Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.'' I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 187, H.R. 1877, on Approving the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 188, H. Res. 426, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 3129, Customs Border Security Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 189, H.R. 3448, Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 190, H.R. 3717, the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 191, Paying Tribute to the Workers at Ground Zero in New York. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO DR. VIRGINIA CAROL DEMCHIK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik of Shepherdstown, West Virginia who has been honored by the West Virginia Academy of Science as Science Teacher of the Year.

The West Virginia Academy of Science is an organization meeting and working with professional associates in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Mining, Physics, Psychology and Education, History and Philosophy of Science and Social Science. It is a corporation chartered by the authority of the West Virginia legislature for the advancement of scientific knowledge and the promotion of scientific work in West Virginia. In receiving the coveted Science Teacher of the Year Award, Dr. Demchik has accomplished no small feat.

Dr. Demchik received her BA from Fairmont State College and her MA and Ed.D from West Virginia University. Based on summer grants she has received, Dr. Demchik has attended the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland, American University, East Carolina University, University of Iowa and Shepherd College.

In honor of Dr. Demchik's hard work, dedication and commitment to her students and community, I ask my friends in Shepherdstown, and my colleagues here in the nation's capital to join me in recognizing May 23, 2002 as a day of celebration and recognition for Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall vote Nos. 171, 172, and 173 on May 20, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 171, 172, and 173.

MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an amendment to strike Section 1404 from this bill. This provision would assist a mere handful of hospitals in Pennsylvania and New York, at the expense of every other hospital in the country. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to drain funding from any of our nation's hospitals, especially as we debate a bill that is meant to strengthen our ability to respond to medical emergencies that could strike anywhere across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, hospitals in my State of Maine cannot afford any further reimbursement cuts, no matter how small. My state already has the 5th–lowest Medicare reimbursement rate in the country. Our hospitals are operating on razor-thin margins. In a state as geographically large as Maine, we already struggle with access to medical services. Further cuts will only exacerbate the problem.

This provision is a clear case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. In fact, it's even worse because there are just a few select Pauls, and a nation full of Peters. Why should the vast majority of Members tell their seniors that their access to care may be jeopardized by a gift to a few select hospitals somewhere else? How can we effectively fight AIDS and infectious diseases through increased spending in this bill, when at the same time we weaken our hospitals? What sense does it make to give money to speed our first response to attacks, while at the same time taking funds from the hospitals who would be on the front line?

If the Pennsylvania and New York counties that are helped by Section 1404 actually met the criteria for geographic reclassification, they would have been approved by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. Instead, these counties will be boosting their Medicare reimbursement rates by going around the rules—the rules that the rest of us have to live by.

Mr. Speaker, I know all too well that the geographic adjustment system for Medicare payment rates needs reform. My State of Maine is among the most egregiously affected by the current system, and I would be happy to work with any of my colleagues who wish to seek reform to make reimbursement rates more equitable. I strongly support improved reimbursement for all our nation's hospitals. However, this provision in this bill only serves to benefit a select number of facilities, and will detract from the ability of all others to meet their obligations to Medicare beneficiaries.

Section 1404 is unfair, it's unjust, and it's just plain bad policy. It certainly does not belong in an Emergency Supplemental, and therefore I move that we strike this provision from the bill. If we cannot remove this provision today, then I am hopeful that we can fix the problem in conference. This bill funds vital areas like defense, security and health, and the final bill should not be marred by this destructive measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2002, the city of West Allis, Wisconsin will host the centennial celebration of its incorporation as a village. Happy 100th birthday, West Allis.

Native American mounds, likely left by ancestors of the Ho-Chunk or Potawatomi tribes in the ground near what today is Wisconsin's State Fair Park, provide evidence of some of the earliest residents in the area. But it was not until the 1830s that native tribes began to see New Englanders arrive in the region to farm its fertile lands and establish the area's first settlement, called Honey Creek. It may have remained a farming community for many years to come, had it not been for a rapid growth of heavy industry in the city of Milwaukee in the late 1800s and the extension of a street railway line to the area.

