

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 borne 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 fa-

thers, 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