

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RHONDA LEE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it a great honor to pay tribute to Rhonda Lee, a woman who embodies the spirit of the mountains of Colorado. Rhonda Lee worked for years in the Eagle County Hospital as a hospice nurse helping people and their families to cope with illnesses. Rhonda Lee is now coping with her own disease, thyroid cancer, and her whole community has come out to help her as she has help some many of them. In the face of enormous odds, Rhonda has shown courage and strength with the help of her community.

Rhonda made many sacrifices for her patients as a hospice nurse, often traveling over 2,000 miles in a month. Rhonda gladly gave her time and energy for many years but eleven years ago, someone came into Rhonda's life that needed more of her attention—her daughter. After the birth of her daughter, Matyson, Rhonda became a teacher in Special Education. Rhonda has given countless hours to the Special Education Program and students of Gypsum Creek Elementary School but she says that the rewards of her job are endless. When Rhonda learned of her disease she told her students immediately. The way that she has bravely faced her disease is an example to her student of how to handle their own disabilities.

When her community heard of Rhonda's disease, they rallied together to help this valued member of their area. Almost \$4,000.00 has been raised in Rhonda's name through dances and spaghetti dinners. The Vail Valley Charitable Fund has also helped Rhonda to get through this difficult time. Despite Rhonda's dire challenge, she faces each day with optimism. Rhonda has good reason to look forward to each day in the support of her children Scott, Chad, Tanner, and Matyson—who she calls her best friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the courage and service of Rhonda Lee. Her hard work and dedication to her community are an example to us all. The people of Eagle and Gypsum and the surrounding communities have certainly recognized this and have responded when Rhonda needed their support. Rhonda, you have my admiration and support in your courageous battle against cancer.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3983, Maritime Trans-

portation Antiterrorism Act. Commercial vessels continue to experience an increased threat of criminal attack. Vessels seem to bear the brunt of these attacks which manifest themselves in the form of sea robbery, hijacking, terrorism, and piracy.

A complex set of security issues threaten the maritime industry and the movement of cargo in international trade. Those threats include terrorism, piracy, smuggling of stowaways and drugs, cargo theft and fraud, bribery and extortion. Enacting requisite port security measures and coordination, cooperation, and communication with government and maritime industry components are necessary.

In my home District, the Port of Houston Authority is a dynamic port that has helped to fuel the Houston area's development as a center of international business and trade. Companies that do business internationally also find Houston attractive because of its well-developed industrial and financial infrastructure; skilled work force; and diverse population. Ample space and favorable conditions for industrial development, as well as for cargo handling, makes the Port of Houston an excellent choice location for industry.

Port security is an essential part for a safe, secure, and competitive operation of the maritime transportation system. It promotes the development of commerce and is an essential element in maritime trade competitiveness, which cannot be achieved merely by modernizing port infrastructure and increasing operating productivity.

Consequently, port security can surface as a significant issue in trade negotiations and government and industry courses of action should be coordinated to facilitate effective solutions. Port authorities should develop the means for exchanging current information on port security issues and for the dissemination of intelligence to the commercial industry. We must protect our ports from criminal attacks and allow them to maintain their trade and commerce.

H.R. 3983, Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Act of 2002 helps to protect our ports, such as the Port of Houston. This bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to (1) assess port vulnerability; (2) prepare a National Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plan [the Plan] for deterring catastrophic emergencies; and (3) review and approve Area, vessel, and facility antiterrorism plans.

Further, H.R. 3983 requires that the Plan to (1) coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts, including Coast Guard maritime antiterrorism teams and Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators; (2) identify security resources; and (3) include a system of surveillance and notice to ensure earliest possible identification of emergencies. The bill requires the Secretary to establish a system of antiterrorism response plans for vessels in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The bill requires that there be transportation security cards for entry to any antiterrorism secure area of a vessel or facility. The bill requires the Under Secretary of Transportation for Se-

curity to develop and maintain an antiterrorism cargo identification and screening system, including performance standards for seals and locks of shipping containers.

Moreover, H.R. 3983 requires that Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators develop, update, and integrate Area Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plans, as needed. The bill also requires owners or operators of vessels or facilities to prepare an antiterrorism plan for deterring a catastrophic emergency, including the identification of the plan implementor, the availability of antiterrorism measures, training and drills.

H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to establish maritime antiterrorism teams to protect vessels, ports, facilities, and cargo in U.S. waters. Also, H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to assess the effectiveness of antiterrorism measures maintained at specified foreign ports and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to prescribe conditions of entry for or to deny entry into the United States to vessels arriving from foreign ports with ineffective antiterrorism measures. In addition, H.R. 3983 requires the advance electronic transmission of passenger and crew manifests from commercial vessels arriving in the United States from a foreign port.

The increasing nature and international scope of the maritime security issues, which threatens our port, requires participation and response from all levels of government. The lack of a secure trade corridor can hamper the economic growth of a port and possibly the country itself. A viable maritime security program is good business. A much bigger economic interdependency exists within the entire transportation network. Ports are committed to developing effective maritime security programs based on the recognition of ports as interchange hubs of commerce, critical to international trade. Therefore, I strongly support H.R. 3983. This bill is good for the Port of Houston and good for American ports. Therefore, I strongly urge my fellow members to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE HAMTRAMCK
ALLIED VETERANS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country.

My home state of Michigan has lost many good men and women to war. We lost 18,906 people in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War. We lost over

• 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.

2,600 men and women in Vietnam—more people per capita than any other state in the nation. We understand the honor in answering a nation's call to serve, and we know what it means to lose parents, brothers, sisters, and children to battle. As a Vietnam-era veteran, and the son of a WWII veteran, I know in my heart the value of this service.

Our lost soldiers have earned parades, memorial services, and events in their honor. But they have also earned a commitment from their nation that we will never forget their service and will treat all who fight for our country with dignity and respect. We should remember our lost soldiers not just in words, but deeds. We should honor their sacrifices by providing good health care, benefits, and compensation to our veterans who fought alongside them and the current members of our Armed Forces. We should honor them by fulfilling all the promises that we made to them and their families when they answered the call of duty.

As we observe Memorial Day, let us not be content with honoring our soldiers just this one day each year. Let us remember in our hearts the ultimate gift these men and women gave to us. And let us keep in our prayers those men and women who are serving our nation overseas today. In their courage and strength, they set an example for all of us and remind us of what it means to be an American.

TRIBUTE TO CATO-MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL SUNPACER SOLAR-ELECTRIC CAR TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cato-Meridian High School Sunpacer solar-electric car team for participating in this year's Tour de Sol competition. After a four-day, 350-mile race beginning in Washington, D.C., the Sunpacer team ultimately tied for first place with the Zodiac team from West Irondequoit High School near Rochester, NY.

Special recognition should be given to Cato-Meridian High School teacher Mr. Earl Billings and his team for their determination. The Sunpacer team has won its class several times and has been honored with many awards for efficiency. At this year's competition, the Sunpacer team received a \$250.00 first prize and a first place plaque.

On behalf of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Sunpacer team for another first place win at the Tour de Sol competition. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following student participants and staff: Arron Kolb, Ashley Davenport, Amber Ross, Tim Soine, Nick Snow, Nicole Leach and teacher Earl Billings.

Congratulations to all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HOWARD C. BRUNER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and serv-

ice of Howard C. Bruner. For 10 year Howard has dedicated countless hours to the service of his fellow citizens. Howard has served on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board of Directors, striving to improve his community and the lives of those who live in it. After providing leadership, dedication and vision for the City of Pueblo for a decade, Howard is retiring from his position. I can think of no better way to thank Howard for his efforts than to acknowledge his contributions.

Howard moved to Pueblo in 1981 and became the manager and operating partner of Southern Colorado Equipment. Howard began serving on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board that same year. He has been credited with providing the leadership and focus for the board and has been instrumental as part of the Board in making the changes the board has in order to improve Pueblo West. The board and city will always remember Howard for his objective approach to issues. His colleagues respected him for his ability to make decisions based on what was best for the community.

In addition to his position on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board, Howard also dedicates his time to his community through numerous organizations. He is a past board member of the Better Business Bureau of Pueblo, and the Pueblo West Economic Development Committee. President Reagan recognized his leadership and abilities when he was the Colorado Delegate to Reagan's Council on Small Business Affairs. Howard is also very involved in his church. Perhaps most importantly, Howard is a devoted husband to his wife and loving father to his two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to bring the accomplishments of Howard C. Bruner to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to represent such a dedicated man and his family. Howard's effort to improve the lives of those around him is an example to us all. Thank you Howard for all of your hard work, and good luck in your future endeavors.

MICROENTERPRISE FOR SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000 AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AMENDMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to the World Health Organization, over one billion people [one-fifth of the world's population] lives in extreme poverty. They subsist on less than one dollar a day. These families cannot adequately feed themselves or plan for the future, working menial jobs or selling whatever they can to survive one more day. In most Third World countries more than half the people survive by working in small-scale businesses or "microenterprises" outside the traditional economic structures. They are fruit vendors in Haiti; ragpickers in India; basketmakers in Ghana. To climb out of poverty toward self-reliance, access to credit for these people is critical, but hard to come by.

Government credit programs and traditional lending institutions do not offer affordable loans to the poor because they cannot afford

loan fees, offer collateral, or show a credit history. They're viewed as high risks who yield a low return. Though many poor people possess relevant skills and often own necessary tools, without access to credit they cannot establish or expand their business to sustainably support their family. Generation after generation is trapped in poverty.

Microenterprise programs can offer these willing workers the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and improve their families' welfare. Women, especially, could alter the face of global poverty by having an impact not only on family incomes, but also on child nutrition, health and education.

H.R. 4073, Microenterprise and Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 will ensure continued availability of microenterprise services as a key component of U.S. bilateral international development assistance. The bill reauthorize and increases funding for microenterprise assistance programs, expands and focuses microenterprise programs to the very poor, and updates language of both acts concerning rural lending, the provision of financial services, and the development and application of poverty measurement tools.

The Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act institutionalizes that initiative and authorizes support for programs that provide credit, insurance, training and other services to entrepreneurs—50 percent of whom must be very poor or women. Much of the credit for its passage goes to the women themselves—97 percent of whom have repaid their loans in full and on time.

The Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act increases the U.S. government's support for microfinance around the world. The bill will support the institutional development of programs that provide credit, savings facilities, insurance, business training, and other services to microentrepreneurs. At least 50% of resources must go towards programs that serve women and the very poor.

This bill goes beyond helping women develop small businesses. The programs that the bill supports will change the face of foreign aid, expanding access to financial services and making microlending a component of U.S. foreign policy.

Whereas today microcredit is helping more than 20 million creditors, the summit set a new goal five times that number. This bill will go a long way toward helping us meet that goal.

H.R. 4073 also broadens the definition of microenterprise development services in recognition of the importance of delivering both financial and non-financial services to the poor, and emphasizes the importance of providing these services to rural as well as urban areas.

H.R. 4073 expands the definition of the very poor to include those severely poor people living on less than one dollar per day and provides clear guidance to USAID for the development and use of cost-efficient practical poverty measurement tools that can be applied by practitioner organizations.

This change creates substantially greater incentive for USAID to find and support financially-sustainable lines of microenterprise development service that favor the very poor, while allowing up to half of the funding to support other lines of service that serve others who are economically better-off.

Therefore, I strongly urge my fellow members to support H.R. 4073.

TRIBUTE TO PERFECTING CHURCH
AND HOLY CONVOCATION 2002

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, Perfecting Church is a church with a noble mission. "Perfecting" as it is affectionately called, "strives to attain the purpose for which it is called, not for vain glory but that it might be ready to meet the needs of the people; ever mindful of the phrase spoken in that vision to Pastor Winans, They are coming to you." And during the week of May 19–May 26, 2002, the people came to Pastor Marvin Winans of Perfecting Church for its 2002 Holy Convocation.

Born out of a phrase given to the young preacher and singer Marvin Winans, Perfecting Church began humbly with just eight members in the basement of Pastor Winans' home. With his strong passion for his faith and as his message, and ministry was received, Perfecting Church flourished. Perfecting Church today, a huge, beautiful church complex located on Nevada Street in Detroit, Michigan, has become a thriving center of religious and social activity for families and friends of the community. And as Pastor Winans has always taught that "Ministry means People", he has worked hard to ensure that Perfecting Church has been an example of that teaching. With ministries that range from helping the homeless to healing the hurting, Perfecting Church is home to over 25 ministries and departments including youth organizations, choirs, social and charitable groups. Joyfully celebrating Christmas and Easter, while lending a warm shoulder to those suffering, Perfecting Church has been a faithful friend to all who have walked through the front doors.

With the theme of "Advancing the Army", Perfecting Church's Holy Convocation 2002 mission is to have worshipers leave their holy gathering with specific strategies to advance in victory, faith, and power. During this convocation, congregation members and families from communities everywhere join together in spiritual song, spoken word, and biblical teachings, renewing and strengthening their religious beliefs. As Pastor Winans held another successful convocation, he continues to demonstrate his commitment to advancing the mission of Perfecting Church to families across the state of Michigan and beyond.

