

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING THE REALIZING THE SPIRIT OF IDEA ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act.

For twenty-five years the federal government has made hollow promises to fully fund the Individual with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). This legislation makes good on that promise; however, it does more than that. By linking funding to better outcomes, it also makes sure that the spirit of IDEA is truly realized for children with disabilities.

IDEA opened the school doors to children with disabilities; yet, more needs to be done in order to make special education work for disabled students. National statistics suggest that there is still a sizable disparity in the outcomes of disabled students when compared to students without disabilities.

When compared to students without disabilities, between 19 and 42 percent fewer disabled students are able to pass state proficiency examinations;

The drop out rate for disabled students is double that of students without disabilities;

Only 55 percent of disabled students receive a regular high school diploma (compared to 75 percent of individuals within the general school population);

Disabled individuals are 50% less likely to attend college than are individuals who are not disabled;

Disabled students often avoid the painful experience of school and their attendance suffers; and

The Census Bureau reports that 50% of individuals with disabilities are employed, compared with 84% of non-disabled individuals.

The under-funding of IDEA could help explain why students with disabilities fare so poorly on these critical outcomes. While Congress has doubled federal appropriations for IDEA over the last decade, federal funding for IDEA is less than half of what Congress originally promised.

Unfortunately, recent increases in federal funding have translated into very modest improvement in the overall outcomes of disabled children. This would suggest that we not only need more federal funding for disabled students, but we need to use our resources more wisely.

The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act will dramatically increase the financial support for children with disabilities. However, in order to receive increases, school districts must make sure disabled children are not left behind. In return for mandatory increases in funding for IDEA, school districts must help disabled students:

- Increase their attendance;
- Increase academic proficiency;
- Lower the incidence of drop out;
- Increase graduation rate; and

Improve rates of post-secondary employment and education.

The bill will also provide mandatory increases in funding for research and development as well as for programs that help disabled infants, preschoolers and their families.

Linking mandatory funding to accountability will profoundly change the way IDEA works by doing just that—making it work. The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act is needed to move away from the status quo. Our children, regardless of their ability or disability, deserve more than a second-class education. We should accept nothing less than the best tools we have to help them succeed. Please join me in supporting the Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act. It is about time we give meaning to the phrase, Leave No Child Behind.

IN HONOR OF CLAUDETTE MOODY, WHO LEAVES AFTER 17 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Claudette A. Moody, a Glendale, California resident who will be leaving as Director of Government Relations at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority at the end of June 2002 after an exemplary 17-year career.

Moody joined the former Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) in 1985 as the first full-time employee devoted to outreach with the Federal government, and she later assumed responsibility for State issues as well. She provided key support for the former Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) in securing the initial funding for the Metro Rail subway, including working on the joint appropriations document with the LACTC, RTD, Southern California Association of Governments, and the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Claudette has furthered the transportation interests of Los Angeles County by writing and advocating positions on countless pieces of reform legislation aimed at improving transportation throughout Los Angeles County, and was the key staff member to work on Assembly Bill 152, creating the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), including conceiving and writing provisions that won the support of smaller cities. In addition to recommending MTA Board positions on thousands of bills, Claudette served as the key staff person in efforts leading to the successful passage of Proposition C, Propositions 111 and 108, and Proposition 42 relating to transportation. Indeed, Claudette has served as a crucial member of a team that has brought billions of dollars to Los Angeles County for transportation purposes.

Claudette was the co-founder and first Chairperson of the African-American Employees Association, and initiated the agency's activities for Juneteenth Day and Black History Month. She also was co-founder and first Chairperson of the MTA Employee Association, was instrumental in developing the child-care center for the MTA and sat on the initial contract review task force. Claudette was a key staff member to liaison with Governor Gray Davis' office in developing projects to be funded through the Governor's Transportation Congestion Relief Program.

Claudette has served with distinction at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing her for her years of service to the LACTC, MTA, and to the citizens, residents, and users of transportation services in Los Angeles County, and further wish her success and the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—AMELITH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sing high praise for Saint John Lutheran Church-Amelith in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan, as the congregation prepares to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. The church has been a spiritual beacon for Frankenlust Township and the surrounding community since its inception and its long and noteworthy history deserve tribute.

Since the middle of the 19th Century, the church has graced the community with its presence and brought family and friends into the light of Christian love and charity. Church members today share a bond and their faith with the small band of German Lutheran families from Gunzenhausen in Franken who came to Bay County in 1852 at the encouragement of a German businessman and man of faith named Friedrich Koch. When these settlers arrived, they used a large log cabin as a church on Sunday and a school during the week. Shortly thereafter, Saint John-Amelith and Saint Paul-Frankenlust three miles to the north were two of the earliest congregations to form the new Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1853.

