Scouts, Cub Scouts, Sea Scout Cadets, Navy, Marine, and Army personnel are responsible for the success of this memorial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Visalia Avenue of the Flags Memorial Day Ceremony. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering the fallen veterans of Visalia, and in thanking the Visalia community for their continued dedication to the memory of past veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, in 1868 Major General John A. Logan established a ''Decoration Day'' on May 30 as a day of remembrance for the dead of the Civil War. General Logan ordered his posts to decorate the local cemeteries ''with the choicest flowers of springtime'' to honor the thousands killed during those four terrible years. Today, some 2,847,200 veterans lie in honor in our national military cemeteries. Since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom last year, 22 Americans killed in action in the Afghan theater have joined them.

Freedom's latest hero was a member of the National Guard's 19th Special Forces Unit, Sgt. Gene Arden Vance Jr., 38, of Morgantown, W. Va., who was killed in action on May 19. Citizen-soldiers have always been the foundation of America's military strength, and Sergeant Vance's loss is a sad reminder that your neighbors who serve in the National Guard and Reserves play a unique role in our armed forces.

Today, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves serve America within and beyond our borders. Just this week National Guard soldiers left the Jacksonville Airport, successfully concluding their airport security mission in Florida. Since the September attack on our country the National Guard provided security at 19 airports in Florida for over nine months and did a magnificent job protecting our airports and other vital installations. Their professionalism, dedication and discipline reassured Americans and contributed mightily to repelling the economic attack the terrorists perpetrated against our country.

General Logan's original Decoration Day proclamation called us to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, ''We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance . . . Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.'' I urge you to take this charge to heart and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by stopping what you are doing at 3:00 pm on Memorial Day to participate in the National Moment of Remembrance, but don't stop there.

This year, once Memorial Day has passed, consider what the world might look like if not for the service of generations of Americans. Take time throughout the rest of the year to reach out to the members of our armed services who are fighting freedom's newest enemies. Tell them the citizens of our state and nation are grateful for their service, and thank them and their families for the daily sacrifices that allow them to serve.

POEM BY LT. COL. JOHN McCRAE ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, the nation will honor, remember and thank those who gave their lives in the service of the nation. I want to commend to my colleagues' attention the well-known poem ''In Flanders Field'' by Lt. Col. John McCrae, as a reminder of the sacrifices made by service men and women in preserving our freedoms and democracy.

IN FLANDERS FIELD

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872–1918)

In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short two days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders field.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders field.

REGARDING THE 27TH INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I would like to take this opportunity to clear the air regarding an unwarranted blemish cast upon a unit of the New York National Guard—a unit that enjoys an otherwise illustrious history dating all the way back to the Revolutionary War.

For 56 years, the U.S. Army's 27th Infantry Division, a unit of the New York National Guard, has carried this black mark—as a result of a thoughtless outburst with little basis in fact—by the Marine General commanding the Saipan Invasion in 1944. This situation was further compounded when Time Magazine published the General's remarks without seeking to corroborate their veracity.

In July 1944, the 27th Infantry Division, commanded by Army General Ralph Corbett Smith, was ordered to relieve a division of Marines engaged in fierce fighting on the mountainous island of Saipan in the western Pacific.

The combined force of National Guardsmen and Marines would be led by the top-ranking ground officer on Saipan, commanding the Fifth Amphibious Corps, Marine Lt. Gen. Holland M. ''Howlin' Mad'' Smith. This proved to be a questionable decision.

The dissimilar training of the Army and Marine Corps units did not prepare them to achieve the expectations of Lt. Gen. Smith and he overreacted. Marine Lt. Gen. Holland Smith relieved Army Gen. Ralph Smith of his command when Lt. Gen. Smith mistakenly charged that Gen. Ralph Smith was incapable of motivating his troops in battle that he said resulted in losses to the Marines.