I applaud Pastor Winans and Perfecting Church for their leadership, faith, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them on exemplary years of faith and service.

TRIBUTE TO NOTTINGHAM HIGH
SCHOOL'S GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY
CREW TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nottingham High School's Girls Junior Varsity Crew team for winning its first national championship. The Nottingham

girls junior varsity crew team, coached by Joe Bufano, became only the third area team to win national honors after receiving the title of national champions in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The team, consisting of seven juniors and two sophomores, competed against traditional powerhouses, including four other teams competing in the finals of the Scholastic Rowing Association of America championships. With a winning combination of hard work and determination, the young women of the Nottingham junior varsity crew team competed successfully as a city school under a tight budget. Special recognition should be given to the parents and volunteers who assisted the team when funding for chartered buses was unavailable.

On behalf of the residents of the 25th Congressional District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate Nottingham High School's Girls Junior Varsity Crew team and their coach Joe Bufano on their first national championship win. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following nine girls of the eight oared shell division and their coach: Jackie Stone, Katie Schneider, Christina Shaw, Crysten Rushmore, Karlyn Downing, Megan Holloway, Zaula Usman, Stacey Karpouzes, Lyndsay Boileau, and coach Joe Bufano.

Congratulations to all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE LACY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay tribute to the life and memory of Joe Lacy. Joe's vision and ability to make his vision a reality embodied the spirit of Colorado. Joe was the city manager of Grand Junction, Colorado in the 1960s and was the driving force in creating the town we know today. After courageously battling a debilitating illness Joe passed away at the age of 74.

A native Coloradan, Joe attended high school in Pueblo. Joe continued his education at the University of Denver and received a bachelors degree in journalism and masters in public administration. Joe nearly became the Grand Junction Sentinel classified advertising manager, but the Army called before he could start. Joe enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country in Korea. In 1960, Joe came back to Grand Junction after starting his career as the assistant city manager of Englewood. As the city manager Joe had a vision for the city's downtown. His innovative approach, which combined light traffic with a pedestrian area, proved to be a success and today is the heart of the city.

For all of his innovative ideas and education it was really Joe's personality and personal investment in his work that people remember. Joe's faith in his own ideas made it possible for even the strongest skeptic to become Joe's strongest supporter. Joe is fondly remembered by the city as a man who made things happen and for his warm smile. No one knew Joe's qualities better than those who will miss him most, his family. Joe was the loving husband of M.J. "Mayme" Holder and a devoted father of four sons and grandfather of seven.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to be able to bring the life and contributions of Joe Lacy to

the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. His passion and dedication to his work is an example to us all. Joe will be deeply missed by those whose lives he touched but his memory will live on in his work. During this difficult time I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2941, the Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act.

I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. MILLER from California and Ms. MALONEY from New York along with the Financial Services Committee for their hard work on this issue.

This important legislation would improve local communities by generating 550,000 additional jobs and up to \$2,400,000,000 in new tax revenues for cities and towns. More specifically, H.R. 2941 would give cities new financing options for Brownfields redevelopment.

This bill would create a pilot program where the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development would develop and maintain a common loan pool. There are an estimated 600,000 Brownfields in America, each a missed opportunity for development.

By de-linking HUD's Brownfield Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) from its Section 108 loan program, cities would be given added flexibility in obtaining BEDI grants and would not be forced to use Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds as collateral.

CDBG are especially helpful in providing important community services such as the Meals on Wheels or child care programs. As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially supportive of the fact that CDBG funds will not be compromised.

Moreover, H.R. 2941 would help preserve our existing green spaces. The positive environmental impact of this legislation is significant.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, because of the New Jersey Primary, I stayed in my district, and I was unable to be present for all votes on June 4, 2002.

On rollcall No. 208, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

On rollcall No. 207, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 3983, the Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Act. This legislation takes critical steps to address the security of our ports and the cargo that passes through them.

However, I do have concerns about a provision that requires the development of a cargo identification and screening system that would require detailed information to be provided to U.S. Customs Service 24 hours prior to the time the cargo is loaded at its origination point. The level of detail required and the timing of its delivery to the U.S. Customs Service for the more than six million containers that are shipped to the United States each year may be unduly burdensome to the ports, importers, customs brokers, and freight forwarders that will be saddled with this task.

As 95 percent of our international trade arrives via the oceans, I fully support the aims of this bill. Though, I hope the concern I have expressed can be alleviated in conference.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD LEO
APODACA**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Edward Leo Apodaca, a man who honorably devoted his life to helping young men and women. Edward upheld dignity and integrity, and regrettably, he passed away in April of this year. Today we mourn the loss of a great citizen, and a courageous leader who proudly served his family and community.

Edward spent over 40 years pursuing his avocation as an amateur boxer. Edward grew up boxing in Pueblo, and continued his boxing career after he enlisted in the Army. His attention to detail and continuous strive to achieve excellence molded him into a respected, admired, paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division serving in Vietnam. Edward served his country with honor, and he returned to the United States as a decorated veteran.

Edward was a member of the Pueblo Stylers boxing team, and he used his thrilling personality to mentor many of the youth in Pueblo. He assisted in starting the Community Youth Organization, and later acted as the organizer of numerous youth oriented boxing teams. His humble character and guidance has helped shape the amateur boxing standards around Colorado. His love for the kids with which he has worked has gained him the affectionate nickname of "coach."

Mr. Speaker, It is with great honor I stand here and praise the achievements of Edward before this body of Congress and this nation. Edward will be missed tremendously, and although we will grieve the loss of this outstanding individual, we will rejoice over this

man's great character. I express my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and I salute Edward, a person who selflessly contributed to our society.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MIGON,
D.A.R.E. EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Migon of St. Charles Borromeo School in Westvale, NY for being honored by New York State as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Educator of the Year. This award is named to Susan Migon in recognition of her extraordinary commitment to the New York State D.A.R.E. program.

The D.A.R.E. program provides fifth grade students with the knowledge necessary to successfully turn away from drugs and alcohol. Susan Migon contributes to the D.A.R.E. course taught by local police chiefs by bringing enthusiasm and constant participation to her classroom. She serves as a valuable asset to the program and should be honored for her exemplary dedication. Susan Migon received a nomination for the award from the Geddes Police Department, and has worked closely with them on the D.A.R.E. program for the past nine years.

On behalf of the residents of the 25th Congressional District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate Susan Migon of St. Charles School for her award as New York State's D.A.R.E. Educator of the Year.

IN HONOR OF GRAND RAPIDS
HOME FOR VETERANS**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country.

My home State of Michigan has lost many good men and women to war. We lost 18,906 people in World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and the Gulf war. We lost over 2,600 men and women in Vietnam—more people per capita than any other State in the nation. We understand the honor in answering a nation's call to serve, and we know what it means to lose parents, brothers, sisters, and children to battle. As a Vietnam-era veteran, and the son of a WWII veteran, I know in my heart the value of this service.

Our lost soldiers have earned parades, memorial services, and events in their honor. But they have also earned a commitment from their nation that we will never forget their service and will treat all who fight for our country with dignity and respect. We should remember our lost soldiers not just in words, but deeds.

We should honor their sacrifices by providing good health care, benefits, and compensation to our veterans who fought alongside them and the current members of our Armed Forces. We should honor them by fulfilling all the promises that we made to them and their families when they answered the call of duty.

As we observe Memorial Day, let us not be content with honoring our soldiers just this one day each year. Let us remember in our hearts the ultimate gift these men and women gave to us. And let us keep in our prayers those men and women who are serving our nation overseas today. In their courage and strength, they set an example for all of us and remind us of what it means to be an American.

REPEALING SUNSET OF ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001 WITH
RESPECT TO EXPANSION OF
CERTAIN ADOPTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, Mr. CAMP, for introducing this legislation.

This important legislation expresses the strong sense of Congress that Adoption Credit and Adoption Assistance Programs should not expire. Many parents who seek to provide a permanent home to a child face the high cost of adoption. Thereby discouraging families from engaging in the adoption process.

Families spend between \$8,000 and \$30,000 to adopt a child. Necessary expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child can include court costs, attorney fees, traveling expenses and some unpredictable costs. Sec. 202 of H.R. 1836 Expansion of Adoption Credit and Adoption Assistance Programs benefits children who need the stability of a permanent home by easing the financial burden placed on willing families.

We must do all we can to encourage adoption at this critical time when our nation faces a shortage of families willing to provide permanent homes for children. As of March 31, 2000, there were 588,000 children in foster care. Of those children in foster care, more than 117,000 were waiting to be adopted. Today, that number continues to rise.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation prioritizes easing the financial burden of the adoption process for families that are prepared to provide homes for children in need of them, I ask my colleagues to support this important bill.

COLONEL JAMES W. DELONY'S
RETIREMENT**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American patriot who has committed his entire career to the mission of defending America. Colonel James W. DeLony,

United States Army Corps of Engineers, is retiring from duty bringing to a close his admirable 29-year military career.

Colonel DeLony, a 1973 graduate of Texas A&M, spent much of his career in the elite Airborne forces including command of the 101st Airborne Division's Engineer Battalion and as the Brigade Operations Officer of the 20th Airborne Engineer Brigade during the Gulf War. For his service, Colonel DeLony has been awarded a number of decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Five Awards), Army Commendation Medal (Two Awards), National Defense Service Medal (Two Awards), Saudi Arabia Liberation Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. He has also earned the Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the coveted Ranger Tab.

In his most recent assignment, Colonel DeLony served as the Commander of the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this position, Colonel DeLony battled different foes, from mosquitoes in the Cape Fear River to Hurricane Debby as it threatened the Southeast coast. He has distinguished himself in this assignment, providing able leadership as his command carried out its essential mission of enhancing the military and economic capabilities of South-Central Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative of the citizens of Virginia's 4th District to congratulate Colonel DeLony on his magnificent career and to thank him for his long service to America. Colonel, we wish you and your wife Jennifer every happiness as you begin this new assignment and thank you both for your dedication to service and duty.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HILDA
VAUGHAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Hilda Vaughan, an exceptional individual who has selflessly devoted her time and energy to the betterment of this nation. I applaud her outstanding character, and her desire to support and educate her community. Hilda demonstrates impressive qualities worthy of such praise, and today we honor her retirement as a salute to a job well done.

Hilda was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and spent her adolescent years thirsting for knowledge. After graduating from Rustburg High School in Rustburg Virginia, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College, and married her beloved husband, Ted Vaughan. Hilda moved to Silt, Colorado, and served her community well, by holding a number of clerical, secretarial, and accounting positions. Additionally, Hilda achieved her EMT-B certification and assisted the Grand Valley Fire Protection District. Hilda's attention to detail, together with her unwavering determination, led her to become and perform as an outstanding substitute teacher and librarian for 23 years. As a student teacher in Lynchburg, she educated herself to become a mentor as well as a teacher. Her first substitute teaching position was in the RE-2 School District, in

Rifle, Colorado. Through her experiences in different geographic areas and districts, Hilda expanded her vast knowledge and wisdom, and became an excellent asset to every school district she served. Today we admire a woman who selflessly donated her time and efforts to upholding the structure of her community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I honor such an outstanding individual before this body of Congress and this nation. Hilda contributed so much, and she was so thoughtful, words will never express our appreciation to her. Hilda, thank you for your hard work in our country, and I anticipate great future achievements from you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my flight from Los Angeles was delayed in departing and I unavoidably missed two roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 208, H.R. 4800 to make the adoption tax credit permanent, "Yea".

On rollcall No. 207, to make permanent the tax exemption for payments to Holocaust survivors, "Yea".

EXPLAINING SEPTEMBER 11TH TO
FUTURE 4TH GRADERS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following letter to you and all of our colleagues. Nicole Bansen read this letter at the Lindenhurst Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27, 2002. An elementary school student from Long Island, Nicole directed the letter to future 4th graders so that they might better understand September 11 based on her own experience. Like Nicole, I believe that we must help preserve the memory of that tragic day by sharing our stories with future generations.

DEAR FUTURE FOURTH GRADER: September 11, 2001 was a tragic day. I'm writing this letter to tell you what really happened. I was in school when it happened. That was the day that jet planes hit the Twin Towers, and soon both collapsed. Tower One was hit first. Within the next hour, Tower Two was also hit. Time seemed to freeze. Everyone just stopped what they were doing to see what happened in disbelief. It was like a nightmare coming true!

When I found out what had happened, my heart felt like it was shattered, just like the Twin Towers. After school, my brother and Mom told me to watch the news. I turned on the television and saw both planes crashing into the Twin Towers. A friend of our family's worked on the 72nd floor of Tower One. I was afraid that he might be killed, like so many others. He made it out of the building in minutes before it collapsed!

I was affected by this tragedy in a sad way because I will not see the Twin Towers anymore, and so many innocent people died. In

the future, people should never forget this day, and always remember all the people who died. I believe parents should tell their children the truth about what happened when they are old enough to understand, so they aren't frightened. Your friends and you will learn about this day in your Social Studies class in school, if your parents didn't already tell you about it.

