managed the resizing, recapitalizing, and realignment of the personnel and technical resources devoted to designing, building, repairing, and modernizing ships and their weapons systems. Displaying bold vision, innovation, and superb leadership, he instituted far-reaching quality initiatives that forged a highly focused, reenergized workforce. These have transformed the Command into a unified corporation that provides world-class technical, acquisition, and life-cycle support leadership to America's Navy. His contributions have had a direct and lasting impact on the overall readiness, effectiveness, and survivability of the United States Armed Forces.

Vice Admiral Nanos' superb leadership, exceptional integrity, engineering expertise, and tireless devotion to duty reflect great credit upon him and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He has done a superb job in leading the Naval Sea Systems Command to fulfill its mission: Keeping America's Navy #1 in the World.

Although Vice Admiral Nanos has worked diligently to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of naval and marine shipbuilding capabilities throughout the United States, he has often shown his dedication to and respect for the men and women of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard team. He recently visited the Shipyard to personally congratulate and thank the Shipyard team for their record-setting work on two submarines: A record-setting depot maintenance period on USS *Miami,* followed by a record-setting engineering refueling overhaul on USS *City of Corpus Christi.* Thanks in part to his vision, the Shipyard retains its important military-industrial capabilities and continues to provide critical jobs for the region.

Vice Admiral Nanos' innovation has ensured the success of the Naval Sea Systems Command and the United States Navy's ships well into the 21st Century. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he closes his distinguished military career.

I suspect Vice Admiral Nanos will continue his adventures, and will bring much credit to his name, as well as our government and our country. He is a true American hero, and his direct contributions to our military will long be remembered with heartfelt gratitude.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT AND RECALL FOR MEAT AND POULTRY ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Safe and Fair Enforcement and Recall for Meat and Poultry Act—to help strengthen the protection of meat and poultry across the United States. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I have long been concerned about the safety of our nation's food and water supplies. My SAFER Meat and Poultry Act would expedite the removal of potentially contaminated products from store shelves and provide greater enforcement authority to protect public health.

This bill calls for more consistent and vigilant implementation of the USDA's Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program. The legislation will strengthen government accountability and expedite the removal of potentially harmful meat and poultry from store shelves.

Recent reports suggest that USDA properly inspects meat-processing facilities on a daily basis less than 40 percent of the time. Further, a number of plants may have never been tested. I am pleased that the Bioterrorism legislation passed earlier this week will help to alleviate some of USDA's problems with funding plant inspections.

However, this bill to provide greater disclosure of contaminants, increased penalties for knowingly distributing tainted products, and greater authority for the Agriculture Secretary to move swiftly against facilities found to be producing harmful meat and poultry products will lead to a healthier and safer American food supply.

Furthermore, my bill will help alert Americans to the seriousness of food bome contamination, which is estimated to cause approximately 75 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths per year.

Mr. Speaker, given the new and emerging threats to public health and our national security, we must be vigilant in safeguarding our national food supply.

I am pleased to be reintroducing this important legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

A MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE—A TRIBUTE TO OUR BRAVE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share some thoughts with you today as the nation pauses to honor the men and women who fought and died to preserve our freedom. It is an especially meaningful Memorial Day as we so recently were reminded of the great country that we live in and the burden that goes with protecting our freedoms.

Today, our military is fighting a new kind of war. A war not against a country but against an ideology that would try to destroy the liberties that we have come to enjoy. It is a war fought differently. It is a war fought with new technology in a land that is very old world. It is a war that has Forward Air Controllers riding horseback and calling in strikes from laptop computers. It is a war being fought from our ships stationed 700 miles from targets. It is a war that utilizes B–52s for precision targeting, but it is also a war that calls for our troops to go from cave to cave to seek out the enemy. It is a war whose enemy is difficult to identify. It may be a different kind of war, but war always brings casualties—and this war is no exception.

September 11, 2001, gave us a wake-up call on our own soil not felt since Pearl Harbor. This time the victims were not just sailors and other military personnel. This time the victims were secretaries, clerks, stockbrokers, office workers, and, lots and lots of firefighters. These victims, like our military troops, were fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, aunts and uncles. Some died while performing heroic acts, but most were just ordinary people who perished during a brutal act of war.

