

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATOR GEORGE ONORATO RECEIVES PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senator George Onorato, who is this year's recipient of the "Public Service Award" from the Kiwanis Club of Astoria/Long Island City. Senator Onorato's numerous contributions during his career have helped shape the face of this great city. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to this esteemed public servant.

Senator George Onorato was elected to the New York State Senate in a special election in June of 1983, when he won a highly contested three-candidate race. During his first year in the Senate, the Senator was the Prime Co-sponsor of the used car 'lemon law.' Since his election, Senator Onorato has been actively involved in tenants rights issues and landlord equity.

A tenacious advocate of Senior Citizen issues, the Senator worked tirelessly toward implementation of the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC), and has consistently co-sponsored legislation that would make prescription medication affordable to our Senior Citizens. Through his position as a member of the Senate Minority Task Force on Waterfront Development, Senator Onorato has been deeply involved in the redevelopment of the Hunter Point area.

The Senator also continues to be supportive of numerous civic and community renewal groups and their projects. He has served with the Riker's Island Liaison Group that monitors conditions and takes unified action to respond to problems associated with community proximity to Riker's Island. He is also a member of the New York State Senate Democratic Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force. As a determined member of the Senate Minority Task Force on Vietnam Veterans and the Acting Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Onorato sponsored legislation providing for student aid to Vietnam veterans, and in 1997 introduced legislation to increase the level of such funding. He sponsored and supported legislation requiring identification of handicapped children of Vietnam veterans in order to assist in developing a data base for research on dioxin-related birth defects.

Greatly concerned over air quality, Senator Onorato continues to be involved in negotiations that would help limit the emission of pollutants by power plants. His district in Queens has some of the dirtiest power plants in Queens. Understanding the health impacts on his constituents, Senator Onorato has been a leading proponent for cleaning up the dirty plants.

As an active participant in community affairs, Senator Onorato has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of one of the

most prominent Democratic clubs in New York City, the Taminent Regular Democratic Club. A lifelong resident of Astoria, Senator Onorato is a proud father of three and grandfather of six. He received a Presidential Citation while serving in the United States Army, 118th Medical Battalion from 1950–1952.

Senator Onorato has always proudly sported his Italian heritage, and has promoted and championed good relations between Italy and the United States. He has traveled on numerous occasions to Italy, meeting with numerous dignitaries and businessmen in Tuscany to promote trade and government relations between our two countries.

In recognition of his many outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Senator Onorato.

IN HONOR OF THE ADDITION OF  
SHERIFF JOACHIM MATTHEWS  
TO THE NATIONAL LAW EN-  
FORCEMENT MEMORIAL

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sheriff Joachim Matthews. Sheriff Matthews, who was killed in the line of duty ninety-two years ago this December 1, will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, D.C. today.

Joachim Matthews served Macomb County as Sheriff for nearly four years, from 1906 until his death in 1910. Responding to a report of malicious activity on a farm, Sheriff Matthews was shot by a young man who mistook him for a robber. An investigation into the incident ruled the shooting to be accidental.

Sixty years of age at the time of his death, Sheriff Matthews left behind a wife and five children. Many of his descendants still live in the Mount Clemens area.

It is only fitting that a public servant like Joachim Matthews is recognized on the National Law Enforcement Memorial for his service to the citizens of Macomb County. He paid the ultimate price while fulfilling the duties of his office. Truly, he represents the best ideals of law enforcement: dedication, devotion, and duty.

Sheriff Matthews' name will be added today to the National Law Enforcement Memorial at a candlelight vigil. As he is remembered through this distinction, we should also honor his memory by praying for the safety and security of all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF COMMANDER GARY SCHRAM

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Commander Gary Schram, who served with distinction and dedication during the last year as a Navy Appropriations Liaison Officer in the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's (FM&C) Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to join my colleagues and the members of my Committee on Appropriations in recognizing his excellent work and the professionalism with which he has represented the United States Navy.

Through his work with the members and staff of my committee, and our Subcommittee on Defense, Gary has provided timely and accurate information that has been invaluable to us in making many important decisions about the future structure of the Navy. His areas of responsibility included highly sensitive and timely programs that have been critical to our successful war against terrorism.

Gary recently escorted my Congressional Delegation on a trip to Russia and several other countries. I greatly appreciate the time and effort he spent on this and other trips. His planning and coordination made these trips extremely successful enabling us to visit with numerous foreign dignitaries and U.S. service personnel in Europe in a relatively short amount of time. My colleagues and staff who have enjoyed working with Gary will sorely miss him. We know, however, that Gary is returning to his first love which is flying Navy jets and his next assignment as the Executive Officer of an S-3 squadron in my home state of Florida will be great training for his future job as a squadron Commanding Officer. There is no doubt in my mind that Gary will be a great XO and CO who ensures that his squadron performs safely while remaining ready to deploy and fight if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I wish Gary, his wife Diana, and their son Gary the very best as they relocate to Jacksonville, Florida. This Navy family continues to make many sacrifices to serve our nation and Commander Schram's distinguished and unselfish service exemplifies the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment.

EXPAND ALASKA NATIVE CONTRACTING OF FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to expand Alaska

• 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.

Native contracting of Federal land management functions and activities and to promote hiring of Alaska Natives by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was enacted on December 2, 1980 as Public Law 96-487. Since then, Congress has passed several public laws which have amended ANILCA. The 1980 ANILCA amendments expanded the federal refuge and park systems in Alaska for the purposes of protecting habitat for fish and wildlife, to conserve fish and wildlife populations, and to provide the continued opportunity for subsistence uses by local Alaska Native residents and to protect archaeological sites associated with Alaska Native cultures.

Many rural Alaska native communities are located within close proximity of the refuges and serve an important part of the culture and ways of Alaska natives and other residents in rural Alaska. Congress, through sections 1307 and 1308 of the 1980 ANILCA amendments, directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish programs whereby Alaska natives were to be given preference in hiring, and to establish programs whereby Native lands were given preference for siting of conservation service unit facilities. The provisions also recognized that the Natives whose front and back yards were now part of the federal parks and preserves systems were the best individuals to be involved in the administering of the lands because of their special knowledge or expertise concerning the natural or cultural resources of such areas.

Public Law 106-488 authorized demonstration projects in four areas in northwest Alaska: (1) Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (2) Cape Krusenstern National Monument (3) Kobuk Valley National Park and (4) Noatak National Preserve in fiscal years 2000 and 2001. No demonstration project has been entered in either fiscal years 2000 or 2001 with the above named four areas at the Department of the Interior.

It has been twenty two (22) years since the 1980 ANILCA amendments were enacted, and the contracting and native hires provisions remain unfulfilled by the Department of the Interior. This bill would remedy this by directing the Department of the Interior to enter into demonstration projects with no less than six eligible Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations in fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

This bill is a result of the legislative council of the Alaska Federation of Natives to address the contracting and hiring preference for Alaska native entities pursuant to the 1980 ANILCA amendments.

LINDA AND GEORGE PERNO  
NAMED KIWANIAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Linda and George Perno who are being honored as Kiwanians of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Astoria/Long Island City. Their contributions to the community have touched many lives. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to both of these illustrious community leaders.

Linda and George Perno started their business, Lincolne Lithograph, in 1975. True partners in business and in life, they are both deeply involved in community activities. Born and raised in Astoria, Queens, Ms. Perno's passion for community service started when she was an office volunteer at her son's kindergarten. Ms. Perno is a current Board Member and Past President of the Astoria Civic Association. She also sits on its Scholarship Committee, and Chairs the Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance which draws over four hundred people annually.

Ms. Perno was recently voted President Elect of Astoria Long Island City Kiwanis. She has been a board member of Community Board 1 for the past ten years, and is currently the Chairperson of Education. She was also appointed to the Board of Directors of SHAREing & CAREing, a support group for breast cancer survivors in western Queens, and is the Chairperson of Fundraising. Ms. Perno strength in education and youth make her a partner in SHAREing & CAREing's educational and youth outreach program. Ms. Perno serves as President of the Broadway-Astoria Merchants & Professionals Association.

Mr. Perno also joined the fight against breast cancer and provided his input in designing all of SHAREing & CAREing's printed matter.

Mr. Perno is a member of the Board of Directors of Astoria Civic Association and is currently a Vice President. He is Sergeant-at-Arms for the Astoria/Long Island City Kiwanis and is a thirty-five year member and a Past Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Spellman & Colon Councils.

Mr. and Mrs. Perno are the proud parents of two and the grandparents of three. In 2001, they sponsored their grandson's baseball team for Elmjack Little League.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda and George Perno as Kiwanians of the Year. The Pernos' dedication to our community serves as a model of commitment to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE ADDITION OF  
DEPUTY SHERIFF CLARENCE  
LACROIX TO THE NATIONAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Deputy Sheriff Clarence LaCroix. Deputy LaCroix, who was killed in the line of duty seventy-seven years ago this August 25, was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, D.C. today.

Deputy LaCroix served Macomb County as Deputy Sheriff on motorcycle patrol for a short time before his death. While riding on duty, Deputy LaCroix's motorcycle was brushed by an automobile that turned in front of him. Both motorcycle and rider were thrown into a ditch, killing Deputy LaCroix. An investigation into the matter ruled the incident to be accidental.

Just twenty-nine years of age at the time of his death, Deputy LaCroix left behind a wife

and two small children. Some of his descendants still live in the St. Clair Shores area.

It is only fitting that a public servant like Clarence LaCroix is recognized on the National Law Enforcement Memorial for his service to the citizens of Macomb County. He paid the ultimate price while fulfilling the duties of his office. Truly, he represents the best ideals of law enforcement: dedication, devotion, and duty.

Deputy LaCroix's name will be added today to the National Law Enforcement Memorial at a candlelight vigil. As he is remembered through this distinction, we should also honor his memory by praying for the safety and security of all men and women in law enforcement.

HONORING THE WOODBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Woodbridge community in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Woodbridge Senior Center. As the center for senior activities, the Woodbridge Senior Center has become a landmark in our community.

With the establishment of a local Commission on Aging in 1977, there was an assessment of the needs of the elderly in Woodbridge. Almost immediately, the Commission found that there was a lack of space for a place for seniors to gather. Under the remarkable leadership of Patricia Gilbert and the founding members, the Commission on Aging successfully negotiated for space at Center School, adopted a budget, completed a needs assessment survey, formulated policies, opened the lounge and office, developed a volunteer transportation service and established several programs—all within nine months.

In the years since its inception, the Woodbridge Senior Center has developed a very unique relationship with the community. Through the Woodbridge Awareness to Crime and Home Safety (WATCH) Council, the Senior Center and the Woodbridge Police Department joined together to develop programming aimed at reducing fear of crime and improving the quality of life for seniors. Each year, the Senior Center sponsors an afternoon tea at which they honor the many volunteers who assist them throughout the year. Working with the town officials, the Senior Center was able to secure a handicapped accessible van which provides transportation to the senior and disabled community. These are only a few of the many outstanding programs the Center has offered to Woodbridge seniors.

Our seniors deserve to have a place in each of our communities where they can socialize as well as access much needed programs. In the quarter of a century since the Senior Center was established, the efforts of the staff and volunteers has greatly improved the quality of life of Woodbridge Seniors. Providing invaluable programs and services, they have made a real difference in the community as a whole. Even today, the Senior Center continues to

grow and expand—enriching the community and the lives of many seniors.

Today, as they celebrate their 25th anniversary, I am honored to stand and join the Woodbridge community in congratulating the staff and volunteers, past and present, of the Woodbridge Senior Center, on this milestone. Their commitment, dedication, and advocacy has left an indelible mark on our community and I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to them for all of their good work.

HONORING DR. JAMES CLARK

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Clark for his years of service in the educational system. Dr. Clark, who retires this year, has served as the Superintendent of the Joliet Township High Schools since July 1, 1996.

Dr. Clark started his career in Marion, Indiana where he taught speech, drama, and English. He has since taught in Harvey and Lockport High Schools. In 1999 Dr. Clark was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at the Joliet Township High Schools. In 1996, he received the appointment as Superintendent. Dr. Clark is also an Adjunct Instructor at Aurora University and Governors' State University.

Being a generous person, Dr. Clark is also involved with the community. He is active in Rotary, serves as a member of the Joliet Area American Cancer Society Board of Directors, on the Joliet Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board of Directors, as vice-chair of the American Heart Association Heart Walk, and in various professional school administrator organizations.

Dr. Clark and his wife Linda are the proud parents of two sons and one grandson. Dr. Clark is revered throughout the Joliet community. In fact, the City of Joliet declared Monday, May 13, 2002 as "Dr. James H. Clark Day".

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF COMMANDER KARL VAN DEUSEN

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Commander Karl Van Deusen, who has served with distinction and dedication during the last year as a Navy Appropriations Liaison Officer in the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's (FM&C) Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office Commander Van Deusen provided the members and staff of my Committee on Appropriations, and our Subcommittee on Defense, with timely and accurate support regarding Department of the Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped Naval Forces attainable for the defense of our great nation.