I hope this terrorist act never happens again. Hopefully you will never know the "evil" word, terrorism. But, if something like this does happen again, I am sure that everyone will be very sad. I am so glad to be an American, because of our freedom and people staying united through difficult times.

Sincerely,

NICOLE BANSEN.

FARM SECURITY ACT

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that the attached article appearing in *The Weekly Standard* on May 27, 2002 regarding the recently passed and signed Farm Security Act conference report be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the *Weekly Standard*, May 27, 2002]

THE PIGS RETURN TO THE TROUGH

FARM SUBSIDIES ARE BACK, BIGGER THAN EVER

(By Fred Barnes)

The White House veto of the farm bill was bold and defiant, reflecting the strength and confidence of the president. The bill not only costs too much and imposes too many government controls, he said, but it's also filled with "so much that would be detrimental to farmers," their future would be put in jeopardy. "It would do harm to every agricultural region of the country," the president said, causing large surpluses. "Thus it fails to meet the test of being good for farmers and fair to all our people." Too bad this veto message didn't come from President Bush last week when he instead signed the bloated new farm bill. No, those words were President Eisenhower's as he vetoed the Agricultural Act of 1956.

At the last moment, Bush considered a veto. His aides checked with congressional Republicans to find out if the bill's price tag might be as much as \$20 billion more than advertised. It's costly, but not that costly, the White House was told. And even if it were, it was too late for a veto, the president having signaled repeatedly that he'd sign the measure. So, with misgivings, Bush went along. Three times, he called the bill "generous," and he conceded "it's not a perfect bill." His weak explanation for signing it was: "There's no such thing as a perfect bill."

There's a lot more wrong with the bill Bush signed than a few imperfections. First, there's the money. Depending on whose projections you use, it will raise farm spending by \$73 billion to \$82 billion over 10 years. The bill's total cost is pegged at \$457.8 billion, including \$251.9 billion for food stamps. What's worse is the attitude of Congress and the White House toward the increased spending that the bill reveals. A war is on and there's again a huge deficit, yet Washington is back to its old ways, gorging on spending. The era in which big government was over is over.

The bill not only increases spending for most existing crop subsidy programs, it

brings back old ones that had been killed and even creates new ones. Remember the mohair subsidy, which became famous because one of its recipients was newsman Sam Donaldson of ABC? It was eliminated in the Freedom to Farm Act of 1996, which was supposed to wean farmers off subsidies altogether, but didn't. Well, the mohair subsidy is back, along with the previously killed wool subsidy, thanks to the chairman (Larry Combest) and ranking Democratic member (Charles Stenholm) of the House Agricultural Committee, both from Texas. And thanks to the efforts of Democratic senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the honey subsidy has also risen from the dead.

Is it crucial to America for these products to be federally subsidized? Of course not. Yet what's alarming is how easily these subsidies were revived. The standard wasn't whether they are necessary. Obviously they aren't. It was whether the subsidies could be slipped into the farm bill, one way or another, while everyone is distracted by the war on terrorism. This is the old way of doing business in Washington: Feather your own nest—that is, your district or state—with as much of the taxpayers' money as you can get your hands on. This practice, dormant for a spell, is now back in full flower.

Republicans are almost as guilty as Democrats. For instance, they used the farm bill to present a gift to Ben Gilman, former chairman of the House International Relations Committee, who's retiring. Onion growers in his upstate New York district have been clamoring for federal aid for years, and so has Gilman. The farm bill provides a subsidy. Gilman was duly appreciative. "This measure enables us to finally deliver the needed \$10 million in federal assistance to our Orange County onion farmers, who have suffered year after year," he said. Gilman is a capable congressman and a nice man. But should the farm bill be a vehicle for gifts?

The onion program is not the only new one. Conrad was the key player in bringing about a subsidy for "pulse" crops—you know, chickpeas, lentils, and dry peas. A subsidy for those is designed to encourage farmers to rotate their crops. Crop rotation is a good agricultural practice. But hasn't it been done for eons without a subsidy from Washington? Must farmers really be prodded at taxpayers' expense?

To no one's shock, the farm bill is blatantly political. As Richard E. Cohen and Corine Hegland noted in the National Journal, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle made sure Democratic senators up for reelection this year were helped. Max Cleland of Georgia got a bigger-than-ever peanut subsidy. Tim Johnson of South Dakota wanted something called "country-of-origin" labeling on products—and got it. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, got a big, fat farm bill to brag about back in Iowa.

What about President Bush? He could have kept the farm bill from becoming egregiously larded. Citing new economic circumstances, he could have called for a little belt-tightening. It was back in spring 2001 when Congress authorized the \$73 billion increase in farm spending. At the time, the budget surplus was \$5 trillion and no annual deficits were in sight. The economic slump changed things. By late 2001, the surplus had shrunk dramatically and deficits were foreseen. True, the White House complained about House and Senate farm bills as they were being drafted, saying they cost too much and didn't meet the White House's free-market standards. But Bush could have insisted Congress trim the \$73 billion hike and not add programs.

Against a good bit of evidence, Bush and his aides assert the Freedom to Farm bill

with its market-oriented approach has not been reversed by the new farm bill. At last week's signing ceremony, Bush said supplemental farm bills won't have to be enacted every year, as was the case after 1996. The new bill, he said, "is generous enough to eliminate the need for supplemental support later this year and in the future." We'll see. The question is whether farmers and their allies in Washington have merely been whetted. The answer, more likely than not, is whetted.

HOLOCAUST RESTITUTION TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Holocaust Restitution Tax Fairness Act of 2002 to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. This bill which allows the continued exemption of Holocaust related payments from federal income tax is an important and symbolic gesture on behalf of eligible individuals who were persecuted on the basis of religion, physical and mental disability, sexual orientation by Nazi Germany.

A reparation fund established by Germany makes approximately 60,000 payments to individuals living in the United States. Payments also come from countries and industries that benefited from slave labor or property confiscation during the Nazi era.

Payments to Holocaust survivors should not be subject to U.S. income tax. The Exclusion From Federal Income Tax For Restitution Received by Victims of the Nazi Regime was enacted as a thoughtful way to bring closure to a painful period in history.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of victims of the Nazi regime.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I come today to address the critical issue of American seaport security. I am acutely aware of the dangerous possibilities for terrorist acts against our seaports since I represent the third largest and the busiest seaport on the East Coast of the United States—the Port of New York/New Jersey, which creates over 229,000 jobs and generates more than \$25 billion in commerce.

As we are all sadly aware, a terrorist's intent is not only to kill innocent people and destroy valuable property, but also to destroy our livelihoods and our way of life. Any terrorist action against our strategic seaports would have disastrous effects nationally and internationally. Any attempt on our part to grapple with the complex issues and details of developing and implementing a maritime security system must take into consideration the fact that we will

need international cooperation and equal security capabilities.

We need to ensure the safety of cargo originating overseas, which then must pass through the global chain of custody, before it reaches our domestic ports. To fully understand the scope of dealing with maritime security, simply imagine that every single container bound for entry into the United States or simply passing through the United States is a potential weapon of mass destruction. Every ship could be a delivery system of doom and every port a potential target. Now realize that the equivalent of six million containers entered the United States last year aboard 7,500 commercial vessels making 51,000 port calls.

H.R. 3983, the Maritime Transportation Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002, as amended, is an important step in ensuring the safety of cargo originating overseas. Together with the manager's amendment adding the Coast Guard reauthorization bill and the Custom's reauthorization act passed by the House shortly before the Memorial Day Work Period, the Congress is finally taking a comprehensive approach to port security.

Perhaps most critical to a timely global implementation of a port security system is the fact that H.R. 3983 incorporates the need to work effectively with foreign governments in order to ensure national security. This bill calls for the Department of Transportation to identify foreign ports that pose a security risk to the United States. If the Department finds a foreign port's security measures to be inadequate, it will make recommendations to improve these security measures. But if the foreign port fails to take corrective actions within 90 days, the Department can prescribe additional security conditions for ships and cargo entering the United States from these ports.

The bill also requires development of a cargo identification, tracking, and screening system, as well as performance standards to enhance the physical security of shipping containers. Also important is H.R. 3983's inclusion of a deadline (June 30, 2003) for the deployment of this cargo security system. We all know that such a time schedule is crucial to the protection of our people, seaports and national and international commerce. There is no time to waste on this endeavor. We must start and complete this strategy against terrorism before we are subject to another attack. Implementing preventive measures will greatly reduce the degree of vulnerability of our ports.

Finally, it codifies an emergency Coast Guard rule put in place immediately after the attacks of September 11th. Under this rule, shipping companies must electronically transmit passenger and crew manifests to the Department of Transportation prior to the vessel entering the United States.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3983 is vague or does not address many issues important to port security and I hope that my colleagues will address these issues in conference. For example, the bill creates a single, national transportation security card to be issued to port workers, merchant mariners, and truck drivers who work in "secure" areas based on the successful completion of a background check. Background checks and a single security card are something we have been doing at the Port of New York-New Jersey for many years. However, it remains to be seen how this single, national transportation security card is going to work in an actual seaport setting and I urge

my colleagues to heed the concerns raised by those who actually run and work at our nation's seaports. These concerns include having a set of clear, defined standards; the ability to appeal based on merit, not just technicalities; and the fluidity of port traffic among many levels of security.

Another concern is the inadequate funding to assist ports in addressing the threat of terrorism. H.R. 3983 authorizes \$225 million in grants over the next three years to assist U.S. ports in implementing the Coast Guard-approved maritime antiterrorism plans. Congress appropriated \$93 million in the Defense Supplemental Bill to initiate this program. Unfortunately, the need greatly exceeds the amount provided in this bill.

The question becomes "How do we develop and implement a worldwide maritime security system which ensures the maximum security while causing minimal disruption to domestic and international commerce?" If we are serious about ensuring the safety of our seaports, then we must also ensure that sufficient funding is available for the development and implementation of the necessary technology, as well as for the training and hiring of additional personnel, if needed.

Among the important provisions of the Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Act of 2002 is the specific placement of the primary responsibility for the development of standards and programs under the newly created Transportation Security Administration headed by the Undersecretary for Transportation Security.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know now that the security of our homeland is a matter that concerns everyone in the country. We have been entrusted with the grave responsibility of developing timely and cost effective solutions to the complex issue of national security.

There are many questions still to be answered and many difficult decisions from our part still to be made. However, there are certain irrefutable facts that must guide us in making those decisions:

Our seaport security systems are currently neither comprehensive enough nor strong enough to deter a terrorist act.

Developing and implementing an effective seaport security system will require the cooperation and coordination with local, state and Federal government, port authorities, terminal operators, shippers and ocean carriers, and everyone involved in maritime transportation activities including labor.

In order to protect our national seaports, we must ensure that all ships and cargo bound for an American port have been inspected and cleared for entry. Thus, we must enlist the cooperation of foreign governments and make sure that these governments also have comparable security capabilities.

The development and implementation of a global maritime security system will require a substantial financial commitment, regardless of what cost-cutting measures may be taken.

The time for developing such a security system is now. Any legislative bill that passes the House must have a timetable or deadline for deployment.

We have an onerous responsibility upon our shoulders and we will have to make some very difficult decisions in the near future regarding the overall security of our beloved homeland. However, we should not despair. For over seven months we have seen how

united our country has been in our determination to confront terrorism and our refusal to allow a terrorist attack to change our American way of life. We have demonstrated our courage, patriotism, strength of spirit and dogged determination in the face of the most catastrophic attack on our Homeland.

We will need these same traits as we work together to protect our people and our country.

STATEMENT ON PIPELINE SAFETY, H.R. 3609 TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MARKUP

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the health and safety of our citizens is a central part of a livable community. We in Congress have a special responsibility to ensure that the federal government is doing all it can to make our communities safe. Sadly, in the area of pipeline safety we have fallen short. Between 1986–1999, 23 fatalities, 113 injuries, and \$68 million in property damage resulted from 411 pipeline accidents. In the Pacific Northwest, two ten-year-old boys were killed in a 1999 pipeline explosion in Bellingham, Washington.

The bill before us today is a much-needed attempt to improve the federal government's role in pipeline safety, guarantee compliance from pipeline operators, and promote a more environmentally sound operation of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems. Four areas in particular I would like to see improved are integrity management, environmental review, whistleblower protection and the public's right to know.

Of these priorities, one that is of great importance to the families who live in communities with pipelines is the right to know the locations of these pipelines. Citizens have the right to know if a pipeline crosses near a school, hospital or important community landmark. These are not state secrets and the community's access to this information does not impair our nation's security. Many pipeline maps are already in the public realm and are posted on various public interest group web sites. Increasing public access to this information can only make our communities safer as the public will be more knowledgeable of where spills or leaks could occur.