So this year, as we remember our war heroes, let us say a prayer for our newest casualties. Let us make room in our hearts for these new recruits to the battle for freedom and peace.

But make no mistake; it will be the military that will shoulder the responsibility of trying to protect us against another attack. It will be our uniformed troops who will serve in distant lands, who will miss their children's graduations and birthdays, who will not be home for Christmas. And, as in the past, they will go into harm's way unafraid and with the determination that draws strength from those who fought and died before them.

I thank you for your service to our country and to your fellow comrades, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. I thank you for the leadership you have shown as you have lived your lives as stalwart soldiers in America's role as freedom's beacon. The young men and women serving today are fighting a new kind of war. But it will take the same type of soldier America has always produced—a soldier, like you, who is willing to put aside self interests for the good of the country. A soldier, like those we honor today, who is willing to die for those ideals.

Thank you for all that you have done for your country and for the memory of those who are no longer with us.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, every year in my district, I ask students in grades 8th and 12th to participate in an essay contest. This year's contest focused on the events of September 11, 2001, and how they shaped our Nation. Specifically, this year's essay question was as follows: ''September 11, 2001, was a shock felt around the world. Our country was attacked by suicidal, fanatic terrorists. It must be our resolve to protect America. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. How can our government protect us at home and abroad?''

I am pleased that so many students chose to enter this essay contest. Unfortunately, however, there can only be one winner in each group: 8th grade and 12th grade. This year's 8th grade winner was Melissa DeLeo from Chicago. She attends Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge, IL. The 12th grade winner was Karen Differ from Niles, IL. She attends Maine Township High School South in Park Ridge, IL.

Ms. DeLeo's untitled essay is as follows:

I have been taught that America stands for freedom, equality, liberty and justice for all. I believe this even now more than ever before. This is our America, the America that many men and women fought for, the America that is the land of opportunities and my America, the America where I have the opportunity to write this essay with my right of freedom of speech. Our America was attacked, but there are ways that our government and we, the American people, can protect ourselves. I think that there are three

main areas of concern. These three areas are: the coordinating all of the government agencies with sharing information, our readiness for the possibility of future attacks and granting aide to those nations that support us in our effort against terrorism.

The first way I think we can better protect ourselves is with the coordination of all of the government agencies. This cooperation must inform the public not only of possible attacks but also with instructions of how to react and what we should be doing to help with security during these times. Then the government agencies must introduce a new form of coordination applied to the use of their planning, communication and organizations. Such as compatible computer files and disks accessed by the computers shared by the organizations and government agencies. This way we would all have access to the same information and the same amount of details to make the operation, as a whole, a bigger success. By coordinating all of the government agencies, none of these details or important information will be missed or overlooked. Also, by keeping the American people well informed we would be able to know where our help and our financial aide are needed.

The second way I think we can better protect ourselves is readiness for the possibility of future attacks. This means greater airport security, matching every bag in the airport to a person, patrolling the American borders and the careful consideration of all the information gathered. This may mean longer lines in the airport, more hours of intense labor for the airport and police officials and more of our budget will be consumed by the Army and government agencies. Even though these difficulties may occur, I'm sure that people would understand it is for our safety and security. Also, I think many would believe that waiting in a line for one hour instead of a half of an hour would be worth it knowing that we are going to be better protected and safe.

The third way I think that we can better protect ourselves is by giving aide to the nations that support us. This means that we should send supplies and financial assistance to the nations that are wholeheartedly joining the effort against terrorism in the world. This will help them to continue their effort and this will also inspire other nations to join the effort against terrorism. This will show the terrorists that the United States of America and many other nations are willing and able to stand up and put an end to their intimidation and terrorism on the world. Only then we could put an end to all of this tragedy that has happened for no reason at all. Then by getting more nations involved they would be able to contribute their different areas of knowledge so that we could better see the different aspects of the situation and all of the possibilities of security and planning. Also if every nation tried to eliminate the terrorism located in their areas of the world that would be one step at a time to helping to end all terrorism.

Therefore, the three main areas of concern that I think we should focus on are: coordinating all of the government agencies with sharing information; readiness for the possibility of future attacks; and granting aide to the nations that support us. These are some of the ways that would give us a start on ridding the world of terrorism and making the world a safer, more peaceful and happier place.