In addition to his professional relationship with my Committee, Karl has become like a family member to Beverly, to me, and to my sons. He is a constituent from St. Petersburg, Florida and he has served as a role model for my sons, who he has inspired to pursue careers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Karl is also a recognized hero. He was recently awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his courageous actions immediately following the September 11th attack on the Pentagon. Without regard for his personal safety, Karl time and time again helped bring fellow service members and civilians out of the burning building that terrible day.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Karl Van Deusen is the epitome of a United States Naval Officer. He now embarks on the dream job of any sailor, taking command of a ship and her crew. As he assumes command of the USS *Gonzales*, one of our nation's newest destroyers, I know the many friends he has made in working with the Congress will miss him greatly. Of course, our loss is his new crew's gain, and I am confident that Karl will be a great Captain who will ensure that his ship and crew are ready for whatever lies ahead.

I join with my colleagues today in wishing Commander Van Deusen, his wife, Beth, and their five children, Bonnie, Jon, Margaret, Todd, and Cora the very best in one of the best jobs in the world. This great American family has made many sacrifices during a Navy career in which Karl has distinguished himself with an unselfish service that exemplifies the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment. Clearly Commander Van Deusen is one of the best our nation has to offer and as he departs the Pentagon to return to sea duty, I call upon colleagues to wish Karl and his family every success and "fair winds and following seas" for the captain and crew of the USS *Gonzales*.

MAY 28 REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my remarks is to congratulate, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, the Republic of Azerbaijan on the May 28 Republic Day. After the break-up of the Soviet Union we have all seen Azerbaijan's strife not only to occupy its rightful place in the international community, but, first and foremost, to preserve its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, to promote the energy projects on the Caspian, as well as to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States and the European nations.

Now we consider Azerbaijan to be one of the strongest U.S. allies among the post-Soviet countries. The reforms in Azerbaijan, both economic and political, as well as this nation's role in the international antiterrorist campaign, prove its dedication to the democracy, free market economy, its intention to pursue cooperation, not confrontation.

I extend my congratulations to President Aliyev and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and express my belief that the bilateral relations between our two countries will further develop and strengthen for the well-being of both our peoples, as well as with the purpose of furthering the U.S. interests in the South Caucasus, where Azerbaijan has become a stabilizing force.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGO CATSIMATIDIS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Margo Catsimatidis on the occasion of the 11th Annual Hellenic Times Scholarship Dinner Dance. Ms. Catsimatidis's contributions to the Hellenic community have touched countless lives. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to this illustrious community leader.

Ms. Catsimatidis is Vice-Chairperson and one of the founders of the Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund, which this year will be granting \$150,000 in scholarships to young Greek-American students from across the country. Established in 1990 for the education of Greek-American students, the Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$700,000 to more than 400 students to date.

Ms. Catsimatidis joined the staff of the Hellenic Times in 1979 as head of Advertising and assumed her current position as co-publisher in 1993. In 1984, Ms. Catsimatidis founded MCV Advertising Associates, an advertising agency specializing in retail print advertising whose accounts appear in all major New York City print media. She is also the television spokesperson for Gristede's Supermarkets in New York City.

As a civic leader, Ms. Catsimatidis served as the Coordinator of the annual Columbus Avenue Festival from 1979-1991. The 30 block festival draws a crowd in excess of one million, raising funds for the West Side of Manhattan for various schools and community projects on the West Side of Manhattan. She was also one of the founders and coordinators of the Amsterdam Avenue Festival and is a member of the West Side Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteering much of her time in an effort to better the lives of others, Ms. Catsimatidis is active on numerous committees, serving as Chairperson of the National Alzheimer's Foundation Dinner and Chairperson of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation Dinner. In addition, she serves on the Executive Committee of New York Hospital and the Police Athletic League (PAL), which helps 60,000 underprivileged children every year.

Ms. Catsimatidis and her husband, John, have used their own resources to benefit communities in need and others. Ms. Catsimatidis

and her husband built a computer and science school in Jerusalem. Recognizing that Camp David had no religious sanctuary of its own, they have helped build the first Chapel at Camp David. The couple was also instrumental in building a home for the aged in New York.

A proud resident of Manhattan and mother of two, Ms. Catsimatidis is a member of the Leadership 100 for the Greek Orthodox Church and served as Chairperson of the Children's Luncheon raising funds for cancer-stricken children.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Margo Catsimatidis. Ms. Catsimatidis's spirit and dedication to our community serves as a model of commitment to us all.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK AND THE NURSING HOMES OF THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize today National Nursing Home Week and honor the many great nursing homes located in the 10th Congressional District. This year is the 35th annual year of National Nursing Home Week and the theme is Celebrating the Seasons of Life.

I believe that this theme is indicative of all that the nursing homes of Macomb and St. Clair Counties have to offer. They strive to provide their residents a high quality of life and treat those in need with dignity and respect. The nursing homes of the 10th Congressional District work hard to provide their residents quality care, and I have met with many of those whose lives have been improved by living in nursing homes.

I have seen first hand the importance nursing homes and their staff play in the lives of residents and the families of those residents. It is hard for families when a loved one enters a nursing home, but with a caring and compassionate staff these thoughts are quickly forgotten.

Unfortunately, I have heard first hand about the burdens that Medicare and Medicaid reductions have placed on nursing home facilities. As a nation, we should be doing everything that we can to promote good, long-term care for our citizens, not compromising the care that our parents and grandparents receive. These reductions make it hard for nursing homes to continue providing quality care to those who need it.

During National Nursing Home Week, it is important to remember that our loved ones—our parents and grandparents—deserve the best in their later years. We need to ensure that our nursing homes and their staff have the resources and support to continue to provide quality care for all.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT  
AMENDMENTS OF 2002

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague, Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH of Arizona to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). This bill clarifies Congress's intent with regard to ICWA.

Many of the bill's provisions are included in direct response to tribal comments on H.R. 2644, an ICWA bill I introduced last year in response to tribal concerns. H.R. 2644 was drafted with the input of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Tanana Chiefs Conference, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Congress of American Indians, the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, various tribes and other concerned organizations. The changes that the present bill makes to H.R. 2644 also reflect input from each of these named organizations, although the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys has not had the opportunity to review a number of these.

It has been my policy to have all affected parties participate in the legislative process to help finalize a bill for passage. With this in mind, it is my intent to include the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys later in the legislative process.

In 2002, we still have American Indian and Alaska Native children being adopted out of families, tribal communities and states. We continue to have this problem in Alaska and I have been asked to introduce amendments to further clarify the ICWA. The amendments include, among others, the following provisions:

Requires detailed notice to Indian tribes in all voluntary child custody proceedings and to parents and tribes in all involuntary proceedings.

Clarifies right of Indian tribes to intervene in all voluntary state court child custody proceedings, provided that the tribe files a notice of intent to intervene or a written objection within 45 days of receiving notice of a voluntary termination of parental rights or within 100 days of receiving notice of a particular adoptive placement, and certifies that a child is a member or eligible for membership at the time of its intervention.

Requires notice to extended family members and recognizes their right to intervene in state child custody proceedings.

Requires attorneys, public and private agencies to provide detailed information to Indian parents of their rights under ICWA.

Limits parents' rights to withdraw consent to an adoption to 6 months after relinquishment of the child or 30 days after the filing of an adoption petition, whichever is later.

Clarifies tribal jurisdiction in Alaska.

Facilitates ability of tribes without reservations, including tribes in Alaska and Oklahoma, or with disestablished reservations to assume jurisdiction over child custody proceedings.

Narrows the grounds upon which state courts can refuse to transfer cases to tribal courts.

Clarifies tribal court authority to declare children wards of the tribal court.

Defines the circumstances under which state ICWA violations may be reviewed by federal courts and provides for federal review of state ICWA compliance.

Provides for criminal sanctions for anyone who assists a person to lie about their Indian ancestry for the purposes of applying the ICWA.

Allows state courts to enter enforceable orders providing for visitation or contact between tribes, natural parents, extended family and an adopted child.

Extends ICWA to cover children of state-recognized Indian tribes (in some cases), and children who reside or are domiciled on a reservation and are the child or grandchildren of a member, but who are not eligible for tribal membership.

Makes it easier for adoptees to gain access to their birth records.

I think it is appropriate that Congress further clarifies the ICWA to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Native children are not snatched from their families or tribal communities without cause. In July of 2001, the Child Welfare League of America offered American Indians something they have longed to hear for more than three decades: an apology for taking American Indian children.

"It was genuinely believed that Indian children were better off in white homes," said Terry Cross, Executive Director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association. (San Antonio Express News, Sunday, July 1, 2001 Article).

That changed in 1978 when Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act. Even now, Cross cites problems. "Sometimes social workers are not properly trained to identify children as Indian. Or agencies fail to notify tribes of adoptions." (San Antonio Express News, Sunday, July 1, 2001 Article).

I believe these FY 2002 ICWA amendments to be acceptable legislation which will protect the interests of prospective adoptive parents, Native extended families, and most importantly, American Indian and Alaska Native children.

The Committee on Resources will seek additional input from the Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services. I am hopeful that these agencies will again embrace this legislation so that we can affirm this country's commitment to Protect Native American families and promote the best interest of Native children.

I urge and welcome support from my colleagues in further clarifying the ICWA to ensure no more American Indian or Alaska Native children are lost.

HONORING PATRICIA MCKEE OF  
WACO, TX

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, Tuesday, May 14, 2002, the people of Waco and Central Texas will gather to celebrate a 44-year association that has enriched the lives of people and improved the lives and futures of young men and women.

Patricia McKee became a Camp Fire volunteer in 1958, when her daughter, was a Bluebird. Pat continued as a volunteer for twelve

years, and then in 1970, became Executive Director of the Camp Fire USA's seven-county Tejas Council.

What followed was thirty-two years of energetic service and determined leadership in her community. Pat began by conducting a community needs survey to find ways that Camp Fire could help. She established an after-school program that continues today and is now on seven campuses of the Waco Independent School District. Camp Fire has offered parenting education, conflict resolution seminars, nutritional courses and money management classes at three of the city's public housing developments. And, in 1977, the Camp Fire Activity Center opened to provide a safe place for children to go after school.

Mr. Speaker, during her tenure, Pat McKee has established partnerships with more than forty community agencies to develop programs that help young people grow into productive, contributing members of society.

She has been recognized with national Camp Fire USA awards for such innovative programs as Kids Care, Teen Leadership Waco, Teen Volunteers Center, Life Enrichment Programs and Campus Camp. Those remarkable achievements on behalf of others have not gone unnoticed elsewhere. Former Governor Ann Richards recognized Pat with the Yellow Rose of Texas Award. She is a recipient of the Community Builder Award from the Masonic Grand Lodge, and the Pathfinders Award from YWCA.

Now, after forty-four years of service, Pat has retired to rest and travel with her husband, Goodson, although everyone who knows her is certain that she will be volunteering her time to some nonprofit organization very soon.

Mr. Speaker, Pat McKee's life has defined service to others. While the Waco community is sad to see her retire, we are, at the same time, delighted for her. And, most importantly, we are all better people for having known her.

JOHN S. LAWS INSTITUTE  
GRADUATION

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I join the community of Worcester, Massachusetts in celebrating the graduation of ten young adults from the Dynamy John S. Laws Institute. I would like to recognize the graduates: Lieu Chau, Jason Dobson, Samir Gandulla, Jamie Glenn, Melisa Jaquez, Ryan Novack, Jorid Topi, William Torres, Tram Trang and Jovon Turner.

The John S. Laws Institute was created over a decade ago in 1989 to aid talented low-income and culturally diverse students in the Worcester Public School System. The John S. Laws Institute is a four-year after school program designed to give students the tools they need to complete high school and succeed in college. As part of the program students take part in internships, leadership training, community service and other skill and character building exercises. Students who graduate from the institute are eligible for full scholarships from the Colleges of the Worcester Consortium. Ninety-eight percent of graduates

from the John S. Laws Institute are accepted into college.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young adults for taking an active role in improving their education and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

GEORGE NAPOLITANO NAMED  
"MAN OF THE YEAR"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to George Napolitano, who will be honored as "Man of the Year" at the Holy Name Society Immaculate Conception Parish 10th Annual Dinner Dance. Mr. Napolitano is one of the nicest people I have ever worked with. His understated manner and sincerity make him enormously well-liked in the community.

George Napolitano was born and raised in the Little Italy section of New York City. He attended St. Patrick's Old Cathedral School and All Hallows High School before attending St. John's University.

Following his study at St. John's, Mr. Napolitano began his career in the financial sector. In 1960, however, he left the career he had begun on Wall Street to serve his country in the military. Stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama he was placed in charge of the Officers Payroll Department. He also coached the base's Little League team to a State Championship. Mr. Napolitano was granted an honorable discharge as Sergeant and completed an additional four years reserve training.

After his service, Mr. Napolitano returned to his career in the private sector working again in the financial district before beginning a career in real estate and insurance. Shortly thereafter he also began his career in politics. He worked as a legislative aide to Assemblyman Denis J. Butler for ten years. He currently runs my Queen office, and I am proud to have George Napolitano as a member of my staff.