While I support efforts to improve pipeline safety, I am concerned with any approach that would limit community awareness of the potential hazards of pipeline facilities. The public and the pipeline industry recognize the need to increase safety through appropriate federal supervision and protection. We must not fall short on our federal responsibility.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, throughout the history of this great nation, all of our political parties—whether they were Federalist or Antifederalist, Democrat or Republican—have worked from a shared belief that each generation of Americans has a basic and continuing obligation to provide a better future for the next generation. Simply put, this is the promise of America. It reflects both the strength of our democratic system as well as its fragility. It is fragile in the sense that this promise to the next generation is only as good and as reliable as our willingness to honor that promise during times of great challenge. After all, it is easy to make promises when there is no cost to their fulfillment.

I find it troubling that the Republican leadership has chosen in recent months to forget the next generation and break that basic promise and to wander from that common ground that we once shared. I believe it was Thomas Jefferson who said that a politician thinks about the next election, while a statesman thinks about the next generation. Only a few years ago, a former leader of the Republican Party warned this body, "If we don't get our house in order, the financial burden of the baby boom retirees will be crushing for the next generation." Sadly, that message seems to have gotten lost. What I see now from the leadership on the other side of the aisle, raiding the Social Security trust fund, returning us to deficit spending, and in effect handing the bill for this war in Afghanistan and the domestic war against terrorism to our children in the form of a multi-trillion dollar deficit. It seems disingenuous that while the Republican leadership champions nine years of tax cuts for individuals making over \$250,000 a year, they also refuse to ask those same people to help pay for this war and the costs of protecting our country from terrorism.

Think about it . . .

We are without question the wealthiest generation of any civilization that has ever walked this earth. We have acquired in this generation, our generation, greater wealth, greater scientific progress, greater luxury—a higher living standard, and done it faster, than any other generation of humans on this planet. We have seen in the past 20 years the average income of the top one percent of earners in this country increase by a staggering \$414,000 per year. We have seen the number of millionaires in our society increase by 400 percent over the past 10 years. The rate of home ownership is unsurpassed and has never been higher in this country.

We have recently come through the longest period of economic expansion in the history of this country. Yet we are here today facing a Republican leadership, which refuses to consider the possibility that we might have to ask the richest part of our society to delay the pay of their tax cut. Last year, my Republican colleagues pushed through tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, tax cuts that eliminated the surplus. They inherited a projected ten-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and instead of planning for an emergency, instead of planning for an economic downturn, instead of putting some money aside for the future; they assumed the good times would roll forever. Four trillion of that surplus is already gone. Now we have a national emergency, a war to pay for, and instead of being able to tap into that surplus to pay for the war, we have to go into debt, because the Republican tax cuts have already spent the surplus and have generated deficits for the foreseeable future.

Few of those who made these arguments last year, who said that it was irresponsible to spend down the surplus and leave no room for a national emergency, are surprised to find that we are now here on the floor today, faced with a need to raise the debt limit. And the Republican leadership is not even willing to let us have an honest debate, a straight up-and-down vote, on raising that debt limit.

Last night I heard from the other side of the aisle that if my colleagues and I complained about these kinds of parliamentary games, we were not committed to supporting a strong defense. Mr. Speaker, there is no question here that by our actions since September 11th, every member has shown his and her commitment to this war and to supporting our troops abroad. The question before us today should be whether we respond to this challenge by meeting our fiscal responsibilities and pay for the war, not whether we are going to simply stamp our feet and say "give me my tax cut" and pass the bill to the next generation by raiding their Social Security and giving them a deficit.

I firmly believe in the promise of America. I know that a lot of people on both sides of the aisle do too. I would bet that most Americans would agree that it would be better to freeze nine years of tax cuts to the very rich than to raid Social Security and bring up our kids in a multi-trillion dollars of debt.

Mr. Chairman, at the very least we deserve the right to a full and fair debate of these issues. It is time to end the transactional nature of politics exercised by the Republican leadership, which benefits a small group of very rich people, and instead think about the true and undying promise of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN.
CLAUDE B. DONOVAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Claude B. Donovan. Known as Pat to his friends and family, he has led an incredible life of service to this country. Pat embodies the spirit of my district in Colorado through his perseverance and unfaltering work ethic. I can think of no

better way to thank Pat for the contributions he has made then to acknowledge the accomplishments of this man.

Pat learned the value of hard work early on in his life from his mother. After Pat's father passed away when Pat was ten, his mother taught school to support them both. Pat applied that lesson in his schoolwork and earned his entrance into West Point Military Academy. Later in Pat's military career he would continue his education by attending the Command and General Staff College.

General Donovan proudly served his country in the United States military for nearly 30 years. During his time in the military Pat was posted in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. Pat was also the project manager for the M60 Tank Program and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He was the commander for the division maintenance battalion in the First Armored Division known as the Big Red One. In addition to his leadership abilities, Pat proved that he also is an educator when he returned to West Point to teach weapons system engineering. His military career was capped off by his service at the Pentagon where he was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Development, Engineering and Acquisition at the United States Army Materiel Command.

In addition to his selfless service to our country Pat has also given his time and energy to his community. After retirement Pat moved to Ouray, Colorado where he served two terms as Mayor. He has dedicated countless hours to the children of the local school as a volunteer. Pat also recognizes the importance of saving our heritage for the next generation and works to preserve our past through his local historical society. Perhaps most importantly Pat has been a loving husband to his wife Betty who supported him throughout his military career. Together Pat and Betty have four children, one of which followed in his father's footsteps and graduated from West Point and is currently serving as a Major in the Army.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Brig. Gen. Claude B. "Pat" Donovan. His devotion to this nation and to his community certainly deserves the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. Pat has gained the respect and admiration of those whose lives he has touched, especially his family. Pat's patriotism and dedication to his community and his family are an example to us all. Thank you Pat for all that you have done for this nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FED UP
HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join several of my colleagues in introducing the FED UP Higher Education Amendments Act of 2002. This legislation is the result of a year-long endeavor to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the Title IV student aid programs through the review of overly burdensome and outdated regulations.

Last year, the House Education and the Workforce Committee launched the FED.UP

project (short for "Upping the Effectiveness of our Federal Student Aid Programs) to identify and simplify burdensome regulations in the Higher Education Act of 1965 that work against college students and personnel. The initiative, which was started to bring some sense to the regulations that students and the higher education community must deal with on a daily basis, received over 3,000 responses from college officials, administrators and other personnel who operate America's institutions of higher learning. After all of the responses were catalogued, the Department of Education initiated a negotiated rulemaking process to consider the regulatory changes included in the project.

These proposed amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 continue this effort to identify and simplify burdensome regulations that work against college students and personnel, and are non-controversial and technical in nature. They provide for improvements that will reduce red tape for colleges and universities and will improve the financial aid process for students. Enacting these changes now will allow the House Education and Workforce Committee to address large, more intricate proposals during the reauthorization of the HEA without being bogged down with technical and clerical issues.

This legislation provides for the streamlining and increased effectiveness of many provisions within the HEA. It extends two provisions beneficial to both students and institutions scheduled to expire on September 30, 2002. Currently, schools with default rates under 10 percent for three consecutive fiscal years may waive a 30-day delay requirement for first-year, first-time borrowers. Schools meeting the same low default rate standard may also request one term loans in a single disbursement, rather than the required multiple disbursements. These provisions act as an incentive to schools to keep their default rates low and assist students in getting access to their loan funds on a more timely basis.

A drafting error during the 1998 reauthorization of the HEA inadvertently removed the eligibility of not-for-profit foreign veterinary schools from participation in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. This legislation will correct that error and keep hundreds of students from losing their loan eligibility.

This legislation also provides clarification for financial aid officers in the return of Title IV funds. It clarifies how the return of Title IV funds should be implemented for schools utilizing clock hours, and what percentage of funds need to be included in any return. The language also makes clear that Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership funds may be removed from the return of Title IV funds formula due to the mix of State and Federal funds at the school level. It clarifies that students who have been home schooled, and are treated as such under State law, are eligible for admittance into an institution of higher education as defined in the HEA and are eligible to receive financial aid. It also allows aid professionals to use professional judgment in determining financial need for a student who is declared a ward of the court.

This bill allows for the use of technology wherever possible to enhance and improve communication and the transfer of information. This includes reporting by States in providing information on teacher quality and providing students with voter registration materials.

This legislation allows student loan borrowers to receive more timely assistance from their lenders when they are seeking forbearance of loan payments. It allows a lender to accept a request for assistance over the telephone as long as a confirmation notice of the agreement reached is provided to the borrower and the borrower's file is updated. This eliminates the need for borrowers to sign paper documents requesting help and agreeing in writing to what they already have agreed to verbally. This language also aligns a rehabilitation provision within the Perkins Loan Program with the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

The FED UP Technical Amendments Act corrects an administrative issue in the payment of insurance to lenders and reinsurance to guaranty agencies on borrower default claims when the borrower failed to establish eligibility for that loan. This change reinstates long-standing policy of the Department of Education in the payment of these specific claims, which was altered by a new reporting process put in place via a forms change.

This legislation allows Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to apply for HSI grants without having to wait two years in between applications. It also clarifies allowable uses of grant funds within the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program. It also provides clarification within the Federal TRIO programs that institutions with more than one campus may apply for separate grants to serve different populations at different campuses.

This legislation also provides clarification as to what items must be included within the annual report of the Department of Education's Performance Based Organization (PBO). Finally, the bill corrects the names of the authorizing committees throughout the HEA and corrects a citation to a section of the law that had been changed several years ago.

The FED UP Higher Education Technical Amendments Act of 2002 will take us one step closer to reducing burdensome rules and allowing financial aid administrators and others in the higher education community to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. Program integrity and service to students remain the priority and this legislation accomplishes both.

FEDUP has accomplished its goal of streamlining the current regulatory system to the extent possible, while maintaining or improving program integrity and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN Z. SHEARER,
ROBERT KOENIG, ALMA COLLINS
AND MARGE ROSSITER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four residents in my district, John Z. Shearer, Robert Koenig, Alma Collins, and Marge Rossiter for each being named a volunteer of the year by four member organizations of the South Central Directors of Volunteers Association. Each of these individuals have given their communities a great service by giving of themselves and their time. Their service is a tremendous gift to the many people they help.

John Z. Shearer was recognized by the Franklin County Volunteer Transportation Network for driving more than 1,000 miles since November and donating 43 hours to provide transportation to people in need of medical services outside Franklin County. In addition to this work, Mr. Shearer also volunteers for the Toy Mission, Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, and directs/manages the chorus of AARP Falling Spring Chapter 280.

Robert Koenig was recognized by the Franklin County Literacy Council for being a volunteer tutor and assisting with fund-raising and special projects. In addition to his work at the council, Mr. Koenig also volunteers at the Ragged Edge Library and with the Scotland School for Veterans Children football team.

Alma Collins was recognized by the Shook Home and The Quarters At Shook for her positive attitude, reliability, and willingness to help.

Marge Rossiter was recognized by the Volunteer Association of South Mountain Restoration Center for being a volunteer since 1977, serving her third term as president of the association and serving as chairperson for another of the association's volunteer groups, International Party Givers.

The services these volunteers provide do not come with a price, but the dividends of their work are precious and valuable. They have given their time unselfishly and have asked for nothing in return. Through their example we learn that a smile, a thank you, or just the knowledge that you have done a good deed can provide a personal reward that fills the corners of your heart in ways that a paycheck will never be big enough to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all volunteers for their noble work and congratulating John Z. Shearer, Robert Koenig, Alma Collins, and Marge Rossiter for receiving the recognition of volunteer of the year. I would also like to put forth a challenge to young people, in my district as well as other parts of the country, to follow in the footsteps of these individuals. President George W. Bush, in his last State of the Union Address, challenged all of us to give two years or 4,000 hours of service over our lifetimes. If the President were here today I am positive he would shake these four volunteers' hands and hold them up as examples for others to follow. Our communities are in need of volunteers, people that are willing to provide a helping hand and give from their hearts. This country has a generous spirit of goodwill and kindness, I urge others to use this as their motivation to become as involved in bettering their communities as the four volunteers we have recognized today.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the primary function of the National Transportation Safety Board primary function is to promote safety in transportation. The Board is responsible for the investigation, determination

of facts, conditions, and circumstances and the cause or probable cause or causes of. The Board makes transportation safety recommendations to Federal, State, and local agencies and private organizations to reduce the likelihood of recurrences of transportation accidents. The Board issues reports and orders pursuant to its duties to determine the cause of transportation accidents and to report the facts, conditions and circumstances relating to such accidents.

Since its last reauthorization in 2000, the Board has investigated over 6,500 accidents. The NTSB has issued over 650 safety recommendations. To maintain its position as the world's preeminent investigative agency, the NTSB must have the resources necessary to handle the increasingly complex accident investigations. The NTSB has recently broken ground for its new training academy that will teach state of the art investigative techniques for transportation accidents.

Although it has no regulatory or enforcement powers, its reputation for impartiality and thoroughness has enabled the NTSB to achieve such success in shaping transportation safety improvements that more than 80 percent of its recommendations have been adopted by those in a position to effect change.

Many safety features currently incorporated into airplanes, automobiles, trains, pipelines and marine vessels had their genesis in NTSB recommendations. At an annual cost of less than 23 cents a citizen, the NTSB is one of the best bargains in the government.