Officers are relieved in wars for various reasons, and the matter usually remains private within the military. The Smith versus Smith controversy, however, spread from the remote island in the Pacific all the way to the American media and the Pentagon.

Army generals in the Pacific angrily accused Lt. Gen. Holland Smith of bias. While the Army Chief of Staff, George C. Marshall, did not believe Lt. Gen. Holland Smith's allegations, he ordered that no public response be made—in an effort to preserve interservice cooperation. In fact, Marshall was eventually able to smooth things over with his naval counterpart. Gen. Ralph Smith, for his part, was later exonerated by an Army board of inquiry and enjoyed a successful military and diplomatic career.

At the time, however, the American press was quick to choose sides, and Time-Life allied with the Marines. Time Magazine printed an article that maligned the heroism and credibility of the 27th Infantry Division. Marine recruits were told that the Army ''wouldn't fight'' on Saipan. Lt. Gen. Holland Smith's version of events was repeated without question in numerous histories and memoirs.

Following a complete investigation, the Lt. General's superior, Admiral Chester Nimitz, announced in an official memorandum that the 27th Division had been harshly treated and much maligned. Admiral Nimitz concluded that there was a definite need to remove the stigma attached to the division, by the Navy Department in Washington, by publicly stating their ''continued confidence in the courage and battle efficiency of the 27th Division.''

At the conclusion of his extensively researched book on the Saipan battle, published in 1986, historian Harry A. Gailey noted that ''the slurs cast upon the officers and the men of the 27th Division then and later by [General] H.M. Smith in his articles and books were totally unwarranted and unconscionable. Those who gave a part of themselves to gain victory in the conquest of this important island bastion deserved better—from their commander and their nation.''

As more and more of the brave veterans who placed themselves in harm's way for America pass to their final resting places, it is not only appropriate but incumbent on us to correct any miscarriage of judgment and restore any lack of recognition which they, the men of the 27th, truly have earned and deserve. Mr. Speaker, let us, here, in this chamber, take a necessary first step and salute those veterans of the 27th Infantry Division—three of whom were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor: Capt. Benjamin Salomon and Troy, New York, natives Col. William O'Brien and Sgt. Thomas Baker—in the glorious spirit that has characterized so many in our military, who did what was asked of them with courage and determination, without regard for their own safety, and asking for no special reward but the thanks of their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, had it not been for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military through the years, we would not have the privilege of bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth. Freedom is not free. We have paid a tremendous price for

it, and I try not to let a day go by without remembering with deep gratitude all of those who, like my brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice; and all of those who served and were willing to put their lives on the line—as servicemen and women are doing right now—for all that we hold dear. That is why when I get up in the morning, the first two things I do are to thank God for my life and veterans for my way of life.

Today, Mr. Speaker, and this Memorial Day, I am proud to say ''Thank You'' to the veterans of the 27th Infantry Division.

TRIBUTE TO MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention and that of our colleagues to a special event which took place in my northern Michigan congressional district this past month. In April the Marquette Area Public School District, the largest school district in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, marked 150 years of service to the local community and to the region.

Here in Congress the debate and discussion of education is often moved to an abstract level, where, we discuss programs and dollars. In northern Michigan, as in much of this young nation, education has traditionally been viewed as a means of personal enrichment, achievement and advancement. In Marquette, a town settled by loggers, miners and the tradesmen who followed them to build a community, education still serves that basic social role.

It remains the belief of the Marquette Area Public School District, as outlined in its mission statement, that ''all students can learn and achieve mastery of basic skills.'' The school district, the board and the administrators, pledge to ''teach all students so that they can attain their maximum educational potential and become responsible, contributing members of society.''

The Marquette Area Public School District covers an area of 123 square miles and serves a population of approximately 31,000, according to its 2000–2001 annual report. During that period, 246 teachers in six elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school provided public education to more than 4,100 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Marquette Area Public Schools has come a long way as a civic institution since Marquette's first school began in a home in 1849 with just four students. This focus on education is even more important today to prepare students for tomorrow, because Marquette itself has changed. Hallmarks of the community today include a fine university, Northern Michigan University, and a fine hospital, Marquette General Hospital, which as a key resource in a rural area has been working on the cutting edge of telemedicine.