Mr. Napolitano has made a lifelong commitment to community service. He is a member of the Tri-State Italian American Congress, a charter member of the Sons of Italy in Manhattan and a charter member of the Knights of Columbus where he was instrumental in coordinating the Youth Program. He is Treasurer of the Powhatan Democratic Club and Chairman of the Parents' Association of St. Vincent Ferrer High School. For his work as a Lector and Eucharist Minister and his commitment to the Holy Name Society he has been honored by the Brooklyn Diocesan Union. During his tenure as President of the Holy Name Society, the organization experienced unprecedented growth. Furthermore, he has co-chaired all ten Holy Name Society dinner dances which have raised funds for grants for graduating students. His hard work and self-less dedication has made a difference in the lives of many young people and community members.

Along with his many other commitments, Mr. Napolitano also operates his own real estate and insurance business in Queens, New York, where he lives with his wife, Carol, and their two daughters, Deana and Denise. He also has another daughter, Catherine, a son, Robert, and three lovely grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, for his many accomplishments and contributions I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting George Napolitano. He exemplifies the fine American tradition of voluntarism.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA ON THEIR 90TH ANNI-  
VERSARY AND PAYING TRIBUTE  
TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2002  
GOLD AWARDS

**HON. ROSA L. DELAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Connecticut's Girl Scouts, and troops nationwide, as they celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America and the presentation of the Girl Scouts highest honor, the Gold Award. This tremendous organization has provided a unique and important experience to millions of young women in America and abroad.

In 1912 a group of eighteen girls assembled and, with a idea well before its socially acceptable time, Juliette Gordon Law called to order the first meeting of what has grown to become one of the most well-known and respected organizations for girls in the world. Today, the Girl Scouts can boast of a membership of just under four million young girls and adults.

The Girl Scouts organization promotes an important message for young women: that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Girl scouting empowers our young women to realize their full potential while making a contribution to our communities. The variety of activities and programs that they participate in teach them invaluable life lessons—lessons that they will carry with them into their adult and professional lives. Reaching beyond socioeconomic and geographic barriers, the Girl Scouts of America have touched the lives of millions of young women—many some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. The self-confidence and determination that all Girl Scouts develop is truly invaluable.

Perhaps the most important idea that these young women take away from their girl scouting experience is the value in serving their communities. Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of those who volunteer their time and energy to its enrichment. I am always amazed at the consistency of the stories I read of our local troops actively involved in reshaping the many towns and cities of my congressional district. Whether volunteering to raise funds for a new playground or becoming mentors for other young girls, they have a direct and positive impact on our community—one of which they should all be very proud.

The Gold Award is the highest distinction earned by a Girl Scout and each of those honored today should be proud of their accomplishments. These young women have demonstrated a strong commitment to their communities through the service programs in which they have participated. This recognition reflects their hard work and dedication to the Girl Scouts and to improving the lives of their friends and neighbors.

The Girl Scouts of America have left an indelible mark on our nation as well as across

the globe. For 90 years, the Girl Scouts have given our communities an invaluable resource for young girls. I am proud to join today in expressing my sincere congratulations to them on this incredible milestone as well as to all of those who will be honored with the Gold Award.

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HONORING SEVEN ACRES JEWISH  
SENIOR CARE SERVICES

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services, which celebrated the Sara Feldt Memorial Annual Older American's Day on May 12, 2002, in recognition of Older American's Month. This event pays tribute to those in our aging population that play a vital role in our communities. Many expend countless hours on behalf of hospitals, schools and philanthropic organizations.

Seven Acres began in 1943, when a small, determined group of men and women of the Jewish faith purchased a frame house on Branard Street in Houston. Their vision was to create a warm, friendly Jewish environment for fourteen elderly citizens. As the concept and the need grew, there were milestone expansions. In 1954, a new facility, with broader capabilities, was built on Chimney Rock Road, initially serving 31 and eventually accommodating 98 residents. During the 1970s, planning began for a new and innovative facility. In 1998, a major renovation created today's modern campus and was dedicated to the mission of "Honoring thy Father and thy Mother." Throughout its history, Seven Acres has promoted a sense of satisfaction with life, so that the humanity, dignity, independence, and strengths of each resident are realized to the fullest.

Older Americans Month presents us with the opportunity to draw attention to the remarkable longevity of our population and to the challenges and opportunities which will accompany population aging in the next millennium. This month highlights the fact that many of us are living longer, fuller, more satisfying lives and that we are growing stronger in the process. Seven Acres prides itself on recognizing that aging can and should be a positive experience, and that we can take charge as we prepare for our own longevity, regardless of our age today.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when America is aging and our parents are growing older, it is imperative that facilities like Seven Acres continue to provide the highest quality of care for our aging community. Our elderly are our foundation and a great source of talent and inspiration. I commend them for their good works and Seven Acres for its great contributions to the Houston community.

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak on the Edwards amendment to the DOD Authorization bill, restoring \$30 million to a nonproliferation program included in the President's Budget and designed to provide an alternative to Russian reactors that generate weapons-grade nuclear materials. This amendment was unfortunately ruled not to be in order.

The Defense Authorization Act, as currently proposed, cuts by \$30 million this critical national security work. If this \$30 million is not restored in full, it would mean at least a one year delay in shutting down these plutonium production reactors, which translates into 1.5 additional tons of weapons grade plutonium that will be produced by Russia, which is equivalent to nearly 200 nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman, the demise of the Soviet empire ushered in a new post-Cold War period with unclear and unidentifiable threats and a new and very real sense of urgency, instability and insecurity.

During the Cold War, the enemy was clear and identifiable. Regrettably, that is not the case today. In addition to the traditional nuclear weapons proliferators such as North Korea, Pakistan, and China, countries such as Libya, Iran, Iraq, and stateless terrorist organizations such as Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, are out there and are actively in search of their next deal on nuclear weapons technology and components. It is this latter type of threat—the unclear, mobile, and not easily identifiable source of threat—that compels us to continue and increase our efforts to secure Russia's nuclear weapons and materials.

In the past 11 years, while much as been done to dismantle Russia's and the former Soviet Republics' nuclear weapons, the dangers persist, and in some cases have increased. In a January 2001 report to the DOE, former Senator Howard Baker and Lloyd Cutler called the proliferation risks created by nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union the "greatest unmet national security need" for the United States."

In a speech at the National Press Club on March 29, 2001, former Senator Sam Nunn addressed the need to continue to build upon existing programs such as the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, when he said, "As we enter the second decade of the post-Cold War world. . .the most significant, clear and present danger to the national security of the United States is the threat posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Nothing else comes close. The public perception of the threat is low; the reality of the threat is high. There is a dan-

gerous gap between the threat and our response. To close this gap, we must make a fundamental shift in the way we think about nuclear weapons, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and our national security.

The world has changed, and with it so too have the threats. We cannot afford to cut back on such worthwhile programs. We cannot ignore or minimize these very real threats.

Significant progress has been made thus far through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program and various State Department and DOE programs. There is still much work to be done. Efforts to defund or reduce these vital programs are detrimental to our ability to protect Americans against the very real threat from weapons of mass destruction. The President's request and Congressman EDWARD's amendment to fund a critical program in Russia was a step in the right direction.

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SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 392, expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism.

The United States Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel, a front-line state in the war against terrorism, as it takes necessary steps to provide security to its people. The United States and Israel are engaged in a common battle against terrorist groups who threaten our countries. Israel must fight against terror just as the United States must fight and destroy al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

At a time when much of the world turns its back on Palestinian terrorism and condemns Israel for exercising its right of self defense, the U.S. Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel. The ongoing wave of terror threatens the survival of Israel as a free, democratic and civilized society, and risks engulfing the entire Middle East in chaos and war. Israel also needs additional resources to meet these new threats, it must be able to protect its people from the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

H. Res. 392 reaffirms our support for Israel's right to defend itself; supports additional U.S. assistance to help Israel defend itself; acknowledges Israel's role as a front-line state in the war against terrorism; condemns the campaign of suicide bombings and terror coordinated by Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, and demands that they fulfill their commitments by once and for all dismantling the terrorist infrastructure.

I urge all parties in the region to pursue vigorous efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, there are three simple reasons why Congress should support H.R. 4546. America is at War.

We must accept the fact that terrorist groups like al-Qaeda have one goal and that is to destroy America and our way of life.

As such, we must protect ourselves aggressively. More importantly, we must support our President in his efforts to root out the terrorists.

Our troops must continue to receive excellent training, but that alone won't ensure victory. We have to equip our troops with the most advanced equipment available. This legislation helps to do just that.

The programs funded in the bill are helping to win the war on terrorism. We have funded initiatives that the men and women on the front lines say work.

For example, the bill fully funds Global Hawk—This is something the good people in my district know something about.

I know how important this program is to our national security. But don't take my word for it. Listen to the people leading the fight in Operation Enduring Freedom: Theatre Commander General Tommy Franks called Global Hawk "invaluable". Air Component Commander, General Mosley said "I could use a dozen Global Hawks right now."

While the legislation has funded a number of significant program needs, we also understand that those systems are useless without the brave men and women that operate them. As the men and women of the armed services fight for our freedom, we must fight for their families. We can say we value our troops and the sacrifices they make all day long, but those words mean absolutely nothing if not backed by action. After years of neglect, we finally have an administration dedicated to supporting our military and their families.

This administration and this congress have taken steps to finally give the military the support that they deserve. By including a 4.1 percent pay raise, this legislation shows our troops that we value them and their sacrifices.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased that this legislation bears the name of my friend and colleague BOB STUMP. It is truly a deserving recognition and I certainly urge my colleagues to support it as well.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 127, H.R. 2911, Des-

ignating the Federal Building located at 5100 Paint Branch Parkway in College Park, Maryland, as the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 404. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 128, H. Con. Res. 271, Expressing the Sense of Congress Supporting the National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 129, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 414, Providing for the disposition of H.J. Res. 84, Disapproval of the Actions taken by the President Under Sec. 203 of the Trade Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 130, on H. Res. 414, Providing for the disposition of H.J. Res. 84, Disapproval of the Actions taken by the President Under Sec. 203 of the Trade Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 131, on Agreeing to the Senate Amendments on H.R. 3525, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 133, H.R. Res. 87, the Yucca Mountain Repository Site Approval Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

#### IN HONOR OF THE SANFORD MERIDIAN CLASS OF 2002

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Sanford Meridian High School Class of 2002, which, "adopted" Pentagon survivor Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell.

I applaud the 93 students whose compassion and initiative stirred them to action following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Their decision to "adopt" a Pentagon survivor is highly commendable. After months of hard work and dedication, the students raised over \$14,000 for Pentagon survivor Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who will use the money for a college scholarship fund for his son Matthew.

Through the students' acts of kindness and compassion, the members of the Meridian High School Class of 2002 have proven to be true role models for their community. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I am proud to congratulate the Meridian High School Class of 2002 for their admirable efforts.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during rollcall No. 131 my voting card did not register my "yea" vote. Instead, I was recorded as "not voting." I ask that this state-

ment be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING  
WORK BY PARTICIPANTS IN STU-  
DENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN  
MEETING AT UNIVERSITY OF  
VERMONT

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I respectfully request that the following testimonials be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### REGARDING JUVENILE JUSTICE

(By Sean Fontaine, Krystal Turnbaugh, and James Nichols)

SEAN FONTAINE. Hi. I am going to begin. My name is Sean Fontaine. This is Krystal Turnbaugh and James Nichols. We all represent YouthBuild, and we're all members of the policy committee.

We come here today to discuss juvenile justice, the idea of what ongoing problems in the community with juvenile offenders, usually in age brackets of 16- to 17-year-olds, and how it affects the community in terms of positive reinforcement and what we need to do for programs to financially fund these reinforcement types of things.

I got some notes here somewhere.

I'm just going to start with a brief summary. But I'm speaking on behalf of juvenile offenders on the juvenile justice system. We all know the community is just as responsible for the upbringing of these delinquents as they are themselves. Most people fear the youth of America, and it is not a surprise. There are 2.4 million 16- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. that live low-income lifestyles. 360,000 of them are in prison. There are only 300,000 job-training openings among the 2.4 million students, which means that there are a lot of kids running rampant with no positive reinforcement and nothing to do.

There is a very few amount of people that are not involved in the community, because a community involves everybody, even though delinquents are the weakest links, I guess. But in 1997 alone, drug-law violations increased 125 percent, and I'm sure crime has a lot to do with drug use. Drug use is definitely an ongoing problem in my community, and that's something that we definitely need help with. We need more money for youth programs to support drug-free environments, recreational facilities, and low-income housing programs like YouthBuild that promote positive reinforcement and good life styles and living situations.

The biggest problem with juvenile cases today, I believe, is the system that's handling with them. I don't believe it is right to throw kids in jail. We need to improve conditions in SRS today. I attended a meeting, there was a partnership in service, with Dave Martin, the director of SRS. According to him, the caseloads are just unmanageable for their caseworkers, and they're completely understaffed, underpaid, and overwhelmed,

which leads kids to believe that no one cares about them, especially in the system of social rehabilitation services.

YouthBuild honors community. YouthBuild has just made unparalleled contributions to its community, and the residents are proud of its participants. And it's one of the many programs. There are 250-something YouthBuilds nationwide, and there is a proposal for more money. We are in the process of doing a HUD grant to get more money for those programs.