H.R. 4466, National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act authorizes increased funding over the next three years: \$73 million in FY 2003; \$85 million in FY 2004; and \$89.7 million in FY 2005. The bill also authorizes approximately \$4 million per year for the training academy. This funding is critical to ensure that the Agency has the necessary resources to hire additional technical experts as well as to provide better training for its current workforce.

H.R. 4466 also addresses another matter of great importance; that is, the DOT's notoriously slow response to NTSB's safety recommendations. The bill requires an annual report from DOT on the regulatory status of all significant safety recommendations (i.e., those on NTSB's "most wanted list") received from the NTSB. This will enable the Committee to keep tabs on the progress of these very important recommendations.

One of the NTSB's core functions is to assist families of passengers that have been in an aviation accident. H.R. 4466 also extends the NTSB's family assistance responsibility to families of victims of rail accidents. In addition, Congress, in 2000, authorized the transfer of investigative priority from the NTSB to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event of an accident caused by an intentional criminal act. H.R. 4466 provides for the transfer of the family affairs responsibility to the FBI from the NTSB when investigative authority has been relinquished in both aviation and rail accidents.

Having a well funded, well-trained NTSB workforce is of the utmost importance for the American traveling public. Accordingly, I urge my fellow members to strongly support the bill.

IS INDIA AN ALLY OR A
TERRORIST STATE?

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently, the news website NewsMax.com ran a very comprehensive article called "India: Allies or Instigators?" It details India's pattern of abuse against the Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities, its anti-Americanism, and its support of terrorism against its neighbors.

The article shows that the Indian government has killed tens of thousands of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities; that it holds tens of thousands of political prisoners; and it is funding terrorism in Pakistan and created and supported the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an organization the U.S. government has called a "terrorist" organization. It shows India's domestic terrorism against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and all the other minority groups.

Reading this article should cause any fair-minded reader to ask whether or not India is a terrorist state seeking hegemony in South Asia and questions whether India is a country we should trust as an ally. The United States should work for freedom for all the people of the subcontinent. I was proud to be one of 42 Members of Congress from both parties who signed a letter urging President Bush to press for the release of Sikh and other political prisoners in India. The Administration should do that. But it should do more.

After reading this article, it is clearly time for the U.S. government to cut off its aid to India and to come out in support of self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia. This is the best way to spread liberty, democracy, prosperity, and true stability to the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the article into the RECORD at this time. I urge my colleagues and all people interested in South Asian affairs to read it.

INDIA: ALLIES OR INSTIGATORS?

(By Tim Phares)

Trouble is brewing again in South Asia, as India and Pakistan move troops to their border. The recent violence in Gujarat, in which over 540 people have been killed, has merely heightened tensions.

It follows an attack by Muslims on a train full of Hindu activists headed for Ayodhya, where the BJP government in India is seeking to build a Hindu temple on the site where the most revered mosque in India was destroyed by Hindu militants a few years ago. It was reported that the passengers were taunting the Muslims by chanting slogans about rebuilding the temple.

Unfortunately, India, which proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy," has made moves that undermine America's war on terrorism. Indian military maneuvers have forced Pakistan to divert troops from the border with Afghanistan to the Line of Control in Kashmir, creating a potential opening for terrorists to escape.

On January 2, Tony Blankley wrote in the Washington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

Journalist Tavleen Singh has reported in India's leading newsmagazine, India Today, that the Indian government created the Lib-

eration Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which the U.S. government has identified as a "terrorist organization."

According to Internet journalist Justin Raimondo, the Indian Defense Minister, George Fernandes, raised money and arms for the LTTE.

Pakistan and minorities within India's borders charge that India is seeking hegemony in the South Asian subcontinent. Certainly its deployment of new missiles that can reach deep into Pakistan and its tests that began the nuclear escalation in the region suggest that this may be true.

While India blames Pakistan for the attack on its Parliament, President Pervez Musharraf says he has evidence that the Indian government itself was responsible. No Indian soldiers were killed, just guards, workers, and other lower-caste people.

The book *Soft Target*, written by Canadian journalists Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star and Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail, shows that India blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 people, apparently in order to blame Sikhs for the atrocity and create a pretext for more violence against them.

It shows that the Indian Consul General in Toronto pulled his daughter off the flight shortly before it was due to depart. An auto dealer who was a friend of the Consul General also cancelled his reservation at the last minute. Surinder Singh, director of North American Affairs for the External Affairs office in New Delhi, also cancelled his reservation on that flight. The Consul General also called to finger a suspect in the case before the public knew that the bombing had taken place. The book quotes an agent of the Canadian State Investigative Service (CSIS) as saying, "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

India has a long record of Anti-Americanism. On May 18, 1999, The Indian Express reported that Mr. Fernandes, the Defense Minister, organized and led a meeting with the Ambassadors from Red China, Cuba, Russia, Yugoslavia, Libya, and Iraq to discuss setting up a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

India votes against the United States at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba. It had a long term friendship with the former Soviet Union and supported its invasion of Afghanistan.

India's implicit support for terrorist activity is consistent with its internal behavior. It has a record of repression of minorities that undermines its proclamation of democratic values.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which leads a 23-party coalition, is a branch of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), an organization founded in 1925 in support of the Fascists.

The governing ideology of the BJP and all the branches of the RSS is Hindutva, the subjugation of society, politics, and culture to Hinduism. Last year, a cabinet member said that everyone living in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. And in New York in 2000, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said, "I will always be a Swayamsewak." This is the ideology behind the attacks on Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities.

The target of choice these days seems to be Christians. Human-rights organizations report that more than 200,000 Christians in Negaland have been killed by the Indian government.

On February 17, the Associated Press reported an attack on the Catholic church on

the outskirts of Bangalore in which several people were injured. The assailants threw stones at the church, then broke in, breaking furniture and smashing windows before attacking worshippers. The February 25 issue of the Washington Times reported another church attack in which 20 people were wounded.

In February, two church workers and a teenage boy were shot at while they prayed. The boy was injured. Two Christian missionaries were beaten with iron rods while they rode their bicycles home. A Christian cemetery in Port Blair was vandalized.

These attacks continue a pattern of oppression of Christians that has been going on heavily since Christmas 1998. Since then, members of the RSS have murdered priests, raped nuns, burned churches, and committed other atrocities with impunity.

The RSS published a booklet last year detailing how to file false criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities. The RSS objects to the presence of missionaries in India.

The missionaries are having a good deal of success in converting members of the lower castes, especially Dalits, also known as "Untouchables." This removes the lower-caste people from the stratification of the caste system, which is essential to the Hindu religion and social structure.

RSS activists also burned a missionary and his two sons to death while they slept in their jeep. They surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Now the Indian authorities have found a single individual to blame and they are moving to throw the missionary's widow out of the country. In 1997, Indian police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing members of the Sikh minority. In the same year, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment terrorist activity in Punjab and in Kashmir.

According to the book *The Politics of Genocide*, over 250,000 Sikhs have been killed by the Indian government's forces. According to human-rights groups, Indian forces have killed over 75,000 Muslims in Kashmir and thousands of other minorities, including Dalit "untouchables," Tamils, and other groups.

A report issued last year by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) showed that India admitted to holding 52,268 political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners.

These prisoners continue to be held under a law called the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. It empowered the government to hold people virtually indefinitely for any offense or for no offense at all.

According to many reports, some of these political prisoners have been in custody for almost two decades. Amnesty International reported last year that tens of thousands of minorities are big held as political prisoners. On February 28, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush asking him to work for freedom for these political prisoners.

MASR also co-sponsored with the Punjab Human Rights Organization an Investigation of the March 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura. It concluded that Indian forces carried out the massacre. A separate investigation conducted by the International Human Rights Organization came to the same conclusion.

As Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) said on the floor of Congress on August 2, 1999, "for

the people in Kashmir and Punjab and Jammu, India might as well be Nazi Germany.”

In the words of Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, who was interviewed in August 1997 by National Public Radio, “The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are secular, that they are democratic. But they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs to please the majority.”

In the March 4 issue of *Forbes*, Steve Forbes compared India to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, arguing that as a multinational State, India is inherently unstable. Prior to the British conquest of the subcontinent, there was no political entity called India. It was a series of princely states brought together by the British.

The Kashmiri people were promised a referendum on their status in 1948, but that vote has never been held. The Sikhs, who were supposed to receive independence, have never had any of their representatives sign the Indian constitution. Instead of respecting “the glow of freedom” that Nehru and Patel promised the Sikhs, the government declared them a “criminal class” as the ink was dry on the constitution. Currently, 17 freedom movements are going on within India’s borders.

Some Members of Congress have called for sanctions against India and for an end to American aid. Some have also endorsed self-determination for the peoples seeking freedom from India through a plebiscite on independence. While these events seem unlikely to occur any time soon, the Indian government has held negotiations with the freedom fighters in predominantly Christian Nagaland. Home Minister L.K. Advani recently admitted that if Kashmir achieves freedom (which now seems more likely than ever), it will cause India to break apart.

Some experts have predicted that within a decade, neither India nor Pakistan will exist in the form we know them presently. The Indian subcontinent will continue to be a region that bears close attention by American policymakers.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT SAFETY ASSURANCE ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act, legislation to require background checks on indirect care personnel in our nation’s nursing homes.

Currently, there are 17,000 nursing homes in the United States where approximately 1.5 million of our nation’s seniors reside. A 1999 study conducted by the House Government Reform Committee analyzed two years of state inspection and complaint investigation reports of nursing homes and revealed that abuse of nursing home residents is a widespread, serious problem. Specifically, over 30 percent of nursing homes in the United States, or 5,283 facilities, were cited for an abuse violation between January 1, 1999 and January 1, 2001. During the two-year period of the report, these nursing homes were cited for 8,972 violations. The most frequent violations were failure to properly investigate and report allegations of resident abuse or failure to ensure

that nursing home staff had no record of abusing, neglecting or mistreating residents. For this reason, Congress must take additional action to protect seniors receiving care in our nation’s nursing homes.

My legislation, the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act is an important step towards achieving that goal. The bill would amend Public Law 105–277, which currently requires federal criminal background checks on direct care personnel to also allow background checks on indirect care personnel such as maintenance workers, janitors and dietary staff. These individuals have direct access to seniors in nursing homes without completing the screening procedures that direct care personnel, such as physical therapists and licensed nurse practitioners are required to have. The current loophole in the law puts our society’s most vulnerable members, the elderly and disabled in circumstances rife with opportunities for abuse and exploitation.

The state of North Carolina recognized this potential for abuse and the state legislature passed legislation requiring criminal background checks for both direct and indirect care nursing home personnel who have not lived in North Carolina for 5 years. Public Law 105–277 hinders this background check process by preventing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from releasing background information on indirect care personnel.

Amending this law to require criminal background checks on all nursing home personnel would send a message that Congress is serious about protecting the welfare of our Nation’s seniors. Please join me in supporting the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act, common sense legislation to protect our nation’s most vulnerable citizens.

DONATION OF A PIECE OF THE BERLIN WALL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the gift of a piece of the Berlin Wall to my good friend, Georgia State Senator Chuck Clay. The grandson of General Lucius Clay, who spearheaded the 1949 Berlin Air Lift that saved West Berlin from a Soviet invasion, and its citizens from starvation, Senator Clay is an appropriate recipient of this gift that recognizes one of our greatest military heroes. I am proud to represent the Marietta community in the United States House of Representatives.

The importance of General Clay’s efforts during the Cold War cannot be overstated. After serving his county in the Second World War, he earned the Distinguished Service Medal. Later, he became commander of the U.S. armed forces in Europe, as well as the military governor of Germany. With his endeavors to make the Air Lift a success, he united the American and Berlin people in a friendship that has continued to this date. Yet even after retiring from the army, General Clay remained involved in a life of service as an advisor to President Eisenhower, an Ambassador to Berlin under President Kennedy, and as a member of countless committees on civic affairs.

I am honored to be able to assist in bringing this piece of the Berlin Wall to the Marietta community. I know that my colleagues join in recognizing its symbolic importance to German-American friendship, and will join me in hallowing the efforts of those who gave so much to make this possible.

TRIBUTE TO 2001–2002 SACRAMENTO KINGS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2001–2002 Sacramento Kings, one of the most exciting and formidable teams in the National Basketball Association. The 2001–2002 Kings completed the greatest season in franchise history by taking the two-time defending World Champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, to the brink of elimination in a fiercely contested seven game series. Although the season ended short of a Championship, the 2001–2002 Kings demonstrated remarkable courage, determination, and promise that have surely made them a great source of civic pride and a perennial NBA powerhouse for years to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the remarkable 2001–2002 Sacramento Kings.

Throughout the course of the season, the 2001–2002 Sacramento Kings showed tremendous character in overcoming numerous obstacles. Despite losing star players Chris Webber and Peja Stojakovic for significant portions of the season, the Kings finished the regular season with a league best mark of 61 wins and 21 losses. The Kings won the franchise’s first division championship since relocating to Sacramento in 1985. By combining a high-octane offense and a tenacious defense, this year’s Kings posted the best overall record, home record and road record in franchise history. It is clear that the 2001–2002 Sacramento Kings are the most successful team in the franchise’s illustrious 54 year history.