I am an eighth grader that already has many hopes, dreams and goals for the future. When the Sept. 11 tragedy occurred, many people thought our nation would be divided. They were wrong. Our nation really put the phrase, ''United States of America'' into action. People bonded together like no American has ever seen before. All Americans showed respect, love and compassion for each other which once was hidden by greed and selfishness, and now was shown through love, helpfulness and courage. We, or at least I, now have a deeper understanding of the meaning of the great and amazing value of life, and now try to live every day to the fullest. Our nation has learned that what before each person thought of as their own dream can only be reached when we work together and help one another feel the support and strength of the true United States of America. We are Americans and UNITED we STAND FOREVER.

Ms. Differ's essay, entitled ''Protection from Within,'' is as follows:

Right now the United States government is revisiting a question that dates back to the writing of the Constitution—what role should the government play in protecting its citizens? The events of Sept. 11th have made it apparent that the current role of the government no longer ensures national security. So what changes should the government make in order to protect its citizens? This question is very difficult to answer because the government needs to safeguard its citizens from those wishing to inflict harm upon the United States and it also needs to ensure citizens their constitutional rights. While the government of the United States serves to uphold constitutional rights, lead, and protect the people of America, the true strength of the United States of America is found in its people. Since Sept. 11th United States citizens have further demonstrated their commitment to the freedoms and principles the United States is based upon through tremendous waves of patriotism and selfless giving. The United States government's greatest defense in stopping terrorism and protecting its citizens is found in utilizing the resource of its citizens. By creating greater channels of communication between government security agencies and common citizens while also working to monitor possible security threats, the United States government would be able to implement a greater degree of security domestically, nationally, and internationally.

The United States government can protect its residents by drawing upon the knowledge of citizens through a network of security agencies. One of the most effective ways to eradicate crime in a community is through a neighborhood watch program. A neighborhood watch program helps to provide a sense of community in a neighborhood and teaches people to look out for one another. A neighborhood watch also sends the message to criminals in a community that violence and crime are not tolerated. This same type of approach needs to be taken with domestic security. United States citizens need to work together at the local level to spot suspicious activity and possible security threats within their own communities. After all, no one knows better than the resident of a community when something just does not seem right. One way the government could utilize the power of the ''neighborhood watch'' is through greater channels of communication with individual communities. The government could create a free flow of voluntary security information by creating a network of local government security agencies and making them very accessible to citizens. This national network of local government security agencies would be in conjunction with local police departments and promote the principles of a neighborhood watch. Like police officers, the security agents would be trained in dealing with suspicious behavior and in handling terrorist activity. However, these agents would serve more as mediators in a community and informants to national government security agencies and less as patrolmen. Local security agencies would also have the function of securing public places that could pose specific threats if accessed by the wrong people, like nuclear power plants and airports. Agents could make sure that proper security procedures are taking place in these institutions and could notify national security agencies if something were to go wrong. Local agents would also be responsible for making sure that all visa information for visitors in the United States in their assigned community is kept up-to-date and is legal. If security threats are stopped at a local level there will be a great reduction of security threats at the national level.

In addition to protecting its citizens domestically, the United States government needs to protect its citizens internationally. While creating local neighborhood programs, the United States government could also use the same ideology to create a ''national neighborhood watch''. This watch would consist of countries devoted to stopping terrorism and providing protection of freedom to all of the world's people. The national neighborhood watch could be formed as a committee through an existing organization that promotes peace—the United Nations. Through the United Nations the world neighborhood committee could effectively monitor possible international security threats and send the message to rouge nations that criminal behavior and terror will not be tolerated in the world community. By forming bonds with other nations committed to the same security goals as the United States, the national neighborhood watch could peacefully identify and stop harmful terrorist activity before it is executed.

Since Sept. 11th every single American has been robbed of the peace and security that once characterized the United States of America. The only way to reclaim our security is through hard work and cooperation with our neighbors and with our government. We need to look out for our neighbors and assist them when they are in need. We need to report activity that ''just doesn't seem right.'' It is our responsibility as the American people and the American government to work together with the world community to restore the peace felt before Sept. 11, 2001. After all, if we as Americans let the terrorists rob us of our peace and security then they have won.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 22, 2002, and Thursday, May 23, 2002, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my floor vote on two procedural votes. The votes I missed include rollcall votes 196 and 197, both Motions that the Committee Rise on the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall votes 196 and 197.