In the beginning, just a few families formed the foundation of the church. These families had such surnames as Link, Stengel, Burk, Daeschlein, Eichinger, Heumann, Lutz, Rueger, Schmidt, Schnell and Stephan. After years of struggle, these settlers built a beautiful house of worship in 1870 to replace their log cabin church. However, by 1912, they also outgrew that church and built the brick church that still serves parishioners needs today. A true temple of God with its exquisite stained-

• 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.

glass windows and Gothic architecture, this church harkens back to the fine old churches of Germany where so many of those early settlers must have worshiped.

Churches, however, are much more than buildings. Over the years, the pastors and parishioners of Saint John Amelith have put their hearts and souls into helping us all lead better lives and move a bit closer to God. Clearly, there is no better evidence of the Christian love and neighborly spirit so abundant at Saint John-Amelith than the fact that just 10 pastors have served its needs in 150 years, including the present pastor, Stephen Starke.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to bestow upon Saint John Lutheran Church-Amelith the congratulations of the United States Congress upon the occasion of the church's 150th anniversary. I have faith that it will continue to minister to the spiritual needs of the community for many years to come.

RUTH ANN STROZINSKY
RECOGNITION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 2002, Ruth Ann Strozinsky of Tomah, Wisconsin, retired after serving the State of Wisconsin for 21 years as a member of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care. During this time, Ruth Ann worked diligently to protect and preserve the rights of the elderly and disabled consumers as she strived to assure that they have the knowledge and support necessary for them to make informed long term care choices. She has upheld the spirit and intent of the Older Americans Act as well as the public policy of the State of Wisconsin. She has been a leader in contributing to the success of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Medigap Helpline Program as they continue to meet the ever-increasing public need for information and advocacy services.

Ruth Ann has provided leadership and direction to officials at every level of municipal, county and state government on issues of importance to Wisconsin's senior citizens. She is a member of the Monroe County Services for the Elderly, has served as President of the Western Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging, and is a member of the governing board of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. She has assisted in the development of legislative and regulatory proposals to identify and improve important public policy issues. In 1995, she was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson as a Wisconsin delegate to the White House Conference on Senior Citizens and Aging. This was her second appointment to the Conference, the first being in 1981.

In addition to serving the elderly, she is an active member of her church, a life member of the National Education Association, a member of the Monroe County Teachers Association, a charter member of the Tomah Business and Professional Women's Club, and has served many years on the Tomah Housing Authority and Community Block Grant Committee.

Ruth Ann does not tell her age, although it is believed that she is close to 100 years old. She believes it isn't how old you are but what

you accomplish in your life that counts. She has certainly made her life count.

She is a retired high school English teacher who still gives of her time to help students earn their high school diplomas. Ruth Ann has also taught foreign students to improve their communication skills while they are in the United States. She has no children of her own, but has "adopted" many over the years—neighborhood children, her students and children from her church. She has shown a great love and concern for all these children.

Ruth Ann Strozinsky is a remarkable lady who is greatly admired by her colleagues and the people she serves. Her energy and caring efforts have been an inspiration to many. I consider it an honor and a privilege to know her. It is fitting that she receives recognition and praise for her achievements and successes and for the service she has rendered to her community and the State of Wisconsin.

IN REMEMBRANCE: TIFFANY
TAYLOR OF ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Tiffany Taylor. Fifteen-year-old Tiffany was killed by random gunfire as she rode home with her friends after an evening at a Roseville roller skating rink. I am truly saddened and offer my deepest condolences to Tiffany's family and friends.

It is hard to understand why this senseless act of violence has occurred. Even the strongest faith can be shaken when a young life is cut short. But at a recent gathering of Tiffany's family, friends, classmates and neighbors, it was clear that this community has not lost its faith. They came together to honor Tiffany's memory, and pledged to work together to end violent crime in our community so that nothing like this ever happens again.

All of us have to do our part to end violence in our communities. Parents, teachers, clergy, community leaders, students, police officials and counselors are all part of the solution. We need to support the efforts of community groups like Citizens of Macomb Behind All Teens (COMBAT) to stand up for our youth and work with them to offer positive ways for them to be involved in the community. We need more counselors in our schools so that young people have caring adults to turn to in times of distress or crisis, and prevent violence before it occurs. We need more places for our youth to go to stay out of harm's way, like the community center planned for Mount Clemens, and afterschool programs so that they will not become victims or perpetrators of crime.

Our hearts are heavy with loss. But as we look back and remember Tiffany, we must also remember to look forward—and to work toward a community without violence. I stand with Tiffany's community ready to do what is necessary to protect our children and youth from violence.