The Kings began their postseason campaign in fine form, as they only needed four games to conquer their old nemesis, the Utah Jazz. In the next round, the Kings overcame significant injuries to Peredrag Stojakovic and Doug Christie to defeat a talented Dallas Mavericks team by a four games to one margin. In the Western Conference finals, the Kings locked horns with the Los Angeles Lakers in one of the most hotly contested and memorable playoff series in NBA history. Although the Kings would lose the series after stretching the ultimate seventh game into overtime, their outstanding performance throughout the playoffs cemented the Kings’ status as one of the preeminent teams in the NBA today and the dominant team of the future.

The 2001–2002 Sacramento Kings are comprised of an outstanding blend of superstar players, seasoned veterans, and exciting young players. This Kings team is spearheaded by the all around excellence of All-Stars Chris Webber and Peredrag Stojakovic. On defense, the Kings are lead by defensive stalwart and All NBA Defensive Second Team member Doug Christie. Skillful big men Vlade Divac, Scot Pollard, and Lawrence

Funderburke provide consistent play in the paint. The boundless energy and exuberance of Mike Bibby, Bobby Jackson, and Hidayet Turkoglu fuels the Kings trademark high-power offense. High-flying rookie Gerald Wallace and the talented Mateen Cleaves provide an enticing glimpse into the team's future with their enormous potential. To round off the roster, solid veterans Chucky Brown and Brent Price provide steady and valuable leadership on the floor and in the locker room. This dazzling group of players, combined with a selfless commitment to team play, are major reasons why the Kings enjoyed such unparalleled success during the 2001–2002 season.

In addition to a wonderful roster, the 2001–2002 Kings also benefited greatly from the tutelage of one of the best coaching staffs and the leadership of one of the most progressive front offices in the NBA. On the bench, the 2001–2002 Kings were lead by head coach Rick Adelman and assistant coaches Pete Carril, John Wetzal and Elston Turner. These coaches were able to harness one of the greatest collections of talented players in the NBA into a balanced scoring team that is epitomized by team play and an unyielding commitment to defense. In the front office, the Kings are led by the visionary ownership of the Maloof Family and the astute personnel moves of team president Geoff Petrie. Under the ownership of the Maloof Family, the Kings have taken great steps to forge one of the most unique and strongest relationships in all of sports with their team supporters. Given the Kings' front office's commitment to the city of Sacramento, it is no wonder why Kings fans are widely regarded as the most spirited and most loyal fans in America.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Kings conclude its greatest season in franchise history and prepare to achieve greater triumphs in the future, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the Kings organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento and Kings' fans everywhere. Their successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento Kings on a wonderful season and wishing them greater success in future seasons.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISON TOWNSHIP

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Harrison Township, whose outstanding dedication and commitment to the service of its community has led to a great accomplishment. On Tuesday, May 28, 2002, Harrison Township celebrated its 175th Anniversary, commemorating 175 years of civic excellence.

Every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country. This year, as the community of Harrison Township

gathered together to honor Memorial Day, they also had the distinct honor of celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Harrison Township.

Harrison Township today is a flourishing center of civic and social activities and resources for families of the community. With a great emphasis on community service, Harrison Township has opened its doors throughout the years to welcome community members to civic gatherings, conferences, club meetings, and events for the entire family.

Community will always serve as the cornerstone of Harrison Township. But Harrison Township is expanding, by bringing in new levels of technology and resources. The community of Harrison Township has dedicated its time and talents to bring their community into the 21st Century, and they have been successful. Because of this community's unwavering support, Harrison Township has become a community that will continue to cultivate its historic roots as well as reach out to younger generations.

Harrison Township is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of community members and their families. I applaud Harrison Township for its leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF AMANDA SCHAECHER

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Amanda Schaecher, who deserves our thanks and recognition for her efforts to make sure our troops and veterans are not forgotten. When Amanda was crowned Miss Henry County Fair, she had no specific cause to promote or project for which she wanted to raise funds. But following the terrorist attacks of September 11, a cause found her. She has used whatever resources were at her disposal as queen to help our troops and veterans.

Last November, in honor of Veteran's Day, Amanda printed special certificates of recognition which she presented, along with an American flag, to more than 50 veterans residing in nursing homes and independent living centers in Henry County.

Just before Christmas, she launched an ongoing project to encourage contributions to the USO, so current troops overseas are not forgotten. She has recorded public service announcements for local radio stations and placed a public service ad in the Kewanee Star Courier newspaper and taped up posters at various locations around Henry County.

Earlier this year, when she heard the Kewanee National Guard unit would not be able to hold its annual fundraiser at its armory because of heightened security precautions, she arranged for it to be held at Wethersfield High School.

There are many examples of patriotism and service in the aftermath of Sept. 11. Amanda Schaecher exemplifies those values. The time, talent and energy she has given cannot be calculated—they are priceless.

Our veterans and military personnel have no better friend and supporter than Amanda. I am

proud and honored to recognize her tireless and extraordinary efforts. I Join the entire community and America's veterans and military personnel in thanking and honoring Amanda.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NEW JERSEY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today has been designated by America's Second Harvest as the First Annual Hunger Awareness Day. I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the dedicated work of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, whose mission is to fight hunger and poverty.

Many individuals and families in need benefit from the efforts of the Community Food Bank and its associated food banks, which provide assistance to emergency feeding programs in 18 of New Jersey's 21 counties. Today, representatives from those counties will gather at the Food Bank to issue a call to action. Participants will include recipients of emergency food, who will share their stories; staff from soup kitchens and shelters; volunteers; and donors of food and funds. The goal of the Hunger Awareness Forum is to highlight what is happening in New Jersey, to reveal how many are hungry in our State, and to discuss how all of us can work together to see that no one from New Jersey is without food. The Community Food Bank is the vital link between the food industry and the charitable organizations which serve the needy in our community.

Activities are being planned throughout the nation today to raise awareness of the need to address hunger both nationally and locally. The theme of this initiative is "Nobody in America Should Go Hungry."

Mr. Speaker, as Congress addresses the issue of hunger, it is fitting that we take a moment to honor the efforts of the staff and volunteers who have made the Community Food Bank of New Jersey such a successful resource for our communities. Let us thank them for assisting countless individuals and families through this labor of love.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANZ B. HUMER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize the work of an outstanding individual, Dr. Franz B. Humer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Roche Holdings, Ltd, one of the world's leading healthcare companies whose United States headquarters is located in my district, in Nutley, New Jersey.

On Wednesday, May 22, Dr. Humer was honored along with Leah Tutu, the wife of Bishop Desmond Tutu, at the Phelophepa Health Care Train Gala dinner in New York

City. My obligations here in Washington caused me to miss the event, which I am told was a tremendous success.

It is only fitting that Dr. Humer be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his steadfast leadership in providing long term support he and Hoffmann-La Roche have given to South Africa's neediest citizens.

The Phelophepa Health Care Train, a South African charity, provides remote primary health care to rural South Africa via locomotive train. Now in its 9th year of operation, the Phelophepa Train continues reaching out and striving to better the lives of thousands of rural people by bringing basic health services, outreach programs, AIDS education, and training and health information to areas where such services are not available.

Under the exceptional leadership of Dr. Humer, Hoffmann-La Roche's generous assistance has enabled the Phelophepa Train to achieve unprecedented success in its efforts to provide essential health care to the people of South Africa. Dr. Humer and Hoffmann-La Roche deserve recognition for their efforts to better the lives of desperately needy persons halfway across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Hoffman-La Roche, the people of South Africa, and me in recognizing the outstanding humanitarian efforts of Dr. Franz Humer, and congratulating him on this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Fellowship Chapel, which celebrated its 36h Anniversary on Sunday, June 2, 2002. Truly a milestone occasion, this celebration gives testament to the outstanding dedication and commitment of the entire church and community.

Founded in 1966, Fellowship Chapel began humbly, with worship services and holiday celebrations for its members. Decades later, Fellowship Chapel has come far, recently celebrating the ground-breaking ceremony of its beautiful, new church complex in January of 2002. Fellowship Chapel has truly led this community in spirituality and services, opening its doors to welcome members and their families for generations.

Through much prayer, sacrifice, and hard work, the congregation of Fellowship Chapel has only grown stronger and more dedicated to its mission. With a variety of ministries and departments for religious education, charitable programs, social events and activities for the entire family, Fellowship Chapel is truly advancing in its mission to reach out into the community and bring families together. With the new construction underway, religious education, church activities, and official services will only become greater and this community will continue to succeed in its crusade to improve the lives of people through faith and God.

Although history and time have changed the congregation, the spirit of the church has remained strong. I would like to personally con-

gratulate Fellowship Chapel on their 36th Anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing them on this landmark occasion.

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION AND CHARITABLE CHOICE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I believe that we have a responsibility to continue to review and revise legislation that adapts and improves upon program successes and the ever-changing needs of American citizens. That is why I support H.R. 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002. This legislation reauthorizes the 1996 welfare reform program, a program that works to move welfare recipients from the dependency of these programs to self-sufficiency.

However, while I support this welfare reauthorization, I do not support a provision included in the original 1996 legislation and again included in this reauthorization. This provision is known as Charitable Choice, and in my opinion, the wrong solution to a real problem. Under current law, faith-based groups may already accept federal dollars under three conditions: they cannot be pervasively sectarian, they cannot proselytize, and they cannot discriminate on the basis of religion in their employment practices.

Charitable Choice changes those conditions. Charitable Choice makes it possible for the government to subsidize churches and other thoroughly religious entities that provide social services. This proposal will provide tax dollars to religious groups and open the door to government review of church activities.

For many years the law has permitted groups that are affiliated with religious bodies (e.g. Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services, Jewish Federations) to receive tax funds to provide secular social services. But Charitable Choice represents a radical and misguided revision of the law. Indeed, many ministers believe that Charitable Choice will do great harm to religion.

Because regulation always follows tax funds, Charitable Choice opens the door to invasive government monitoring, regulation and accounting of churches, clergy, and other leaders of the church. For these reasons, people like Freddy Garcia, who runs the highly successful Victory Fellowship ministry for drug addicts in San Antonio, has said, "I don't want any grants. I'm a church . . . All I want is for the government to leave me alone."

Also, because there is limited money in the public purse and thousands of religious groups in our country, Charitable Choice will force the government to pick and choose which religions it funds. Churches may have to compete for government grants before elected legislators. "The best way I know of to destroy religion is to have all the churches fighting over a big pot of money," says Rev. J. Brent Walker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Charitable Choice will generate serious problems that have not been seen on a large scale in this country in over 200 years—out-

right religious infighting, intolerance and discrimination.

If we allow government to fund and become involved in religion, it will harm religion, not help it. It is people of faith who must point out that church-state separation does not mean keeping people of faith from being involved in government but rather it means keeping government from being involved in religion.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to provide a welfare program that helps the needs of all American citizens, without compromising religious freedom and liberty. I would hope that we, as Members of Congress, remember our obligations to uphold the principles of the Constitution and create legislation, which represents the core and steadfast beliefs of the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HDTV TRANSITION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an exciting new technology. Local television broadcasters across the country are undertaking their biggest advancement in years: the transition to digital television. These stations aim to provide new services to their viewers, our constituents. Digital TV opens the door to new possibilities like High Definition TV, interactive television, and expanded programming options and choices.

The stations in Houston that serve my district are already transmitting digital signals. I am proud of my hometown broadcasters: the CBS affiliate KHOU, which is owned by the Texas based Belo Corporation; KPRC, owned by Post-Newsweek; KTRK, owned by ABC; KRIV and KTXH owned by FOX; KUHT; and my local PBS station. These local broadcasters are leading the charge into the future.

These TV stations are small businesses like any other. They have made substantial investments in new transmitting facilities, new production equipment, and in some cases new broadcast towers. Collectively, the broadcast industry has invested over a billion dollars in the future of free, over-the-air digital television.

The digital transition will accelerate significantly as more television sets with digital tuners are manufactured. Like any technology, digital television sets started out as expensive, but are rapidly becoming more affordable. The prices for digital television sets have dropped fifty percent in the last two years and continue dropping today. I look forward to a day when digital television tuners are so widespread that all consumers can afford to make the conversion and receive their local stations' free digital signals.

The transition to digital television will be, undoubtedly, a multi-step process. In the meantime, I am proud of my hometown stations for leading the way. Let me offer my thanks and congratulations to them for flipping the digital switch.

A TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LEGEND PAUL GIEL: TWO-SPORT ALL-AMERICAN, UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND BELOVED HERO

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true Minnesota sports legend, devoted family person, and wonderful friend—Paul Giel—who passed away suddenly on May 22, 2002.

Paul Giel—All-American football and baseball player at the University of Minnesota from 1951 to 1954; Major League Baseball pitcher from 1954 to 1961; Sports broadcaster and director for WCCO Radio for eight years; Athletic Director at the University of Minnesota for 18 years; and Vice President of Public Affairs for the Minneapolis Heart Institute the past 12 years.