I know, from my experiences, it is unlike any program I have been in, in terms of juvenile offenders, and that is why I speak about this as I do. I know that the system that deals with juvenile offenders is basically a "first-come, first-serve" basis, that you need to be referred to by programs like Spectrum or the Department of Corrections.

Now, for kids that would like to intervene on negative pathways, we need to have programs available for kids to want to enroll for themselves, alternative programs in jail. Instead of, like, CSE is a program and Pathways is a program in jail for sexual offenders and drug addicts. There should be a way to intervene and have other programs available for kids that just need positive reinforcement. These programs can't just possibly apply to everybody's need areas.

But more importantly, people need to listen. Problems exist everywhere, and we see them and we try to solve them. Our current juvenile system doesn't respect individual cases. It is merely paperwork and statistics, seemingly. These conditions need to improve. I know it cannot be done in a six-minute segment, a six-year or a 600-year projection. The important thing here today is the acknowledgement of these problems and spreading of awareness to parents who are trying to raise these troubled teens.

#### REGARDING CREDIT CARDS

(By Kelly Green)

KELLY GREEN. I would like to begin by asking if the people who plan on attending college would raise their hand.

Thank you.

How many of you have a credit card at this time?

Thanks.

Two-thirds of you that raised your hand for going to college will have a credit card while you are there, according to Keeping an Eye on Junior's College Habits by Terry Savage. That is completely normal. The unimaginable part is, the average undergraduate will leave college about \$12,000 in credit card debt. This is due to the fact that the average unpaid balance left on a credit card is \$2,200. You most likely won't just own only one credit card either. The average number is three cards.

As a high school junior with college in my near future, these statistics scare me. Not only am I paying more than double what my parents did, but I also now have to worry about a credit card company luring me into a trap that could take away my future. According to chapter one of Paying for Your Child's College Education by Margaret Smith, a year at Harvard in the 1970s was barely \$5,000. And between 1995 to '96, the freshmen had to come up with \$27,575. And today, on average, a year in a public college costs about \$6,824, and in a private college costs about \$17,630.

As you can see, college costs have risen drastically over the years, due to more and more students attending. The median income of families in America who have college-age children has nearly tripled. Today only 30 percent of the public college costs is paid by a family's income. The rest is coming from loans and grants. These loans have to be paid off somehow, and what better way

than a credit card or two, or that is what the credit card companies lead to you think.

According to a Salliemae Financial Advice Internet site, a \$2,000 tuition bill on a credit card with 18.5 percent APR, with only a minimum payment of \$20 each month, will take eleven years to pay off, plus you will pay over \$1,900 in interest on top of the initial \$2,000. In the end, you will be paying around \$3,900 total. I don't know about you, but I can't come up with that much money all the time. Credit card companies know that. They aren't stupid. But they also know, one way or another, they will have the money in the end, even at the cost of your future.

Could you imagine being 19 years old, a sophomore in college, and filing bankruptcy because you owe a company \$23,000? This is a true statement according to the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. This sophomore isn't alone either. In 1999, 100,000 Americans under the age of 25 declared bankruptcy. As you can see, I am not the first person to bring this issue up. The legislature, too, has discussed this issue.

In this day and age, more and more young people like myself are being forced into bad credit ratings, without even starting a full-time job. We will be forced to live with this slander on our name for years after. It will affect our ability to buy a house, car, and, depending on our field of interest, starting a business will be almost impossible.

Credit ratings follow you for the rest of your life. Young people like me and many others shouldn't have to file bankruptcy so young, or be haunted by bad credit ratings. We have our whole lives ahead of us.

Things can change, and should. I strongly suggest that we take the time to make change happen. We can't eliminate all debt and credit problems, but we can lower them. High schools today don't offer much for money management classes. Freshman in college are going in blind to what these companies are doing. The school should be required, at some point in the senior year of high school, to educate us about what is happening and how to manage money so we can protect ourselves from such debt.

Another problem that is influencing the debt is guidance counselors. They are pressuring college on to students who don't want to attend. So when they get to college, they end up dropping out, and are stuck with the costs. And that, in itself, is causing higher tuition and more debt. I'm not saying that guidance counselors should stop promoting college, but should not make students feel forced to attend. This way, in the end, it will be worthwhile for them.

The credit card company should keep the amount an individual can put on a card low, instead of letting us dig ourselves a hole we can't get out of. John Simpson, of the University of Indiana, stated, "Credit cards are a terrible thing." I strongly agree. College students shouldn't be forced to ruin their lives by the bright, ludicrous ideas credit card companies are putting into their head.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, Mr. Sanders, for allowing teens like me an opportunity to have a voice on issues that affect us now or will in the near future.

#### TRIBUTE TO CANDICE NEAL OF EVA, ALABAMA

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Candice Neal, winner of the

American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Miss Neal is the first Alabamian to win this contest since it began 65 years ago.

In her speech, Miss Neal demonstrated incredible patriotism and a strong understanding of the United States Constitution. With the winning prize of a four-year scholarship, she will enroll in the University of Alabama this fall.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I submit Candice Neal's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### THE CONSTITUTION: A FANTASTIC JOURNEY

Attention time travelers this is your final boarding call for flight U.S. 1-7-8-7. Congratulations you have selected one of our more popular destinations, The Beginning of American Government. I will be your guide for today's journey back in time. Today, you will experience some of the more dramatic events in our nation's history. Flight 1-7-8-7 is a nonstop flight, back in time, to the creation of the U.S. Constitution. The flight crew has requested that you remain seated with your personal liberties securely fastened. When the captain is certain that you are not in danger she will illuminate the "ratification light" indicating that you may move about the cabin freely. As we prepare for take-off I will remind you that this is a non-smoking flight, and in keeping with today's destination, federal law prohibits the violation of anyone's inalienable rights.

Please look in the seat back pockets in front of you, to review today's agenda. We begin our journey with a basic knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and how it was created. In the second phase of this adventure, you will learn how to responsibly engage in our constitutional rights. And, finally you will discover what it means to become a part of history yourself, by participating in this government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We've been cleared for takeoff, so please direct your attention to the windows on the left side of the cabin. You will note instances in recent history, in which rulers and dictators have taken away people's personal freedoms. There's Kosovo, Bosnia and Tianenmen Square.

Make sure your seat belts are securely fastened. We are about to enter a turbulent time in American History—the defense of democracy—There's Desert Storm, now Pearl Harbor and our final stop, the Revolutionary War. This is where our journey begins . . .

What you might not realize is that the Constitution is actually our third form of government. It was here during the Revolutionary War when our fight for freedom began. The American Colonies were first forced to live under the reign of England. From 1775 until 1783 the American Colonies fought for their independence. Fast forward to 1781. You'll notice that even before the fighting was over, our second form of government, the Articles of the Confederation, was adopted. It is obvious to us now, as time travelers, that these young colonies would require much more structure than the Articles of Confederation had to offer. Here we seek the lack of a central government to levy taxes and enforce laws. We see states minting their own currency and imposing tariffs on out-of-state goods. We see economic depression and political wandering.

We now move forward to 1787, please do not disturb the 55 men who are meeting in this old Philadelphia state house. They are statesmen, patriots, each with their own ideas about how this new government should be organized. Some of them are states' rights advocates. Many of them are federalists. But you will notice that one man stands out in

the crowd. His name is James Madison. And he is presenting the Virginia Plan to his fellow delegates. They will soon refer to the plan as a "political masterstroke," and in the next 5 months, it will serve as the foundation for our Constitution. By 1789, all the states had ratified and approved this new form of government. This unusual document was the first written, national constitutional since ancient times. It was also the first to set up what was called the federal system. Under this system, sovereign power comes from the people, for the good of the people.

The Founders attempted to create a form of government that would be stable, but would also allow for change. You see, in a sense, the Founding Fathers were time travelers too; they were looking to the future, planning ahead, and forming a basic framework to endure for all time. It is a document written for "we the people" and that means that "we the people" have a job to do!

Fast forward to April 1999. An issue of the USA Today Newsview, states that one of the first things that come to mind when Americans are asked what they think about the United States and its government is "freedom." Yet according to current public opinion research fewer than 15% of Americans can name the freedom of the press as one of the rights protected under the First Amendment. And little more than half of Americans know that there are three forms of government. You see, time travelers, with freedom also comes responsibility—the responsibility to understand and defend the Constitution.

James Madison once said, "The people who are the authors of this blessing must also be guardians." Today more than ever before we witness people and organizations testing the bounds of their Constitutional rights. From tabloids that slander high profile figures, to hate groups who use their misunderstanding of free to infringe upon other's inalienable rights, we are constantly called upon to defend and uphold our constitution. Clearly, these types of situations challenge our support and understanding of the constitution, but in the end, they serve only to reinforce our Founding Fathers' cry for responsible citizenry. As such, we must be able to use our privileges responsibly. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "we have a Republic, only if we can keep it!"

And now, as we make our way back to the 21st century, I will remind you that this flight is interactive—meaning it is not enough to simply understand our constitution and to use our rights responsibly. Clearly, this travel back in time has taught us that our duties as citizens also carry the obligation to participate in our government.

Long after our Founding Fathers penned the last words of the Constitution, the amendment process ensured their continued involvement. You will see what I mean, by looking out the windows on the right side of the aircraft: here we see that The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791. In 1865 the 13th amendment abolished slavery and in 1868 the 14th amendment outlined the rights of all citizens. Meeting the changing needs of a growing country, however, had been known to cause slight turbulence in our return flight. Therefore, in the event that we experience any threat to ourselves and our posterity any one of the 26 amendments, will drop from the overhead compartments to ensure our domestic tranquility.

The amendment process is not the only way we as citizens can participate in our government. What we have witnessed today should force us out of complacency and self-centeredness and put us in touch with a bigger reality. Robert Kennedy made it popular, but George Bernard Shaw said it long ago: "Some people see things as they are and ask

'Why?' I prefer to see things as they might be, and ask 'Why not?'" That is what the framers of our constitution had in mind so long ago. Our participation in that process in the 21st Century is essential to ensure that the Constitution continues to withstand the many and varied assaults from those who criticize it, misinterpret it, or challenge it.

We can begin participating in small ways such as reading a daily newspaper or weekly newsmagazine. What we will begin to notice is that it will become a habit, and we will start participating in bigger things as writing letters to public officials, investigating the qualifications of political candidates, exercising our right to vote, and attending meetings where important local, regional, and national issues are being discussed and deliberated. So you see, even in little ways, we must take a more active role in the government—that, time travelers, is the real journey!

Our Founding Fathers, in the words of Justice Hugo Black, "... dreamed of a country where the mind and spirit of man would be free; where there would be no limits to inquiry; where men would be free to explore the unknown and to challenge the most deeply rooted beliefs and principles..."

Today, on flight U.S. 1-7-8-7, we have traveled back in time to the formation of The Constitution of the United States. Our itinerary included a basic knowledge and understanding of the constitution; an appeal to engage in our constitutional rights responsibly; and finally, a call to participate in our government.

Here in the 21st Century, the flight crew tells me that we have been cleared for landing. We have people on hand waiting to assist you in your efforts to continue the good work of our Founding Fathers. Remember what you have experienced today is much more than a fantastic journey in to the past, it is a reminder of your responsibility for the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANET C. WOLF

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Janet C. Wolf, who retires on June 1, 2002 after serving as Project Director of the National Park Service's New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route since its inception in 1988.

A new idea for the National Park Service, instead of using traditional ownership, the Trail supports resource protection and awareness by linking destinations owned and managed by others through a series of interpretive theme trails: Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Historic Settlements, and Relaxation and Inspiration. Ms. Wolf shepherded this historic project from concept to reality.

New Jersey's Coastal Heritage Trail includes portions of eight counties and six congressional districts. Almost 70 destinations, welcome centers and local information centers have been designated to date, with two additional themes under development. Janet's experience, determination and creativity enabled the partnerships to prosper. She also worked on developments for the Pinelands National Reserve and two Wild and Scenic Rivers in southern New Jersey.

After 34 years of service with the National Park Service, half of which has been devoted

to the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Janet retires with the gratitude of the community for her commitment to the implementation of one of our state's most treasured resources, our Coastal Heritage Trail.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY KONRAD

### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Konrad for her philanthropic deeds to this country and to her community.

Mary was one of the first women in her era to leave home to attend college. While enrolled at University of Illinois, she worked for a local doctor to pay her way through school. When World War II started, Mary decided she would help the war effort by working in a defense plant making bombs. Her work entailed lifting shells several hours a day. She finished college and graduated with a degree in sociology.

Following graduation, Mary moved out west and settled in California, becoming a social worker for the Red Cross. Her successful job ethics and determination earned her the "Red Cross Social Worker of the Year" award. After moving back to Chicago, she continued devoting her time to the Red Cross on weekends.

After raising two fine children, she and her husband moved to my district in Clearwater, Florida where she became active in a number of philanthropic ventures. She helped fund and start the program "Children in the 'D'Zone" for diabetic children at Morton Plant Hospital. She knew first-hand the trials and tribulations of raising a diabetic child and wanted to help others. In addition to this venture, she has supported many other programs at Morton Plant Hospital.

