be announced

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine levels of jurisdiction within the Office of Homeland Security.
SD-226

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Constitution Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the application of the War Powers Resolution to the war on terrorism.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold hearings on the nomination of John Leonard Helgeson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency; to be followed by closed hearings (in Room SH-219).
SH-216

APRIL 18

9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the state of public health preparedness for terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction.
SD-342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR-253

3 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 1441, to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area, S. 1526, to establish the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area in the State of Georgia, S. 1638, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System; S. 1809/H.R. 1776, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas, S. 1939, to establish the Great Basin National Heritage Area, Nevada and Utah, and S. 2033/H.R. 4004, to authorize appropriations for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
SD-366

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Canadian wheat 301 decisions.
SR-253

APRIL 23

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the implications of the human capital crisis, focusing on how the federal government is recruiting, selecting, retaining, and training individuals to oversee trade policies and regulate financial industries.
SD-342

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition and Business and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine cable competition, focusing on the ATT-Comcast merger.
SD-226