Milwaukee was running out of room for large manufacturing plants, and the Honey Creek area had become a highly desirable location for industry. Companies like Kearney and Trecker and the Rosenthal Comhusker Company began to make their home in the area that was now called North Greenfield, and soon Edward P. Allis decided that his company also needed room to grow.

In 1900, Allis moved his company, which had become an industry leader in machinery, to the area that would soon bear his name. Workers soon followed, and the population grew so quickly that the area was chartered as the Village of West Allis in 1902, and as a city only 4 years later.

The city of West Allis expanded to become the second largest city in Milwaukee County and seventh largest in the state. Although the region's decline in heavy manufacturing in the past several decades has brought challenges to the community, the city of West Allis and its mayor, Jeannette Bell, have worked tirelessly to bring in new businesses and revitalize West Allis neighborhoods.

West Allis remains a city that is proud of its industrial past and enthusiastic about its future. To the city of West Allis and its citizens, my heartiest congratulations, and my best wishes for a prosperous second century.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3375—EMBASSY EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3375, the Embassy Employee Compensation Act. Passage of this bill only makes common sense to me. After the tragic events of September 11, 2002, the United States Government vowed to make

sure that the victim's families affected would be taken care of and provided adequate compensation in order to carry on with their lives. I firmly supported the govenment's efforts in securing the futures of these families, but I have always felt that there were other victims as well being overlooked that were affected by cowardly acts of terrorism that also deserved some sort of compensation.

Mr. Speaker, overlooked were the American families who lost loved ones in the American Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa. On August 7 of 1998, twelve American families lost a member or members that were dear to them while they proudly served their country abroad. To this date, these families have yet to be taken care of. I am sure that many of my colleagues are aware that back in July of 1999 I introduced legislation that if passed, would have provided $1,500,000 to the survivors of each of the families affected. Unfortunately at time of introduction, many Members of the House of Representatives felt it was unnecessary. Therefore, my legislation never saw the light of day again. It took both the events of September 11th and the tireless efforts of a very brave young lady named Edith Bartley, who lost not one, but two members of her family in the Nairobi bombing to change the sentiments of this Chamber.

I want to commend Ms. Bartley on her persistence. She worked feverishly to see this legislation come to its fruition. She has literally worked on this nonstop for years and talked to countless Members to gain their support. At times, the prospects of this legislation passing this body looked grim. Nonetheless, she kept working and eventually the tides began to turn in her favor. The passage of this legislation is not only testament to your hard work, but a tribute to your father and brother as well. They would be proud.

Although you cannot place a price on a human life, the day for these families to be compensated for their loss has been long in coming and I am once again pleased to vote in favor of this legislation today. We should not only provide for the victim's families of 9/11, but all the families that have lost loved ones at the hands of Al-Qaeda. It's the only fair thing to do.

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION CRITIQUES WELFARE BILL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the House of Representatives passed a welfare bill in which the Democratic Minority was not permitted to offer a single amendment. That legislation, H.R. 4737, fails to provide millions of families across the Nation with the help they need to get off welfare, stay off welfare, and move out of poverty. If this welfare bill were to become law in its current form, the results would be disastrous, not only for recipients and their families, but for states as well which would suddenly face billions of dollars in new mandates that the House has failed to help pay for.

It is important that we authorize a welfare bill that allows States to develop programs, assess needs, and provide training, education and other appropriate work supports that provides the best opportunity for moving welfare families into sustainable work that will lead to long-term income self-sufficiency. In contrast, the House legislation imposes requirements that will prohibit States from assessing the individual needs of their families or providing the services that will give recipients the best chance to escape poverty.

Restricting training, education, and job readiness, as H.R. 4737 does, is short-sighted and fails to build upon what we have learned since the welfare law was reformed in 1996. The Republican bill also increases the demand on families without sufficient resources for essential work supports like child care.