At Christmas, Mary helps fund the City of Clearwater's "Christmas Cheer Program" by providing all of the bicycles, helmets and locks for the needy children in the inner-city core. Supporting the arts and introducing children to the joys of the theater is another way she shows her love for those most vulnerable. Each year, Mary provides several scholarships to gifted students. Her support gives needy students an opportunity to attend performances during the year and summer programs at the Performing Arts Center at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Finally, Mary's newest love is the Clearwater AHEPA Home for which she and her husband are dedicating a Hellenic Cultural Library.

It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today for her long and distinguished record in community service and for her tireless efforts to improve the lives of so many children.

#### HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that "everyone can be great because anyone can serve."

I am pleased to rise today to honor six heroic and dedicated men and women who responded to this call of greatness. These six individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others in need by working in the emergency medical and ambulance services profession.

Whenever we face a medical emergency, whether it is a family member, a friend or co-worker, the first thing we do is call for an ambulance. According to some estimates, there are almost 960 million ambulance trips made each year in the United States.

And the first people to respond to these emergencies are the millions of emergency medical professionals whose skills and training significantly improve the survival of the patient. As a result of their selfless acts, these courageous and devoted men and women save the lives of thousands of Americans each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our sincere gratitude.

I am fortunate to have met with a number of medics from Oregon and have heard firsthand accounts of their tireless efforts to serve their communities on a daily basis. They are truly America's health care safety net.

For the past nine years, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) has recognized those emergency, medical and ambulance service professionals who exemplify what is best about their field, and bestow upon them the Stars of Life award. These appropriately designated Stars of Life have been selected by their peers to represent them in Washington, DC as part of pre-National EMS Week activities. The highlight of their visit to our Nation's capital is an awards banquet where they are presented with this prestigious award. The American Ambulance Association is honoring 113 Stars of Life this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that, of these 113 Stars of Life, 6 are from my congressional district in Oregon.

They are: Victor Hoffer, Randy Johnson, Dawn Poetter, Candy Schneider, Frank Wallender, and Bill Wildman.

Our Nation is blessed by people like Victor, Dawn, Randy, Candy, Frank, and Bill who made a decision to devote their lives to helping other people and serving their communities.

I am immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. I hope that they are also beaming with pride in what they have achieved. Oregon is privileged to be protected by such devoted and courageous men and women.

Dr. King reminded us that everyone can be great. These six individuals have lived it.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 24th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 11, 2002. This year the theme of the race will be "Running Against Asthma."

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown and today

continues to be an event of great significance. This year, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. proudly proclaimed May 11, 2002 as "Bronx Community College Hall of Fame 10K Race Day." Each year, amateur and professional runners alike from all five of New York's boroughs and the entire tri-state area come together to run the Bronx. Participants include teams from municipal agencies along with faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College and other nearby schools.

It is indeed one of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events and has contributed to a strong sense of community within the Bronx. The race also places an emphasis of physical fitness and achieving athletic goals. Historically, its mission has been to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great. This year, along with upholding that mission, the race will take on another important function, The 2002 race's theme, "Running Against Asthma" is particularly important to South Bronx residents where the rate of asthma among children is twice the national average. It is wonderful that Bronx Community College is focusing on this important issue and raising awareness.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race since her inauguration and has not only continued the tradition started by Dr. Brown to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education, but has added the raising of awareness of important community issues.

I can recall the high level of energy and community involvement when I ran the Hall of Fame 10K race. The race has attracted well over 400 runners each year and I'm sure this year will see an even larger number of participants. People of all ages and physical ability will be able to take part in the Bronx Community College events on May 11, 2002. Along with the 10K race, there will be a Hall of Fame Excalibur One Mile Boys and Girls Youth Challenge and a 2 Mile Fitness Walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 24th Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

HONORING HERRMANN SPETZLER,  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herrmann Spetzler, Executive Director of Open Door Community Health Centers in Arcata, California, and honor him for his 25 years of service to the health care needs of the people of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Herrmann Spetzler has provided extraordinary leadership in directing the growth of Open Door Community Health Centers. The clinic has grown from a part time clinic staffed by volunteers to a system of eight licensed facilities and medical mobile programs serving more than 35,000 individuals throughout the two counties and specifically in the communities of Crescent City, Smith River, McKinleyville, Arcata and Eureka.

Mr. Spetzler also has provided vision and leadership in the development of collaborations that support the health of rural communities at the local, state and national levels, including the California State Rural Health Association, Community Health Alliance, California Primary Care Association and North Coast Clinics Network.

Mr. Spetzler has earned distinction as President of the Humboldt Child Care Council and founder of the Northern California Rural Round Table for Health Care Providers. He is highly esteemed for his successful efforts to develop high quality facilities to meet community health care needs with a focus on health education, access to care and prevention.

Mr. Spetzler has also served the people of California as Statewide Chair of the Expanded Access to Primary Care Committee. He is a member of the Statewide Primary Care Advisory Group to the State Health Director and a member of the Rural Health Care Forum Advisory Group to the Office of Statewide Health Planning. He is a member of the Advisory Task Force for State Facilities Financing Authority and a Board Member of the California Human Service Organization. Mr. Spetzler is esteemed by his colleagues as a leader and innovator in the field of health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Herrmann Spetzler for his vision, leadership and commitment to healthier communities and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

BBC EXPOSES MILITANT HINDU  
VHP

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the British Broadcasting Company recently ran an expose of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a fundamentalist, militant Hindu nationalist organization. The VHP is an organization, which operates under the umbrella of the pro-Facist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is the parent organization of the ruling BJP.

The BBC notes that the VHP has promoted Hindu supremacy and has engaged in violent acts against minorities. These acts include the murder of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons while they slept in their jeep.

The report states that the VHP, which it identifies as "a hardline Hindu outfit," rarely makes a "distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim 'marauders' of the past." It further reports that "the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP." Moreover, it exposes the VHP's support for a militant Hindus' project to build a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP.

Since the BJP is also part of the RSS umbrella, it is critical to help ensure the rights of minorities in India. Tens of thousands of Sikhs and other minorities have been held in illegal custody as political prisoners for many years. Tens of thousands of minorities have been

killed by the Indian governments regardless of the political party in power. It is time to stop American aid to India and to support self-determination for all the people of South Asia in the form of a plebiscite on independence so that their rights are not subject to the whims of militant Hindu nationalists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the text of the BBC report into the RECORD at this time.

[The British Broadcasting Co., Mar. 8, 2002]

PROFILE: THE VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD

(By Rajyasri Rao)

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) was founded in 1964 by a group of senior leaders from a hard-line Hindu organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), to give Hindus what they believed would be a clearly defined sense of religious identity and political purpose.

HINDU HARDLINERS HAVE GROWN MORE VOCAL

Its founders felt the need to present Hinduism in a rigorous though simplified form which would be comparable to most other world religions.

The superiority of other faiths was believed to stem from their being far less diffuse and more uniform than Hinduism.

But its critics call the VHP a hardline Hindu outfit with unmistakably close ties to its parent organization, the extremist RSS, whose objective to 'Hinduise' the Indian nation, it shares.

Central to the RSS ideology has been the belief that real national unity and progress will come only when India is 'purged' of non-Hindus, or, when members of other communities subordinate themselves 'willingly' to 'Hindu superiority.'

LINKED GROUPS

The VHP has tended to tone down the rhetoric of Hindu supremacy and even make an occasional distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim) 'marauders' of the past.

But the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP.

THE TEMPLE PROJECT ENJOYS A LOT OF SUPPORT

This is also something it shares with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which currently leads the Indian Government at the centre.

Earlier known as the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the BJP was established in 1951 as a political wing of the RSS to counter rising public revulsion after the revered independence figure Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by a former RSS member.

Some commentators say the party came close to obliteration in the 1960s with the Congress led by the charismatic and secular Jawaharlal Nehru, leaving little room for hardline communal politics.

But a political emergency announced by Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, in 1975 enabled the BJS leaders, Atal Behari Vajpayee and LK Advani among them, to gain near stardom after serving brief prison sentences. Many women have joined the hardliners' campaign.

But it didn't really emerge as a political presence until the early 1980s.

A series of events in that decade including the mass conversion of lower-cast Hindus to Islam pushed the BJP's close affiliate, the VHP, to the forefront.

Historians say the VHP-led Hindu right considered the mass conversion of "dalits" or lower-caste Hindus to Islam to be an unforgivable insult.

The dalits, for centuries beholden to the upper castes, outraged Hindu hardliners by daring to convert at all, and moreover, convert to Islam.

The VHP saw this as a serious threat to its notion of Hinduism.

It proceeded to whip up Hindu support for a re-defined communal force, organising a series of religious meetings, cross-country marches and processions through the 1980s.

This phase coincided with the launch of an electoral strategy by the BJP to corner and hold on to the "Hindu" vote.

TEMPLE CONTROVERSY

Following the success of their campaign, senior VHP leaders announced at a religious meeting in 1984 their programme to "liberate" a site in Ayodhya from an ancient mosque to make way for a temple to the Hindu god Ram.

SOME 'MODERATE' HINDU LEADERS SUPPORT

THE VHP

Analysts say this announcement heralded a turning point in the history of the Hindu nationalist movement.

The VHP has since then claimed that the site belongs rightfully to Hindu worshippers who believe that the mosque stood on the birthplace of the god, Lord Ram. Although the claim does not stand up to substantial archaeological or historical scrutiny, the VHP and BJP are seen to have made possible the creation of a shared Hindu symbol that cuts through most divisions in Hindu society.

## IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Hospital Week, a yearly event that focuses public attention on the numerous contributions hospitals make to our communities.

National Hospital Week began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about "shrouded" medical institutions that used "unusual" equipment and procedures.

This year's National Hospital Week theme, "Where Miracles Happen Every Day," recognizes health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals dedicated to making hospitals open to our communities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In my state of Hawaii, the health care workforce was one of the few sectors of the economy that grew in the 1990's. Due to the dramatic growth in this area, one out of every 15 employed Hawaii residents works in the health care industry. The State of Hawaii has 2.5 physicians per 1,000 residents (compared to 2.1 nationally). Unfortunately, the number of nurses declined during the nineties, and they now shoulder an even larger burden as they work to help everyone who must visit our hospitals.

As a result of the hard work by these people, my state has achieved a health status that is the envy of many other states. The State of Hawaii has longer life expectancies, lower rates of cancer, and lower hepatitis rates.

The same dedication to improving the health of our nation can be found at the nearly 6,000

registered hospitals located throughout the United States. In 1999, America's hospitals discharged roughly 35.5 million people. This staggering workload is handled by highly qualified professions and volunteers who have dedicated their lives to helping others.

I fully support National Hospital Week and extend my warmest expression of gratitude to the staff and volunteers who work in our nation's hospitals.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUCILE SUGDEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mrs. Lucile Sugden of Lansing, Michigan, who will be honored on Sunday, June 2, 2002, by South Baptist Church and the Lansing community for her years of service, including 75 years of faithfully serving as a Sunday School teacher.

For 35 years, Mrs. Sugden and her late husband, Dr. Howard Sugden, ministered to the members and community of South Baptist Church in Lansing. During her years of service, Mrs. Sugden's witness has inspired and motivated many Christian families.

Even today, Lucile Sugden, who celebrates her 95th birthday on May 31, 2002, continues to teach a weekly Sunday School class at South Baptist. She also leads a weekly Bible study at her apartment complex.

Described by those who know and love her as a true Woman of God, Mrs. Sugden is a role model for staying active in our golden years. She swims regularly in a local pool and even evangelizes those she meets in the hot tub. She has also been seen each summer in recent years zipping around on a jet ski watercraft on Lake Michigan.

Long before her jet ski days, Lucile Sugden became a dedicated Tiger baseball fan. Twice honored at Tiger games in Detroit, she is fiercely loyal and devoted to her Tigers.

Today, we extend our admiration and respect to Lucile Sugden of Lansing, Michigan. Her life truly reflects the direction of II Timothy 2:15 which tells us: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION BILL

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, September 11 showed us the horrors of this world. But it also showed us the good in human nature. Americans have been incredibly generous with their time and money in response to the terrorist attacks. Numerous charitable organizations were started within hours of the attacks to help the families whose lives were suddenly torn apart. People took time off from work to assist with feeding the emergency rescue crew digging through the rubble. And over \$1 billion dollars has been raised to assist in these efforts.

Yet, since September 11, other important charitable efforts have been suffering from a lack of donations. The Starlight Children's Foundation, for instance, estimates that fundraising was down roughly \$500,000 for the year, which represents a large portion of its annual budget. Numerous other charitable organizations have seen similar reductions in contributions. This decrease in contributions has led to reduced services and even the failure of some organizations.

Moreover, charities are having to rely more on individual donations as businesses curtail their donations. American Airlines, for instance, its business severely affected by the September attacks, announced that it would not be making any charitable contributions this year.

It is imperative that Congress do something to address this growing problem.

Last fall, we debated proposals to stimulate our economy. While I agreed that legislation was needed to stimulate the economy, I was adamant that any proposal balance business interests with those of individual taxpayers. So, with each debate, I went before the Rules Committee proposing an amendment that would allow taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions to deduct their charitable contributions. Not only would this encourage charitable giving, but the tax benefit would help individuals and ultimately could help stimulate the economy. Unfortunately, my amendment was ruled out of order each time.