As great as Paul Giel's athletic and professional achievements were, Paul was an even greater person.

Legendary Minneapolis Star Tribune sports-writer Sid Hartman said it well, "If there ever were a role model for the young athlete in high school or college, it had to be Paul Giel. Success on the field only made him a better person off it."

WCCO's Ray Christensen, our state's beloved sports announcer who started doing football broadcasts in 1951—when Paul Giel was a sophomore—said this about Paul Giel: "Paul was a winner in every way, but most important, I think he was a winner as a person. When you earn so many rewards as a player, as an athletic director and in other ways in sports, sometimes you forget to be a person. And Paul never forgot."

Born and raised in Winona in southeastern Minnesota, Paul Giel was a 5–11, 185-pound single-wing tallback at the University of Minnesota. He ran and passed for 4,110 yards and 35 touchdowns and finished a close second to Notre Dame's Johnny Lattner in the Heisman Trophy voting his senior year.

Paul Giel is a member of the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame. He was a two-time All-American in football and the Most Valuable Player in the Big Ten.

In baseball, Paul Giel was also an All-American. He won 21 college games from 1952 to 1954, and he pitched for four major league teams from 1954 to 1961.

For 18 years starting in 1972, Paul Giel was the Athletic Director at the University of Minnesota. He was the man who hired Herb Brooks as hockey coach, and Herbie recently recalled Paul's words when he was hired: "Listen, I'm just new to this job. I don't know rules and regulations, everything else," he said, "but do what's right. Don't break any rules. Do what's right."

"People believed in Paul Giel," said Herb Brooks. "Parents believed in him. Players believed in Paul Giel."

Mr. Speaker, all Minnesotans believed in Paul Giel, and their faith in him was always rewarded. Paul Giel was a man of great character and principle, especially when it came to the place he loved more than any other, the University of Minnesota.

"I don't think I've ever known anyone who cared more or who was more loyal to the Uni-

versity of Minnesota than Paul Giel," said Tom Moe, University of Minnesota Athletic Director. "He was a tremendous friend. I just had tremendous admiration for him. I'm sick. It's a sad day for Minnesotans."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it's a sad day to lose a Minnesota legend, our humble hero and All-American in every way he lived his life.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Paul's loving wife, Nancy, their three wonderful children, Paul Jr., Gerilyn, Tommy, their spouses and his six grandchildren. Paul also dearly loved his mother and father-in-law, Colonel and Mrs. Tom Davis, as well as his sister Ruth and brother Edward.

Paul Giel's legacy will continue to live in the hearts of every Minnesotan who knew and loved him.

Thanks "Old Number 10" for all the great memories and for always making Minnesota proud.

HONORING THE LAO-HMONG PEOPLE FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND FRIENDSHIP

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Lao-Hmong American Coalition to thank my colleagues in both the House and Senate for their unanimous vote in favor of a National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. Mr. Yang Chee, president of the Lao-Hmong American Coalition, has asked me to relay his own deep gratitude to the United States Congress for passing this historic proclamation.

During the Vietnam War, the Lao-Hmong people were one of this country's most loyal allies. They fought alongside U.S. soldiers against the communists and the North Vietnamese, sacrificing their lives for freedom and democracy. Many of these brave people now call this country their home, becoming an integral part of American society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Chee and all of the Lao-Hmong people for their dedication to this country and its ideals.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution proclaiming National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day was passed unanimously through both Houses of Congress. Once again, I thank my colleagues for their support, and it is my hope that President Bush will join us in expressing the gratitude of this nation to the Lao-Hmong people.

This long-overdue day of recognition will take place in July. May it promote a sense of understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made in the name of freedom and democracy. I urge all Americans to take a moment on this day to thank our brave and loyal friends, the Lao-Hmong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 4, my flight from Los Angeles

to Washington, D.C. was unexpectedly delayed due to airplane mechanical problems. I therefore was unable to return in time to cast my votes on legislation that had been put to a vote of the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I returned in time, I would have cast my votes in the affirmative for the following bills: H.R. 4073, Microenterprise Assistance Reauthorization; H.R. 4466, National Transportation Antiterrorism Act; H.R. 4800, Repeal Sunset for Adoption Tax Credit; H.R. 4823, Repeal Sunset for Holocaust Restitution Payments Exemption; H.R. 2941, Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 22, 2002, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 195 and 196. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 195 and "no" on rollcall vote 196. Additionally, on Thursday, May 24 and Friday, May 25, 2002, I was unavoidable absent for rollcall votes 199 through 206, in order to attend my son's high school graduation ceremony. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall 199, "yea" on rollcall 200, "yea" on rollcall 201, "yea" on rollcall 202, "no" on rollcall 203, "no" on rollcall 204, "yea" on rollcall 205, and "yea" on rollcall 206.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGENE BRODIE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Georgene Brodie, a dedicated wife, mother and teacher who has faced life with courage, compassion and strength. Georgene is suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and she is using the time she has left to help others who are suffering from the same disease.

I have been touched by Georgene's enormous capacity to give to others. She founded the Georgene Brodie Foundation for the Future to raise funds for The Johns Hopkins Center for ALS and The Muscular Dystrophy Association. She and her family know that a cure for ALS and other similar diseases will be found only through research and clinical work. The Hopkins Center for ALS Research is the only center in the country dedicated to finding the cure for ALS.

While Georgene may be suffering from ALS, she is much more than the disease that afflicts her. As a teacher, she has dedicated her life to helping young children experience the joy of learning; as a mother she has raised two marvelous daughters—Kimberly and Ellen; and as a Grandmother she has lovingly embraced her four grandchildren, Matthew and Melissa Hopkins and Austin and Andrew Jarrett.

As the wife of M. Jay Brodie, head of the Baltimore Development Corp., she has been one of Baltimore's staunchest cheerleaders. From its neighborhoods, to its artistic and cultural institutions to its ethnic heritage,

Georgene loves and appreciates the spirit of Baltimore. In fact, as the owner of the Crab Line, she was one of the original "Harborplace" merchants, helping make Harborplace one of Baltimore's most identifiable landmarks.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the accomplishments of Georgene Brodie. Her love of life and calmness of spirit has touched all who know and care for her.

RECOGNIZING BELMONT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Belmont Elementary School in North Babylon, New York for their care and concern following the September 11th tragedy.

After the tragic events of September 11th, the entire student body at Belmont Elementary School decorated a thousand grocery bags with patriotic symbols and slogans. These bags were used to pack groceries for local shoppers and sent a patriotic message into homes that students support their community in a time of need.

These students displayed support for their community as members of Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Club. This organization is a global network of students whose objective is to protect the environment and enhance cultural awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I also stand to recognize the efforts of the chapter advisor and administrators involved. Specifically, Seri Doyle, teacher coordinator of Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Club, and Alexa Endes, Principal of Belmont Elementary School.

It is with great pride, Mr. Speaker, that I recognize the efforts of these individuals and bring Belmont Elementary School's patriotic deed to the attention of Congress.

SOUTHERN BORDER AIR QUALITY
PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly represent the people of Imperial County, California, which is a small community located on the U.S.-Mexico border. As with many border communities, the Imperial County has a good working relationship with their neighbors in Mexico. Unfortunately, they also have to suffer the consequences of Mexico's more lax environmental requirements, especially with respect to air quality. As we all know, air does not respect the international boundaries we put in place and, as a result, border communities are often penalized for activities that are actually happening south of the border and beyond their control.

Such a situation is developing for Imperial County. At least partially due to the heavy regulatory and environmental compliance burdens, electrical generation facilities are locat-

ing in Mexico. While some companies are building power plants that meet U.S. standards, for which they should be commended, other companies are choosing to operate dirty plants as opposed to incurring the additional cost of installing the best available emission control devices.

As a result, I am introducing the Southern Border Air Quality Protection Act. This bill takes an immediate and important step in acknowledging that we must consider air pollution a regional issue that does not respect international boundaries. My legislation will prohibit the export of natural gas to any electricity generation facility located in Mexico and within 50 miles of the U.S. that does not meet the air pollution emission rate requirements in the nearest U.S. air quality control region. In addition, the legislation includes a grandfathering clause so that any plants put in service before December 31, 2001 are exempted from this law.

This bill is necessary to protect our border communities from rapidly increasing emissions from unregulated, substandard power plants that leave U.S. communities vulnerable to federal regulatory sanctions. If a plant isn't good enough to be built five miles inside the border in California, then it shouldn't be good enough to operate five miles outside the border in Mexico.

I realize this is a first step and that more work must be done to create cross border air quality zones. I look forward to working with the appropriate U.S. agencies and the Mexican government to implement such binational agreements. In the meantime, this legislation is immediately necessary for the protection of our border communities and I urge all my colleagues to join me in this effort to ensure the clean air throughout the region.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE: AN
ENDURING LEGACY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the poignant words of Major Joal Wolf (USAR) delivered as part of a speech on Memorial Day, May 27, 2002.

Our nation has changed significantly since last September. Indeed, the world has changed since then.

Even our Memorial Day celebrations have acquired a deeper meaning. As a nation, we have now spent many months solemnly recollecting the lives of more than 3,000 American service members and civilians who died last summer during the worst terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Now more than ever, we recognize what it means to honor the lives of those who die in service to our great nation.

Today we honor all those who died defending America—those who were active duty and those who served in our reserve components; those who were short-term volunteers, those who were drafted and those who made the military a career. We honor the veterans of every service: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard.

On this day last year, our thoughts were focused on sacrifices made during previous wars. We were mindful, as well, of the daily

peril of troops stationed around the world, and of those training here at home to keep us safe.

Today our concerns are more immediate than reflective. Instead of focusing solely on past sacrifices, we must also face the reality of ongoing losses from our eight-month war on terrorism.

It seems appropriate that today we should single out the casualties of our war against terrorism. Regrettably, the deaths of September 11 have been followed by the deaths of soldiers sent abroad to prevent other such disasters. As our commander in chief explained in plain terms at the very beginning of this war, our primary defense is to take the fight right to the doorsteps of those who spread terror.

After almost a month of nonmilitary response to the attacks, U.S. military forces responded with measured force. While executed with great care and precision, we feared it was only a matter of time before America suffered more casualties.

As in previous wars, our losses came in a variety of ways. Military personnel died in accidents and they were lost to hostile and friendly fire. This first war of the 21st century is being fought differently than our previous wars. Our first casualty by enemy fire was not a soldier or airman, but a CIA agent. The first soldier to fall to hostile fire—a full three months after our introduction of military forces into the region—was Sergeant Nathan Chapman of San Antonio, Texas.

The recent public display of support is welcomed and not lost on those of us who served in Vietnam. Ultimately, it is the confidence of the American people—the public will to sustain the fight—that serves as the foundation for victory in any war, including the war on terror.

The war on terrorism is a different war from any other our nation has ever faced, a war on many fronts against terrorists who operate in more than 60 different countries. And this is war that must be fought not only overseas, but also here at home.

This war is more personal than our previous wars. Here we have an enemy not representing an entire nation, but representing evil. Instead of trying to occupy land mass or displace our military forces, the enemy wishes to destroy the very existence of America, and of other civilized nations, cultures and religions. American families must brace for continued casualties in this difficult, but inspiring, campaign.

We've been awakened as a nation to the reality that the world remains a very dangerous place. To ensure peace and prosperity, we have to have the best trained and the best equipped armed forces on the face of the earth. That is a role that our country has to assume during this period. We're blessed with extraordinary men and women who risk their lives each day so that each of us can live in peace and freedom. And we ought not to forget where our forces are spread far and wide across the globe—in Korea and in Japan and in Bosnia and Kosovo and in the Sinai, just to name a few places.

These are times that test us as citizens and define our nation. We are beginning to see the possibilities of a world beyond the war on terror. We have a chance, if we take it, to write a hopeful chapter in human history. All at once, a new threat to civilization is erasing old lines of rivalry and resentment between nations.

The face of battle is changing with this new war, and America's military has already demonstrated it is prepared to meet this challenge. From precision air strikes to special operations troops riding horseback in the mountains of Afghanistan, we've seen our military's flexibility and commitment to its mission.

I'd like to mention a book that came out recently, one that I think bears mentioning today. It's called *War Letters Extraordinary*. This volume contains hundreds of letters by American military personnel from the Civil War up through the Persian Gulf War, Somalia and Bosnia. It's part of something called the Legacy Project, a nonprofit effort to preserve war-time letters.

Many of these letters mailed home from the front to loved ones were the last letters ever sent by these troops. That makes for emotional reading. But for those who have never experienced the total terror and uncertainty of combat, these letters are a chilling lesson in what's at stake when we send our forces off to battle—precious lives, connected to loved ones at home, in peril.

One of the more interesting similarities in the letters, regardless of the time period, is the attempt of letter writers to reassure loved ones back home of their safety. It says something of the spirit of these men and women when their courage and optimism shine through like that.

These letters are full of concern for younger siblings and other relatives. They are full of desire to help boost home-front morale. And, as you can imagine, letters to parents and sweethearts alike conclude with very open expressions of love.

