

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.