Today, I am introducing legislation that would allow for such a deduction. Although I was not able to get this included in the economic stimulus bill that passed Congress, I feel strongly that we should turn this proposal into law. We should encourage charitable giving.

My legislation is very similar to the proposal that was enacted in H.R. 7 earlier this year. However, unlike the proposal in H.R. 7, my amendment does not put an arbitrarily low cap on the dollar amount that can be deducted. Instead, it would follow current law for taxpayers who itemize their deductions. Specifically, this means that standard deduction taxpayers can deduct charitable contributions up to 50% of their adjusted gross income.

On April 15, more than 30 million taxpayers who itemized deductions on their tax returns were able to claim tax deductions for any contributions made to their favorite charities. The effect of the deduction was to lower the taxpayer's cost of giving one dollar by amounts ranging from 15 cents to almost 40 cents.

This same benefit should go to the millions of taxpayers who also generously contribute to charities but are not eligible for a charitable deduction because they claimed the standard deduction instead of itemizing deductions on their tax returns.

I am proud that President Bush endorsed my proposal on April 11. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill as well. We have the opportunity to enact legislation that will not only encourage charitable giving but will help stimulate our economy as well.

HONORING HENRY A. ROSENBERG

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr., industrialist, philanthropist, civic leader, proud American and friend.

Henry Rosenberg, Jr. is a Baltimore native. While college studies, business and travel have taken him out of town, he has always returned to his roots—those of his family and his business. As Chairman of the Board of Crown Central Petroleum Corporation and Rosemore, Inc., Mr. Rosenberg has guided his family business. Begun by his grandfather who sold oil from the back of a horse and cart in the streets of Baltimore, Crown Central today is a regional powerhouse operating two refineries and 329 gas stations.

But it is not just corporate and financial success that drives Mr. Rosenberg. He comes from a family that believed civic involvement and philanthropy was important as the petroleum business.

His business success led others to rely on Mr. Rosenberg for leadership. Mr. Rosenberg has served on the boards and/or held officer positions on the Greater Baltimore Committee, Signet Banking Corporation, The Pride of Baltimore, Inc., the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Loyola College, Johns Hopkins Health System, McDonogh School, Hobart College, the National Petroleum Council and the Refiners Association, Villa Julie College, University of Maryland Baltimore County, National Association of Manufacturers, Towson State University, Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, Signal 13 Foundation, Inc., Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, United Way of Central Maryland, Inc., YMCA of Greater Baltimore, Boy Scouts of America, and the University of Baltimore.

Mr. Rosenberg's personal and foundation contributions have touched almost every non-profit organization in Baltimore with primary emphasis on art and culture, education and adult self-sufficiency, health, disease and disability, youth development and community building. In addition to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Center Stage, Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore Chamber Music Society, Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, Sinai Hospital, The Associated Jewish Charities, the Maryland Science Center, the Baltimore Zoo, and the Boy Scouts of America. Most recently, Mr. Rosenberg and his wife Dorothy and their family foundation contributed to the Kennedy Krieger Institute to provide the lead gift to establish a unique behavioral testing laboratory that will be key in the development of new treatment and therapeutic programs.

Mr. Rosenberg has been honored for his philanthropy and board leadership by being named Philanthropist of the Year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arthritis Foundation, the Corporate Champion Award by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Silver Buffalo Award by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and most recently, being inducted into the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame.

It should also be noted that Mr. Rosenberg is a man of athletic talent as well and was inducted into the Hobart College Athletic Hall of Fame where he had been a standout lacrosse player for the then, Division III powerhouse in men's lacrosse. As a result of this lifelong interest, Mr. Rosenberg continues his support of the sport by serving as Director of the Lacrosse Foundation, Inc.

On May 22nd, 2002 Mr. Rosenberg is being honored by The Patriots of Ft. McHenry for his outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and will receive their 2nd Annual Francis Scott Key Award. He serves as Chairman of the National Flag Day Foundation and has been a long time supporter of the Patriots of Fort McHenry and is an Honorary Colonel in the Fort McHenry Guard. For more than 20 years, Mr. Rosenberg has been committed to making the birthplace of the "Star-Spangled Banner" a place of inspiration for all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Henry Rosenberg, Jr. on a life well spent in service to his country and his city of Baltimore.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, On May 9, 2002, I missed Roll Call votes 138 through 158 to attend my daughter's college graduation ceremony. I request that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call votes 142, 154, 155, 156, and 158, and that I would have voted no on Roll Call votes 138—141, 143—154, and 157.

AMENDING PL 96-565, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO ALLOW FOR LAND EXCHANGES OUTSIDE THE STATE OF HAWAII

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which will amend Public Law 96-565, the law that established the Kalaupapa National Historical Park, to remove the restrictions regarding the exchange of lands between the National Park Service and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). PL 96-565 currently does not allow for land trades outside of the State of Hawaii between the two departments.

Amending PL 96-565 will greatly increase the National Park Service's ability to locate and acquire lands to exchange for Hawaiian Home Lands located within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai. Certain lands within the Kalaupapa Park are currently leased by the National Park Service. The best way for the lands within Kalaupapa to be permanently protected from development is to have the federal government acquire the lands.

As a result of the current law, the National Park Service is severely limited in acquiring lands to trade with the DHHL and has not been able to acquire land within Kapaupapa.

The DHHL has recently advised that it is not limited to accepting surplus federal property only within the State of Hawaii. As a result, the Congress should immediately move to amend PL 96-565, and allow the federal government to finally acquire precious lands within Kalaupapa National Historical Park. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF  
GLENDALE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Glendale's 50th Anniversary. I am indeed gratified to have the privilege of representing this outstanding community in the United States Congress. The City of Glendale was incorporated on May 22, 1952 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 18, 2002.

The City of Glendale has grown from a rest stop and watering hole on the major stagecoach route along the Cherry Creek Trail in the 1800s, and has become a city with a rich tradition of hospitality, vitality and amenities for residents and visitors alike; and

It has become a true "urban village," with an ethnically diverse population of 4,527 residents whose heritage's are celebrated as part of Glendale's annual National Night Out festivities; and

Glendale has also become a prominent business center, with approximately 12,000 people employed by the more than 300 businesses occupying nearly 2.2 million square feet of office space in this conveniently located community.

The City of Glendale's 41-member Police Department and 29-member Fire Department safeguard the health and safety of residents, visitors and those employed in the City. Its Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining 35 acres of parks and open space, 6.9 miles of City streets, as well as 25 miles of sidewalk, 1.3 miles of trail, and two bridges spanning Cherry Creek, and operating the City's water treatment facility.

Glendale also offers a variety of recreational activities in two community recreation centers and in conjunction with the Cherry Creek School Districts, sponsors a Head Start program and kindergarten enrichment program at Glendale's Agnes Riddle Education Center.

The Education Center also houses a Computer Lab where residents of all ages learn the latest computer software in free classes taught in both English and Russian. The City of Glendale, in conjunction with the Cherry Creek School District, also offers a free after-school tutoring/homework help program at the Glendale Community Center during the school year.

The Glendale Public Library is well known to the Russian community throughout the metro area, for its comprehensive collection of English and Russian books, newspapers, magazines, videos and other materials, as

well as English as a Second Language classes and citizenship classes.

Mr. Speaker, Glendale residents continue to enjoy the benefits of being part of a vibrant, cosmopolitan community and I am pleased to have the opportunity to salute Glendale on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING  
HOME STAFFING IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 2002

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Nursing Home Staffing Improvement Act of 2002.

In March of this year, HHS provided Congress with the results of a decade-long study on staffing in our nation's nursing homes. HHS researchers concluded that 90% of nursing homes have staffing levels that are too low to provide adequate care. The researchers also identified specific minimum staffing levels that would substantially improve the quality of care received by nursing home residents.

The Bush Administration has chosen not to implement these much needed minimum staffing levels, even going so far as to limit public distribution of the study. In order to ensure that this important research is not ignored, the Nursing Home Staffing Improvement Act of 2002 would establish the minimum nurse staffing levels identified by HHS researchers.

The bill requires that nursing-homes comply with HHS-identified staffing levels for registered nurses, licensed nurses, and certified nurse aides. These staffing levels would require that all nursing home residents receive between 4.1 and 4.85 hours of nursing care each day. The bill increases resources to nursing homes to comply with these staffing levels by reinstating the Boren Amendment and increasing the federal Medicaid match to states for payment of health care services by 1.5%.

There is an urgent need for this bill right now, as demonstrated by the findings of the HHS study and investigative reports issued by the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee. At the request of House members, the Government Reform Committee minority staff has written over 25 reports on nursing home conditions around the country. These reports have found that large numbers of nursing homes are being cited for violations of federal standards relating to pressure sores, preventable accidents, improper medical care, malnutrition, dehydration, and abuse. These reports also have found a clear relationship between more staffing and better care.

The Bush Administration claims that more research is necessary before we can establish minimum staffing standards. We have already had a decade of research from some of the foremost experts in the field. Now is the time for action.

We in Congress have a responsibility to do all we can to protect our nation's seniors. They helped our generation when we needed their help. And now it's our turn—and our obligation—to provide them with the highest quality of care.

ERIE OTTERS WIN THE ONTARIO  
HOCKEY LEAGUE TITLE

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Erie Otters hockey team for their recent triumph over the Barrie Colts in the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series.

On Friday, May 10, Erie center Sean Courtney snapped the series-clinching shot off a Colts defenseman to give the Otters a 2-1 win 14 minutes into the overtime period. The Otters, coached by Dave McQueen, pulled off their first OHL championship by "crushing the Colts" 4 games to 1. Erie's own league-ending playoff scorer, center Corey Pecker, opened the scoring with his 25th goal of the playoffs early in the first period. The Colts, struggling to stay alive in the championship series, tied the game late in the first. The game remained tied until Courtney's clutch game winner in OT. Otters' captain Brad Boyes was later named the OHL playoffs' Wayne Gretzky 99 Most Valuable Player.

The Otters arrived in my hometown of Erie in 1996, and have since featured some of the most dynamic young hockey players in the world. The Ontario Hockey League has produced world superstars like Mario Lemieux, Joe Sakic, Ron Francis, Scott Stevens and Patrick Roy. Friday's win marks the first time that the Otters have won the highly-regarded OHL championship and gives the young Otters an opportunity to battle for the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup. The Memorial Cup is an 84-year-old "final four" tournament that crowns the year's best Junior hockey team in North America. The Otters, combining a steely work ethic and spectacular skill, should be a dominant force at the Memorial Cup tournament. The tournament begins May 18th in Guelph, Ontario. I would like to conclude by congratulating Erie's hockey heroes and by wishing them the best of luck in their quest for the Memorial Cup trophy.

HONORING THE MILPITAS ROTARY  
CLUB FOR 50 YEARS OF EXEM-  
PLARY SERVICE TO THE COMMU-  
NITY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Milpitas Rotary Club on its 50th anniversary. For 50 years now, members of the Milpitas Rotary Club have committed themselves to serving the community, the country, and the world.

The Rotary Club is a major force in the community and significantly improves the lives of children and families in Milpitas by sponsoring Interact Clubs at Milpitas and Calaveras Hills High Schools, granting both academic and technical scholarships, holding community events, and sending high school students to a week-long summer youth leadership training camp.

The Milpitas Rotary Club's tradition of service began with its chartering on June 24,

1952, at a dinner in St. John's Church Hall. Charter officers included President Joseph Gagliardo, Vice President Irving Crabb, Secretary William Barleson, Treasurer Thomas Cardoza, Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Madruga, and Charter Board Members Sal Cracolice, Ben Rodgers, and Clarence Smith.

For years, the club held its meetings on Mondays at noon at the Cozy Kitchen on Main Street in Milpitas. In the 1980's, the Big Yellow House and Calamity Jane's were the meeting sites, until the Holiday Inn Hotel, now the Crowne Plaza Hotel, became the club's home.

An active member of Rotary District 5170, which consists of 55 clubs in Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, the Milpitas Rotary Club's former president, Denny Weisgerber, served as District governor in 1999-2000.

I am proud to recognize the Milpitas Rotary Club on its 50th anniversary. I am confident this club will continue to improve our community, as well as the country and the world, for years to come.

KAZAKHSTAN IS THE STRONGEST  
U.S. ALLY IN CENTRAL ASIA

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan, the largest country in Central Asia, is a relatively new friend of the United States, but they have become staunch allies with strong economic and political ties to America. They work side by side with us in the war against the terrorists, and their commitment to democracy is part of the fiber of their society.

Kazakhstan has been helpful in many ways during the recent fighting in Afghanistan, and today is looking at this neighbor's future.

When the guns fall silent in Afghanistan, the rebuilding of that nation must already be well underway. The Afghans have lost many years of what should have been a civil society. The twin curses of war and famine have spread throughout their land. Now it is time for their neighbors and friends to help rebuild Afghanistan and bring the country fully into the community of nations. A politically stable Afghanistan will not harbor terrorists and will emerge as a partner in the increasingly critical Central Asian region.