Our concerns with the impacts of the House-passed bill are reflected in the following editorial.

[From the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, May, 22, 2002]

DON'T PENALIZE CHILDREN FOR PARENTS GOING TO WORK

When the U.S. Senate debates welfare reform this month, it will essentially be deciding whether the federal aid program exists to punish adults or protect children.

Last week, House Representative sent a welfare package over to the Senate that calls for stricter work requirements on welfare recipients. However, the House only approved a modest increase in child care funding in its proposal.

In defending the GOP plan, Representative J.C. WATTS, chairman of the House Republican Conference, said the goal was ''to replace welfare checks with paychecks, foster independence, boost personal incomes and improve well-being of children.''

Those are all admirable goals. Unfortunately, the least likely of them to be realized under the Republican plan is improving the well-being of children.

An increased demand for time on the job without a companion increase in child care dollars places stresses on fragile families. Children suffer in unstable day care arrangements, and their mothers are more likely to land back on welfare. Research shows that day care is often the fence that keeps a woman from making the transition from welfare to work.

Under the welfare reauthorization package approved by the House, 70 percent of a state's welfare recipients must be working or training 40 hours a week. The House gave only a nominal boost to child care funding, which is already so underfunded that it covers only one in seven qualified families.

And many states, forced to meet the higher work requirements, will use their discretionary funding to create makeshift or simulated jobs rather than to enhance child care options.

The Republican bill also stipulates more hours in paid employment and less in training, rehabilitation, vocational training and job readiness programs. The Senate ought to insist that more education and training count toward ''work.''

Since Congress overhauled welfare in 1996—replacing the old entitlement system with workfare—caseloads have fallen 50 percent. In a flourishing economy, states were able to move millions of people off the public dole and into jobs.

But while welfare reform was effective in getting people off cash assistance, it was less successful in getting them out of poverty. Many recipients ended in low-skilled jobs without any possibility of career advancement

The welfare recipients who failed to find work in the booming '90s were those with few skills or with substance abuse or mental health problems—hardly a subset likely to do well in a weakened economy. They represent the hardest-to-place cases for whom self-sufficiency will be impossible without drug treatment, training and education, the very things the Republican proposal undercuts.

The Senate Republicans and Democrats are more cordial and more conciliatory than their colleagues in the House. They ought to forge a compromise that puts people to work without putting children at risk.

A TRIBUTE TO THE TEACHERS, PARENTS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENTS OF CHAPARRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the parents, students, faculty and staff whose dedication to excellence has earned a school in my district—-Chaparral Middle School in Moorpark, California—recognition as a National Blue Ribbon school.

The National Blue Ribbon award honors excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement and parental involvement. Chaparral Middle School is a shining example of what can happen when parents, teachers and administrators collaborate on the best approaches for providing a quality education.

The attitude at Chaparral can best be summed up by the comment Principal Creighton Nicks made to a local newspaper: ''We're never satisfied with good enough. We're always trying to be better.''

The quality and dedication of teachers at Chaparral are epitomized by earth science teacher Mary Alice Reyburn, who was honored this week as a California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year. Part of the honor is a $2,000 prize, which Mrs. Reyburn plans to donate to the school to purchase science equipment.

I am a product of the public school system, and I put my four children through Ventura County's public schools. One of my children is now a public school teacher. I am acutely aware that the most important tool we can give our children is a good education. Our students are the elected officials, businessmen, artists, scientists, parents and teachers of tomorrow.

Nineteenth century orator and public servant Edward Everett, who shared the speaker's platform with President Lincoln in Gettysburg, once said: ''Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.'' Those words are equally true during these perilous times, as we fight terrorists for the right to remain free.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation works in concert to better our education system, it would serve us well to study the successes of our National Blue Ribbon schools. They are the best of the best and a key to our future. I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Chaparral Principal Nicks, his entire staff, and the parents and students of Chaparral for raising the