Jacqueline Winkowski, administrative assistant to the superintendent and the school board, noted in a recent document that Marquette Area Public Schools is often called up by other school districts in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to share its practices and procedures and to provide expertise and professional development. Teachers from this district have continued to serve on state-level panels and committees on the topics of reading, literacy, social studies and science.

Dr. Patrick Smith, superintendent of Marquette Area Public Schools, recently told the Marquette Mining Journal that the district was happy to be celebrating its first 150 years and looks forward to the next 150. If this first century and a half are any indication, this school district, ably assisted by community members serving on its board, will continue to provide vision and leadership in the field of education for this region.

REMEMBERING PETE BEIDEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Pete Beiden on the occasion of the dedication of a statue in his honor at Beiden Field at California State University, Fresno. Beiden served as the baseball coach at Fresno State from 1948–1969 and the field was renamed for him in 1972.

Coach Beiden had an impressive resume with a record of 602–268 in his tenure at Fresno State with winning seasons every year and 10 Conference Championships. Pete was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1964, the College Coaches Hall of Fame in 1972, and the Fresno State University Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991. Coach Beiden's contributions to baseball extended well beyond Fresno State. His extensive understanding of the fundamentals of the game and his talent for teaching the skills to young athletes enabled Pete to reap a harvest of gifted ball players, coaches, and entire teams. His legacy lives on in those he coaches and mentored.

Coach Beiden's legacy goes beyond the baseball diamond, however. Pete is also, and perhaps best, remembered as a devoted husband, father, and friend. He was a farmer who loved his ranch, a reader who loved history, and a music lover. Pete's wife, Martha, died in 1997 after 69 wonderful years of marriage. Their son, Roland, a renowned pianist and teacher, died in 1980.

Coach Beiden passed away on March 6, 2000. A statue, sculpted by William Behrends, will be unveiled at Beiden Field on May 25, 2002, prior to the Fresno State baseball game.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Coach Pete Beiden and thank Fresno State for commemorating his life and service. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Coach Beiden for his service to baseball and his community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448, PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that we have reached an agreement on H.R. 3448, the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act. I commend my colleagues who served on the conference committee for reporting out a strong, effective and balanced bill.

It's critically important that we protect our nation from biological and chemical attacks and this bill takes a number of necessary steps to bolster our defenses in these areas.

As we know, response to any attack against our country begins at the local level. This bill provides significant resources to state and local governments to ensure that they are ready and able to respond to any situation.

Communities must be able to adequately train and equip their first responders.

These block grants will allow communities to purchase supplies, train staff, and upgrade infrastructure—all necessary components of creating safe towns and cities. This bill also provides needed funding for vaccine and pharmaceutical stockpiling and future anti-terrorism medical research efforts. We must continue our efforts to prepare for any eventuality and medical research is a critical component of this plan.

I'm also pleased that the bill takes a number of steps to protect our nation's food supply. Dinner-time should not be a source of worry to the American people.

However, we must continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these provisions. I believe that there is more to be done in this area in order to fully establish safe and effective monitoring of our food supply.

Finally, I'm particularly pleased that the conference committee was able to include language that directs the Centers for Disease Control to consider the use of antiviral products in the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile.

Biological agents such as smallpox and anthrax are significant concerns for our government to address. We must ensure that our stockpile contains vaccines and treatments that are effective for all citizens. Antiviral products are yet another mechanism for treating smallpox and I'm pleased that the CDC will be evaluating the appropriateness of their use.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their hard work on this bill and I commend them for their efforts.

NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this month has been designated as National Stroke Awareness Month. In this regard, I will focus on the topic of stroke and its prevention.

Stroke is an acute onset of focal neurologic deficits resulting from diminished blood flow.