Kazakhstan recently played host to the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, who met with the Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev. During the joint press conference Secretary Rumsfeld noted, "We are partners in the global war on terrorism, and we discussed the situation in Afghanistan as well as our common interest in an independent, economically healthy, and secure Afghanistan."

Kazakhstan, with its developing society and emphasis on democracy, is an ideal source of the help the Afghans so badly need. Kazakhstan can be a model for an emerging society and stable economy in Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan has already been providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. Three thousand tons of grain have already made the journey from Astana to Kabul. The U.N. World Food Program has also signed contracts for 100,000 tons of grain at prices well below world market prices. Beyond this,

the government of Kazakhstan is building a database of individuals who have special skills needed for the rebuilding of Afghanistan and have volunteered to help. You might call it a "Central Asian Peace Corps." Ironically, many of these volunteers have personal experience in Afghanistan where they served as unwilling draftees in the Soviet Army.

These activities, at both the government and the individual volunteer level speak volumes about the similarities between Americans and Kazakhs. Both respond quickly to a neighbor's need.

The pluralistic society being sought for Afghanistan is one that Americans will feel comfortable with. The people of Kazakhstan already enjoy a free and open society where religion and the will to succeed are prerogatives of the individual. In Kazakhstan, debate is enlivened by the presence of 17 political parties, 1,600 newspapers and broadcast entities and more than 130 ethnic groups. All have their own points of view and are not timid about voicing them. Kazakhstan is a Muslim-majority country, but, while synagogues are being attacked in Western Europe, they are being built in Kazakhstan. New houses of worship are also being built in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan itself is a country of enormous economic potential and good relations between Washington and Astana are ever more important.

With predicted oil reserves of 100 billion barrels or more, Kazakhstan will play a key role in easing America's dependence on current energy sources. The availability of Kazakh oil will help stabilize world markets and keep domestic prices in check.

Thousands of Americans go to work every day in Kazakhstan. Most work in the energy sector, but Americans have also become a common site in the towns and villages of the country. We work well with the people of Kazakhstan, and many friendships have been established. A shared value system is a good basis for friendships.

I welcome the recent decision of the U.S. Department of Commerce to grant Kazakhstan the market-economy-country status, a well-deserved recognition of their achievements in reforming their economy and moving away from the Communist past. The next step in this direction should be the repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik amendment in relation to Kazakhstan and I call on my colleagues to support the appropriate resolution.

President Nazarbayev, in his recent State of the Nation Address, spoke of the need to continue "pragmatic policies" in all areas. The question of revitalizing the farms of Kazakhstan has been a subject of much debate and was a major topic for the President. The debate over farm policies would probably sound familiar to many Americans. In the foreign affairs area the President noted, "Kazakhstan has managed (over the first decade of independence) to build good stable relationships with all the nations without harming its own strategic interests."

Kazakhstan's firm commitment to the ideal of democracy was also a major topic in President Nazarbayev's speech. He said, "democracy is our deliberate choice for development and we all must work to strengthen this process. We will move step by step, preserving values of our culture founded in mutual assistance, tolerance, cooperation, and mutual respect between the peoples of different ethnic background."

As he closed his speech, President Nazarbayev foresaw closer ties with the United States and even greater emphasis on the development of democratic ideals and the civil society.

We must support Kazakhstan for many reasons. Heading the list are our shared ideals of democracy, a better life for all peoples and the uprooting of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan is the hope for political stability and prosperity in Central Asia.

RECOGNITION OF FRIEDREICH'S  
ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder that is usually diagnosed in childhood. It causes muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedrich's ataxia.

Although there is no treatment or cure available, Friedrich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research findings has followed the identification of the Friedrich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedrich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments.

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedrich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. Intensifying cooperation among organizations supporting the research and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals provide powerful evidence of the growing hope and determination to conquer Friedrich's ataxia. There is a growing conviction that treatments can and will be developed for this disease and that the resulting insights will be broadly applicable across a wide range of neurological disorders.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country to increase public awareness of Friedrich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 18, 2002, as Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our

support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

INTRODUCING THE "AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONSISTENCY ACT"

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act," a bill that seeks to ensure the continued viability of a volunteer public safety resource which has been instrumental in providing our nation emergency communications services during times of disaster and crisis. I am pleased that the gentleman from Oregon, Representative WALDEN, and the gentleman from Texas, Representative SESSIONS are co-sponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Radio amateurs, more commonly known as "ham" operators, provide emergency communications when regular channels are disrupted or disabled. These federally licensed volunteers operate at their own expense in aiding government and private relief agencies. State and local governments, as well as disaster relief agencies, could not possibly afford to replace the services that radio amateurs dependably provide for free. For the hundreds of thousands of amateur radio licensees, there is a growing challenge to their ability to provide these public services.

Developed communities, such as retirement communities and planned unit subdivisions, are an increasingly popular housing option throughout the country that provide a wide range of convenient housing choices. Unfortunately, the governance of these communities has led to inconsistent and at times burdensome regulations on amateur radio operators, making it extremely difficult for these operators to continue providing their valuable services. The legislation I am introducing today will simply ensure consistent application of these regulations.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act is based upon a 1985 ruling by the Federal Communications Commission, which stated that homeowners, seeking to install some form of antenna on their own property, must work with state and local land use officials to determine the most appropriate size antenna. Good faith negotiations ensure that amateur radio operator's technical needs are met, while preserving the aesthetics and interests of a neighborhood.

Under current law, the FCC does not apply this policy consistently. Its policy applies to States and localities, but fails to address situations affecting private land use groups. My bill addresses this issue, and provides amateur radio licensees with the ability to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with homeowners' associations, just as they do now with public land-use regulators.

Amateur radio operators provide an invaluable service to our nation, ensuring communication services during emergencies. We must support the efforts of the 650,000 federally licensed amateurs around the country in earnest. The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act will help to protect the vital function of Amateur Radio as an

emergency communications and public safety resource, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PRINCIPAL PATRICIA GEISTER FROM MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Geister on the day of her retirement as Principal of the Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California.

For 16 years, Patricia Geister has served the Moreau Catholic High School as principal. Her dedication to excellence in education is evident in the visionary improvements that have resulted from her years as school principal.

By improving student programs, updating facilities, making institutional changes, and enhancing the faculty, Patricia Geister assured every student at Moreau a top-quality education.

During her tenure, the Ivaldi Student Center was completed; the availability of technology and other educational resources to students, faculty and staff was increased; and a safe campus environment was maintained. The number of Advanced Placement courses offered at the school increased from 4 to 14, the college preparatory curriculum was revamped and class size was reduced. A collegiate-style, alternate day schedule was introduced, providing students with an early introduction to collegiate life, and a competitive edge when applying to colleges.

Patricia Geister introduced a student support system to the administration, which tasks assistant principals and counselors with making sure that every student need is fulfilled and nurtured. In 1987, she implemented the school's mission statement, and over the years she has furthered the relationship between Moreau Catholic and the Brothers of Holy Cross, and strengthened the school's relationship with its Catholic elementary schools.

During her tenure, the school received maximum accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1988, 1994, and 2000. In 2000, Patricia Geister implemented the school's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Patricia Geister in commending her for her many years of dedicated service to the Moreau Catholic High School. Her commitment to excellence in education is truly an inspiration to all.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated teachers from Northwest Indiana have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for

the 2001–2002 school year. These individuals, Joyce Abbott, Laura Marzotto, Danny Chapman, Carole Selund, Patricia Premetz, Ben Geesa and Kay Harness will be presented with the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 15, 2002.

Joyce Abbott, from the Crown Point Community School Corporation, has taught music for 17 years at Solon Robinson Elementary School. The love and passion that Joyce has for music, both personally and professionally, is demonstrated through the creativity and enthusiasm that she projects, in order to inspire not only the students, but also the teachers at Solon Robinson Elementary School.

Laura Marzotto has only been with the Hanover Community School Corporation for three years, but she is a great addition to Hanover Central High School. When Laura first came to Hanover Central as a teacher in the Business Department, a marketing program was non-existent. Yet as a result of her tireless efforts, a marketing track has been initiated, a program through which students can take a variety of marketing courses. Additionally, students are able to receive college credit through Ivy Tech State College after successfully completing required proficiencies.

A dedicated science teacher in the School Town of Highland for more than 30 years, Danny Chapman is a role model, an inspiration to his students, and an outstanding professional. Dan is a wonderful caring teacher who frequently offers a wide variety of activities and learning experiences to supplement the curriculum. The most notable, and perhaps most challenging experience, includes a three day/two night field trip to the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center in Porter, Indiana. Here, students were involved in science-based activities for three days. Since 1994, Dan has served as co-sponsor for the Science Olympiad Team at Highland High School. Additionally, he is the Science Teacher for the Adult Education program for GED classes at Highland, a position he has held since 1996.

A professional educator for thirty-six years in the Lake Central School Corporation, Carole Selund is a valuable asset. Carole has taught both Spanish and English to freshmen and sophomores at Lake Central High School. Since Carole is conscientious about having her students meet the standards expected of them, she returned to college to earn a Master's degree in Reading and created the first curriculum in the Lake Central School Corporation to address individual reading problems in the student population. In addition, Carole is very active in the School Corporation. She has co-chaired a number of committees for the Performance Based Accreditation Committee and served on the North Central Accreditation Committee.

Twenty-three years ago, Patricia Premetz was hired to teach honors Geometry at Munster High School. She is described by her peers as an outstanding professional and dedicated teacher. For the past three and one-half years, Patricia has been the Department Chairperson and is now teaching honors PreCalculus. Her enthusiasm for the subject matter, as well as her teaching style, has withstood the test of time. Patricia makes learning an enjoyable experience, for she blends her

creative spirit and her willingness to experiment with new ideas and techniques to better foment mathematics concepts in the minds of her students. Patricia's compassion for others is exhibited by her thoughtfulness towards both students and teachers.

Ben Geesa came to the Newton School Corporation 27 years ago, after serving his country in the United States Air Force. Since technology plays a vital role in the world and the economy, Ben was instrumental in starting the first computer education classes at North Newton High School. Ben is known as the computer "guru" throughout the corporation, as he helps to troubleshoot computer problems. His peers know him as a dedicated teacher and he is a continuous source of enthusiasm for his students as well as his co-workers.

Kay Harness is a fine example of the tenets embodied by those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's youth. Kay hails from the Tri-Creek School Corporation, where she has greeted her students and colleagues with a genuine smile for over 33 years. She has been active in all aspects of the school environment and has given continued support to the Parent Teacher Organization. Kay strives to be approachable and communicates well with administrators, fellow teachers, students, and parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2001–2002 Crystal Apple Award. The years of hard work they have put forth in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people is a true inspiration to us all.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, due to a loss in the family, during the week of May 6 through May 10 I was in California and unable to cast a vote on Rollcall votes 127 through 158. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall votes 127–133, Aye; Rollcall 134, No; Rollcalls 135 & 136, Aye; Rollcalls 137–141, No; Rollcall 142, Aye; Rollcalls 143–152, No; Rollcalls 153–156, Aye; Rollcall 157, No; Rollcall 158, Aye.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on Thursday May 9, 2002 during consideration of H.R. 4546.

Rollcall 138 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 139 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 140 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 141 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Markey) Nay.

Rollcall 142 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Weldon) Yea.

Rollcall 143 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 144 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 145 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Tierney) Nay.

Rollcall 146 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 147 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 148 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 149 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 150 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 151 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 152 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 153 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Sanchez) Nay.

Rollcall 154 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Goode) Yea.

Rollcall 155 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Paul) Yea.

Rollcall 156 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Bereuter) Yea.

Rollcall 157 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions Nay.

Rollcall 158 On Passage Yea.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGEMENT ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act. My bill would expand Medicare eligibility for uninsured patients with chronic kidney disease before their condition advances to End-Stage status. The bill would provide access to healthcare and most importantly disease management and End Stage Renal Disease-prevention services (ESRD). It would improve the quality of life for those suffering from kidney disease and could provide real savings for the Medicare program by helping chronic kidney disease patients avoid or delay the costly dialysis treatments and kidney transplants associated with the end stage status of the disease.

ESRD patients are the only group eligible for Medicare enrollment due to their medical diagnosis. ESRD is characterized by a permanent loss of kidney function, which results in the need for weekly dialysis treatments to cleanse impurities from the blood. ESRD patients are subject to a 30-month waiting period following diagnosis before Medicare benefits begin, which leads to further deterioration of health prior to being able to access care under Medicare. The decline in health that occurs during this waiting period reinforces the need for disease management interventions to preserve maximum health and delay advancement of the illness. It is known that early diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease can prevent certain future complications including progression to end stage status and development of heart disease, a common outcome of kidney disease. By allowing this vulnerable population to access care during the 2 years prior to qualifying for Medicare due to an End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis, this bill wisely and appropriately addresses a critical unmet health need.