The book's editor Andrew Carroll of Washington, DC, describes in his introduction how these individual letters spanning 140 years create a very personal narrative. "It is the story of immeasurable suffering and astonishing violence," he explains. "But it is also a story that encompasses tales of heroism, perseverance, integrity, honor, and reconciliation."

He describes how these letters were written from a variety of circumstances: filthy trenches, flooded foxholes, the sweltering islands of the Pacific, muddy battlefields of Europe, the frozen mountains of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and other places far from home.

I would like to close by mentioning that these one million men and women made the ultimate sacrifice at the request of their nation. Their legacy will continue to live in our memory, and we honor them as we will honor those who will come after them.

It is our task—the task of this generation—to provide the response to aggression and terror. We have no other choice, because there is no other peace.

The contributions of our soldiers given willingly and without hesitation, demonstrate their profound and abiding devotion to this nation. On our behalf, they take risks, they go into harm's way, they shed blood—prepared to give their lives if necessary—and some have paid to preserve peace and freedom and our way of life. They continue to make incredible contributions and even more incredible sacrifices. We must never forget the service and sacrifice—enduring legacy—of these brave souls who gave their full measure for all of us.

Thank you for sharing your time today in honor of these special Americans—those who

paid the ultimate price in demonstrating that freedom is not free. God bless you and God bless America."

HONORING COAST GUARD HEROES
FROM WORLD WAR II

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Coast Guard personnel at Group-Air Station Atlantic City as they honor two World War II veterans. The two former Coast Guard aircrew from New Jersey flew many homeland security missions together from bases in Florida between 1943 and 1945, protecting convoys moving along the East Coast and searching for German U-boats.

Donald T. Daughenbaugh was born in Atlantic City, NJ in 1920. Harry D. Mount was born in Riverside, NJ in 1922. Donald Daughenbaugh joined the Coast Guard in 1941, became a boat coxswain in 1942 and was designated an Aviation Pilot #71 on April 16, 1943. He began operational flying shortly afterward at Air Station Miami. Harry Mount left college early to join the Coast Guard in the summer of 1942. He was sent to Radio School in Atlantic City, NJ and then reported to Air Station Miami as an Aviation Radio operator.

Together these two Coast Guard heroes flew the OS2U-3 KINGFISHER, a scout observation plane, searching for German submarines and protecting the convoys along the East Coast. This plane carried two depth charges and a 30 caliber machine gun. They also flew missions in the PBV, PBM, PH2, JRF and J4F protecting convoys and doing Air-Sea Rescues from many airfields along the Florida coast.

True to form, these two proud veterans, and Coast Guard legends, are not going to just stand by to receive praise from today's Coast Guard aviators. They are going to honor the newest Coast Guard aircrewmen by pinning them with their newly earned aircrew wings.

Let the record show that Donald T. Daughenbaugh, Enlisted Pilot #71 and later Commissioned Coast Guard Aviator #216, at 82 years of age, is still flying 60 years later and flew his own airplane to Coast Guard Group-Air Station Atlantic City. This act makes proud all that have worn the "Wings of Gold" throughout the long history of Coast Guard aviation.

These two great men and their wonderful families should be very proud. May God bless them richly as they continue to give to their country and to their wonderful service, the United States Coast Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday June 4 and Wednesday June 5th, I missed Rollcall votes 207, 208, 209 and 210 due to my primary election being held in Alabama. If

I had been present I would have voted AYE on each of these votes.

MICROENTERPRISE ENHANCEMENT
ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation.

Microenterprise is an effective and proven means of U.S. foreign aid that has successfully offered nearly 20 million of the world's poorest people the hope of economic independence and self-reliance.

Loans, often averaging less than \$150, allow people to start and expand very small businesses without depending on money-lenders who demand exorbitant interest rates.

Access to the tools and credit needed to succeed allows poor people to reap the benefits of their skills and hard work.

Extra money earned is used to obtain better food, housing and education.

High repayment rates for microenterprise lending programs allow capital to be recycled into new loans; interest income allows programs to eventually cover their costs.

This bipartisan legislation provides a substantial but responsible incremental increase in funding for microenterprise programs from its current level of \$155 million to \$175 million in fiscal year 2003 and \$200 million in fiscal year 2004.

The bill also educates Peace Corps volunteers about the benefits of microenterprise programs and urges them to utilize this as a resource in their sites.

This important legislation will impact the lives of many families while empowering the world's most impoverished.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill.

TRAFICANT TRIAL: A RAILROAD
OF JUSTICE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the government presented a ten-count indictment against me on May 4, 2001. And convicted me on those ten counts, Thursday, April 11, 2002.

Count One—Anthony Buccì. Anthony Buccì testified that he "owned" me by performing \$12,000 of work at the Traficant farm (which is not and was not owned by me). Facts in this count are simple and right to the point. . . . Anthony Buccì perjured himself and the government suborned his perjury.

The most appalling underlying issue behind Anthony Buccì's testimony is that it was given as part of Mr. Buccì's third federal plea agreement and currently the government is working on another deal with Mr. Buccì that would allow Anthony's brother Robert to return to the United States, after having fled the country to escape federal charges.

Anthony Buccì's contention is that he and his company provided \$12,000 in materials

and services and that these acts let him "own a Congressman" was refuted and impeached by five defense witnesses.

First, the majority of the work performed at the Traficant farm was done by Mr. Greg Tyson, who was scheduled as the government's witness to testify under immunity, but was never called by them. Subsequently, I called him to the stand.

Under oath, Mr. Tyson testified that not only was he accused and threatened with an indictment by the government for performing services at the farm as a favor to me, he also testified that he was PAID for his services.

Mr. Tyson was a partner with Anthony Bucci and Joe Sattarelle in a concrete company and I did arrange for the first ever minority loan to be made to Mr. Tyson to finance this investment; Mr. Tyson being a black man and not a 'front-man' for minority access to contracts.

Mr. Sattarelle, who was a government witness, testified that Anthony Bucci was such a liar that if Anthony Bucci said his name was Anthony Bucci, he (Sattarelle) would not believe it and that Anthony (Bucci) would lie about anything to avoid problems.

Mr. Sattarelle further testified that "Yes, Jim Traficant helped [their] company, he helped everybody."

Even an employee from ODOT testified that I did help the Bucci's as I helped any and all local companies. During this testimony the ODOT official stated that I received more federal money for my district than any other congressional district in the state of Ohio.

The truth is that the work Anthony Bucci offered to do at the farm ended up creating significant damage to the property, including causing the main bank barn to almost collapse, and costing my father, James A. Traficant, Sr. a tremendous amount of money to make repairs.

With regard to Bucci's alleged work at the farm, Sandy Ferrante testified that the main bearing stone wall of the barn had caved in and the barn was near collapse and that Anthony Bucci feared a lawsuit over this incident.

Another witness and contractor, Harry Manganaro, testified that he "helped Jim Traficant jack up the corner of the barn because the barn was literally going to collapse" because of the destruction to the property by Anthony Bucci.

Perhaps the most damaging testimony in this count came from Susan Bucci, Anthony's sister-in-law and widow of Anthony's brother, Dan.

Dan and Susan owned a farm across the street from the Traficant farm. Susan Bucci testified that I didn't like Anthony and never did and that my friend in the Bucci family was Dan. She further testified that Dan and I would go riding cycles together and shared bedding and equipment for livestock on a neighborly basis and that "Jim Traficant performed farm services at no cost to our family that far exceeded any of the so-called work that the Bucci brothers offered to do. And, that if anyone was owed money for materials and services, Jim Traficant was owed money by the (Bucci) brothers."

Additionally, Susan Bucci also stated under oath that Anthony (Bucci) was a "liar" and lied to her and took advantage of her and her family when her husband (Dan) died by "taking money" that was due to her and her children when the Bucci company was dissolved.

Susan Bucci's affidavit supports her assertions and reads in pertinent part:

AFFIDAVIT BY SUSAN BUCCI, FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2002

I hereby swear that the following statement is the truth:

1. Jim Traficant brush hogged 40 acres of land at our farm on Route 165 in Green Township, Mahoning County, Ohio, for seven years.

2. Jim Traficant mowed, raked and bailed hay for us on 25 acres for four years, with his own equipment and provided his own fuel.

3. Jim Traficant, at his expense, repaired our hay wagons regularly.

4. My husband, Dan (deceased) told me that when we stopped farming, to "give Jim the hay wagons."

5. Jim Traficant would not take any hay wagons without paying.

6. Jim Traficant gave me a check for one thousand dollars.

7. Jim Traficant said, "\$400 for the wagons and \$600 for anything I may owe."

8. Jim Traficant did not have to do that, but I believe he did that to help me, because I was having a difficult time financially.

9. The family had asked Jim Traficant to help get Tony Bucci into a halfway house.

10. Jim Traficant did that, and it was common knowledge that he would help anybody.

11. Jim Traficant would not accept anything, even though the brothers wanted to pay him.

12. On occasion, they got Jim some sawdust that my husband also used; my husband would take old hay and straw to bed our cows.

13. There was a time when Jim asked for help to borrow jackhammers to break up concrete in big, old bank barn.

In closing, I believe that Jim Traficant was owed money by the family.

Sworn before a notary on February 1, 2002.

Aside from the contracts my office assisted with, there were letters written on behalf of Anthony Bucci when he was a resident at a halfway house, Community Corrections Association (CCA). It is evident, through the testimony of Dominic Paolone, Jr. that these letters were not done as a favor to Anthony but as a standard procedure by my office when a family member contacts one of my district offices.

Mr. Paolone stated that he was a resident of CCA while Anthony Bucci was there and admitted that Mr. Bucci was upset because I wouldn't help him unless he followed office policy, which meant a family member must make the request on behalf of the individual incarcerated. Eventually Anthony's brother contacted me to submit a letter to CCA on Anthony's behalf. And, according to his testimony, Mr. Paolone was provided with the same assistance when his (Paolone's) father contacted my office.

Obviously, the jury was misled by Anthony Bucci's uncorroborated testimony and overlooked five truthful witnesses simply because the government submitted circumstantial evidence in the form of advocacy letters from my office to help the Bucci brothers and their respective companies. These letters were not in return for favors but because these companies employed up to 100 of my constituents and when these companies received local contracts, subcontracting and spin-off employment affected over 200 families in my district.

Did I help the Buccis—Yes. I helped hundreds of companies in my district, which had a 22 percent unemployment rate when I took office. Any member of Congress would have done the same thing.

As of Tuesday, June 4, 2002, Anthony Bucci, who would have faced 21 months in

prison for defrauding Uncle Sam, instead got a slap on the wrist in the form of 6 weeks home detention and two years of probation for his participation in my trial.

At this point, it's obvious what kind of deals the government is willing to make to get their #1 target—Jim Traficant, the only one to ever defeat the government, pro se, in a RICO trial.

For the record, the purported services occurred in the early 1990's, thus the imposition of a RICO charge was used by the government to extend the statute of limitations to accommodate for these ludicrous allegations.

The government provided no physical evidence, no wiretaps, no tapes, no hidden microphones and no fingerprints on more than 1,000 documents. How is it possible to reach a conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt with only circumstantial evidence and the testimony of felons? In a RICO case, no less.

Shove count one up their asphalt. Tomorrow, railroad stop two. . . . I mean count two. Sugar coated extortion, prosecutorial misconduct, subordination of perjury and other related governmental atrocities.

RON GNATKOWSKI: LAYING A
STRONG FOUNDATION FOR STUDENTS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Gnatkowski as he prepares to retire after 29 years as a public school teacher with Saginaw Township Community Schools. Ron deserves our highest praise and gratitude for his devotion to teaching and for consistently displaying the patience and understanding children need to blossom in and out of the classroom.

The sixth of seven children, Ron grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. After serving in the U.S. Army, Ron earned his bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 1972. He later earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University and another master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He has worked for Saginaw Township Community Schools since 1973.

As a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Plainfield Elementary School for the past 19 years, Ron has been a top-notch role model for students, parents and colleagues. Historically, few men have accepted the challenges of teaching kindergarten and first-grade, but Ron never let such perceived barriers hold him back. As a result, his passion for teaching those early elementary years and his great success in doing so has inspired other male teachers to follow his path.

However, Ron's gender was not the only thing that set him apart. Throughout his tenure, Ron has always led by example. His work ethic and innovative ideas for teaching young boys and girls set a high standard at his school and throughout the district. In addition, Ron's unparalleled classroom skills and his commitment to children have made him a perfect mentor to younger colleagues and a valuable resource for others working to become better educators.

It also is noteworthy that Ron extended his expertise to improve schools beyond his professional responsibilities by serving on the

Carrollton Public Schools Board of Education since 1988. As a board member, he has been a strong advocate for educators, students and taxpayers. He also has been active with the Association for the Education of Young Chil-

dren, having served on the State Board of Directors of that organization for four years and on the local board for the past 14 years.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ron Gnatkowski for all that he has done for

our schools in Saginaw County and throughout the state. I am confident that he will continue to lend his voice to improve education and I wish him a well-earned and enjoyable retirement.