Under the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act, uninsured, pre-ESRD chronic kidney disease patients would be eligible for full Medicare coverage and ESRD prevention services. To be eligible, a physician would need to certify a chronic kidney disease patient as likely to need dialysis or a transplant in the next two years under accepted clinical standards. Individuals eligible under the bill would pay Medicare Part B premiums. Disease management and ESRD-prevention services provided by this legislation include counseling on treatment options, the viability of a kidney transplant, disease management, and nutrition. These new services would also be available to current Medicare enrollees who become diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

Today, more than 300,000 people receive dialysis. By 2010, it is expected that 650,000 individuals will be receiving weekly dialysis treatment. In 2001, Medicare spent \$14.4 billion to care for ESRD patients, which averages more than \$20,000 per member, which far exceeds the average 2001 Medicare expenditure for non-ESRD beneficiaries, \$6000.

The National Kidney Foundation, who has endorsed this bill, estimates that 20 million

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#### OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

### HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a resolution I introduced to honor and recognize older Americans who continue to contribute valued work experience to their home communities. As you know, May is Older Americans Month, and as such it provides us with a perfect opportunity to reflect on the contributions of all of our nation's older Americans. I have been fortunate in my career to have a successful working relationship with the Experience Works organization, formerly known as Green Thumb, which has a Staffing Service office located in my Congressional district. I have seen the great work they accomplish in encouraging senior citizens to stay active and involved in their communities by continuing to work or simply by mentoring younger workers. Therefore, I have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 407, to recognize these contributions of effort and active involvement on the part of our older Americans. It is a pleasure to honor America's seniors this month for their continued interest and enthusiasm in contributing to the American workforce. I urge my distinguished colleagues to support H. Res. 407 to honor our hard working older Americans.

Americans have kidney disease. Many of these Americans do not know they suffer from this condition and therefore do not take advantage of beneficial prevention measures. In February 2002, the National Kidney Foundation called for earlier screening for kidney disease in reaction to the near doubling of the illness in the U.S. in the last decade. Their screening campaign focuses on those at high risk for developing chronic kidney disease including people with diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of the disease, older Americans, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Hispanics.

Expanded prevention services for chronic kidney disease patients are long overdue. The preventive measures in this bill will minimize the damaging impact of this chronic illness and allow Medicare to slow the growth of the ESRD population. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act so we can make these vital improvements to the Medicare program for those who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on May 7, 2002. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 127 and "yea" on rollcall vote 128. I was also unavoidably absent for a few minutes on May 9th and would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 139 and "no" on rollcall vote 140 and "yea" on rollcall vote 152.

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#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY ELIZABETH PARKER COLLINS

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with regret and deep sadness to announce the passing of Inland Empire community leader and dear friend Mary Elizabeth Parker Collins who died at the age of 73 on May 6th. I first got to know Mary when I was elected to the California Assembly. Mary volunteered in my San Bernardino office as I was beginning my political career. Her enthusiasm and wisdom were an inspiration to me and all who knew her.

Mary was a great advocate of equality and humanitarianism her entire adult life. Her experience as a single mother of five children in the 60's instructed Mary on the inequalities in society and was the catalyst for her commitment to social change. She became active in the Urban League of Indianapolis, where she dedicated herself to motivating the disenfranchised. Mary was involved in a wide variety of crucial movements such as tenant strikes, community based programs for at risk teens, and voter registration and participation programs.

While continuing to seek a better life for her family, Mary moved her family west to Southern California. She spent time in Los Angeles before moving and settling in the Inland Empire. Mary continued her commitment to civil rights while in the Inland Empire, by participating in the "Gates Must Go" and "Tyisha Miller Justice" campaigns. She then served as President of the Fontana/Rialto NAACP, where she fought to reinstate the jobs of countless people of color who had been arbitrarily laid off. Mary also spearheaded the establishment of a Police Review Board in Rialto, which helped reduce the number of civilian shootings by Police and led the way for the first Black Police Chief of Rialto.

Mary had a clear political gift, and she later served as President of the Inland Empire Democratic Club. She was not afraid of hard work and contributed greatly in my office by volunteering during my years as a newly elected California Assembly Member.

Mary is survived by her only son, Stephan Collins, four daughters, Karen Collins Lewis, Remelle Lumpkins, Terry Hunter and Carolyn Gullex, 15 grandchildren and 9 great grand children.

Mary has left behind a wonderful legacy of social justice and community activism. She will be missed by family and friends alike. Mary touched us all with her kind deeds and leadership in our community. Barbara and I extend our deepest condolences to her family and may God bestow his comfort upon them at this time.

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#### DAM SAFETY AND SECURITY ACT

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will prevent us from repeating the past. Specifically, the National Dam Safety and Security Act reauthorizes a program that has directly helped the states and protects the citizens of this great country.

Dams provide tremendous benefits including water supply for drinking, irrigation and industrial uses; flood control; hydroelectric power; recreation; and navigation. At the same time, dams also represent one of the greatest risks to public safety, local and regional economies, and the environment. Historically, some of the largest disasters in the U.S. have resulted from dam failures. The 1928 St. Francis Dam failure killed more than 500. During the 1970's the Buffalo Creek, Teton and Toccoa Creek dam failures collectively cost 175 lives and more than \$1 billion in losses.

One dam failure hits a little closer to home for me. On May 31, 1889, the 72-foot high South Fork Dam above Johnstown, Pennsylvania, burst. Twenty million tons of water took its natural course, dropping 450 feet in 14 miles, at times 70 to 75 feet high and reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour. In 40 minutes, three miles of water drained into the valley below.

At 4:07 on the chilly, wet afternoon the inhabitants heard a low rumble that grew to a roar like thunder. Most never saw anything until the 36-foot wall of water, already boiling with huge chunks of debris, rolled over them at 40 miles per hour, consuming everything in

its path. Making the wave even more terrifying was the black pall of smoke and steam that hung over it—the "death mist" remembered by survivors. Almost 113 years ago to the date, more than 2,209 people lost their lives when the dam failed. In their memory, we must not let this happen again.

Unfortunately, even today many dams are not maintained properly. Dams require ongoing maintenance, monitoring, frequent safety inspections, and rehabilitation. More than 90 percent of the nation's approximately 100,000 dams are regulated by the states. Further, many dam owners, including most private dam owners who own over half of all dams, lack the resources necessary to perform dam maintenance or to make significant repairs.

In the past two years more than 520 dam incidents, including 61 dam failures, were reported to the National Performance of Dams Program. As a matter of fact, the number of high-hazard potential dams whose failure would cause loss of human life is increasing, due to development of downstream land. Today there are 9,921 high-hazard potential dams.

Even more alarming, states presently report approximately 2,100 "unsafe" dams, which have deficiencies that leave them highly susceptible to failure.

The combined effect of rapid downstream development and aging or noncompliant structures, coupled with a predicted increase in extreme events, demands fully funded and staffed State dam safety programs as well as substantial and proactive funding for dam repairs.

In an effort to ensure dam safety, Congress passed the National Dam Safety Program in 1996. Under this program, State dam safety agencies have received grants totaling \$7 million to assist them with improving dam safety regulatory programs by procuring equipment, implementing new technology, and enabling more frequent inspections. The program also provided opportunities for continuing education to dam safety engineers and funding for research to advance the technology of investigations, construction and rehabilitation of dams.

I am pleased to report that this program was successful and deserves to be continued. It is important to note that this model program sent the money directly to the States—where it was used, to educate, inform and help protect the people.

My State of Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of the nation's dam safety efforts over the last two decades and our program has been cited as a role model for other States in developing new and expanded programs. Of the three thousand two hundred dams in Pennsylvania, nine hundred and fifty are now classified as high-hazard potential structures, meaning their failure could cause loss of life or substantial damage to properties. This determination helps our State dam officials identify which dams deserve regular inspection and those that require more infrequent inspection. In conversations with the Pennsylvania State dam officials, they confirmed that they couldn't have done it without the National Dam Safety Program.

My bill reauthorizes this successful National Dam Safety and Security Act by updating and

fine-tuning the underlying language and providing a modest boost to the funding for research and development. Importantly, my legislation will provide States the technical assistance necessary to maintain security for the nation's dams.

Specifically, the program will:

Ensure new and existing dams are safe through the development of technologically and economically feasible programs and procedures for national dam safety hazard reduction;

Encourage acceptable engineering policies and procedures to be used for dam site investigations, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness;

Encourage the establishment and implementation of effective dam safety programs in each State based on State standards;

Develop and encourage public awareness projects to increase public acceptance and support of State dam safety programs;

Develop technical assistance materials for Federal and non-Federal dam safety programs;

Develop mechanisms with which to provide Federal technical assistance for dam safety to the non-Federal sector; and

Develop technical assistance and encourage appropriate security for the nation's dams.

I want to point out that this program is truly a State-based program—because that is where the money goes and is used. The money in this program is not swallowed up in some nameless and faceless bureaucracy here in Washington, the money goes directly to the States.

It is also important to note that this program does not provide funds for constructing or fixing dams due to the cost of such activities. These funds are to identify and educate the public and dam owners about dam safety and conduct necessary research to ensure dams are as safe as possible.

For less than \$10 million, this program authorizes:

Provides \$6,000,000 per year 2003–2006 National Dam Safety Program;

Provides \$500,000 per year for National Dam Inventory;

Provides \$500,000 per year for Dam Safety Training;

Provides \$1,500,000 per year for research; and

Provides \$600,000 per year for staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everyone how important dams are to this country. Dams provide hydroelectric power to almost every State in the union, habitats for fish, birds, and other animals, recreational activities from bird watching to water sports, flood control and are a source of water. Maybe because of the positive impacts of dams more and more people are building downstream from dams. This is not dangerous, as long as the dams are monitored and maintained.

For these reasons, and in memory of the lives lost one hundred and thirteen years ago in Johnstown, I ask that the House favorably consider this legislation.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
UNIT 146 IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN TENNESSEE

### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Tennessee's nickname "The Volunteer State" dates all the way back to the War of 1812 when thousands of Tennesseans enlisted in response to Governor Willie Blount's call for volunteers. The volunteer spirit that moved so many Tennesseans to service then remains alive and well in our beautiful state almost 200 years later.

Today, the volunteer spirit is manifested by the thousands of Tennesseans in the armed services and by the countless civilian volunteers from Memphis to Bristol and Chattanooga to Clarksville.

One such group of Tennessee volunteers is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 in Lawrence County. I am proud to commend them today for the fine work they do.

From children to veterans, Unit 146 exemplifies the volunteer spirit, that call to help the community, to ease the pain of those less fortunate and to lift us all by their example of caring and compassion.

For "Make a Difference Day" this year, Unit 146 made yarn angels for every patient in local nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Last Christmas, they made and filled stockings, complete with an American flag, for veterans at the VA hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro.

Together with their local American Legion post, they host bingo games for veterans in VA hospitals.

Each year, Unit 146 remembers our veterans and the heroes who gave their life for their country by participating in Memorial Day ceremonies and Veterans Day parades.

In addition to supporting our veterans, the unit looks to the future by supporting important programs for children and youths. Throughout the year they pass out flags, Halloween safety brochures, pamphlets on how to say "No" to drugs and suicide prevention books.

Unit 146 provides their local sheriff, the Tennessee Highway Patrol and their hospital's emergency room with stuffed animals and coloring books to ease the pain for traumatized children.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 truly represents the best of the volunteer spirit in the Volunteer State.

I commend them for the fine work they do throughout the year. Their acts of goodness are a common thread in our state running all the way back to 1812 when Tennessee first needed volunteers to come to the assistance of her people. Their acts of kindness touch all and spawn other acts that will keep that

thread strong for the next 200 years and well beyond.

### NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "National Hospital Week" (NHW). This year, the theme is "Where Miracles Happen Every Day". That theme portrays the uniqueness and necessity of the field of healthcare. This period of time will recognize and honor health care professionals, volunteers, and other health professionals for their continued dedication to healing our communities. The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921. A magazine editor developed an idea to place more information about hospitals in communities to help erase public fears and uncertainties about healthcare at that time. Since NHW's origination, it has developed into the nation's largest health care event.

This prestigious event is sponsored by the American Hospital Association (AHA). The AHA has been in existence since 1899. It started as an association of Hospital superintendents with a mission to facilitate discussion among hospital administrators. Overtime, its members and mission has developed into a membership which embodies all health care workers and a mission that stresses leadership in public policy, representation and advocacy, and services. Today, the AHA focuses on enhancement of health status, health promotion, ongoing care and rehabilitation of patients, education, research, and that all these activities are conducted with an overriding concern for the values and dignity of patients.

As I stated earlier, I am an advocate of this celebration. This week will help us to focus on universal health coverage by allowing health care workers across our nation to share ideas and thoughts on the coverage issue and others. In a time of state budget cuts and Medicaid cuts, this week will display the need for appropriate funding of the health care system. In the past year in Illinois, hospitals grappled with Medicaid funding cuts of \$340 million. Nursing homes in Illinois dealt with Medicaid funding cuts of \$170 million.

Additionally, this week will help us attack the issue of health care access as grass roots discussions take place and solutions are developed from individuals at the fore front of health care.

In the 7th Congressional District, there are twenty-five community health centers, twenty-three hospitals, three veteran hospitals, and four medical schools. These institutions help sustain my district. I urge my colleagues and constituents to join me in this celebration which is vital to the health of our Nation.