IN RECOGNITION OF
CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY MINK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my great appreciation for the work done in Congress by my colleague from Hawaii, Congresswoman PATSY MINK. Recently, I came across an article published in Outlook magazine in connection with the American Association of University Women, titled Title IX at 30: Making the Grade? written by Patrice Gaines. The article observes Title IX's 30th anniversary as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. As a co-author of this law, Congresswoman MINK desired equal opportunities for women in comparison to their male counterparts in all education programs receiving taxpayer dollars. While there has been significant progress for women in the past thirty years, there are still many obstacles to overcome. Some of the barriers were addressed in the article, provided below.

TITLE IX AT 30: MAKING THE GRADE?

It was just 37 words, attached without fanfare to an education amendment.

"In the dark of night, we stuck in this language," recalls U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) (pictured above), who authored the law with the late Rep. Edith Green (D-Oregon). "I don't think my colleagues had any idea that language hitched to funding could make such a difference."

The law was Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Its existence illustrates what can happen when women are in positions of power. Of course, Mink and Green needed the support of their male colleagues. At the time, women held just 12 congressional seats. But history was altered because these two women beat the odds to be elected to Congress and then took strong leadership roles.

"I knew of this terrible disparity in education long before [I came to] Congress," says Mink, who had applied to 13 law schools and found that only one would accept women. In 1949 the University of Chicago admitted two female law students in Mink's class of 200.

In the last 30 years, Title IX has dramatically changed many aspects of society, most notably the sports arena. Young women who once could only shoot hoops in their driveways now earn sports scholarships to college and have opportunities—though limited—to become professional athletes. And nearly 50 percent of law school students and lawyers are women.

Yet progress under Title IX remains mixed. While we can watch WNBA games on TV, in some less visible aspects progress is slower or has even come to a screeching halt.

PINK VS. BLUE EDUCATION

"There is a lack of progress in career education—vocational training at the high school and postsecondary levels," says Leslie Annexstein, senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center and vice chair of the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, which is publishing a report (available late June 2002 at www.aauw.org) marking the status of Title IX on its 30th anniversary. "We still see female students clustered in traditional occupational tracks that lead to jobs that make a lot less money."

On the high school level, that means females still take cosmetology classes while males fill trade and construction programs.

Statistics show that across the board, blue-collar jobs pay more than pink. While the gender gap has narrowed in math and science, engineering and physics remain male domains, and the gap yawns in technology.

"Technology is the key to the future, but women have been left behind," says AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Nancy Zirkin, who co-chairs the coalition with AAUW Government Relations Manager Jamie Puschel. According to statistics in *Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age* (AAUW Educational Foundation, 2002), boys take computer advanced placement classes and pursue information technology degrees. Girls tend to use computers for data entry and e-mail. That leaves men with more than 80 percent of high-tech—and high-paying—jobs.

Other post-Title IX hurdles remain: As you move up the career ladder in prestige or rank, you find fewer and fewer women. The coalition report highlights the second-class status of women working in educational institutions. While women account for almost three-fourths of school-teachers, for example, they make up only about 20 percent of high school principals and 12 percent of superintendents. In higher education, women are only 21 percent of full professors and 19 percent of college and university presidents.

And persistently, on all educational levels, the learning environment remains uneven. Male students attract more attention—positive and negative—than do females. "That means females receive less encouragement and stay in secondary roles throughout their education," says Annexstein. This can condition females to accept a back seat in school as well as in career and adult roles.

That's not just bad for girls. Boys hear that they are trouble-makers and problem students and may find the heat of the added attention uncomfortable.

Sexual harassment, too, continues to plague young women and men. Eight in 10 students in grades eight to 11 experience harassment during their student lives, according to *Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School* (AAUW Educational Foundation, 2001), and more than a quarter say they experience harassment often. Girls are more likely to experience harassment than boys—83 percent versus 79 percent—but boys today are more likely to be harassed than were their counterparts in 1993.

Compared to this backslide, there is a standstill in progress in the treatment of pregnant and parenting students. Before Title IX, high school students were automatically expelled if they became pregnant, and parenting typically signified the end of their formal education. Title IX now prohibits discrimination based on parental status, making automatic expulsion illegal. Yet while these young women may be allowed to stay in school, without more programs and assistance to help them, the results remain the same: A young woman is often forced to drop out. Traditional schools encourage pregnant students to leave or to attend one of the newer programs established specifically for young parents. But these newer schools generally lack academic quality.

PUSH FOR CHANGE

Still, Mink remains hopeful. She's seen how far women have come, though progress may be slow. A member of AAUW's Puna, Hawaii, Branch, she began taking a lead role in advancing equity on the House Education and Labor Committee when she and other members summoned publishers to address the lack of female images in schoolbooks. With that congressional nudge, in a few years the texts changed.

Next, Mink recalls, Edith Green wanted to add the category of "sex" to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in the workplace.

"The Justice Department kept saying it couldn't [legally] be done," says Mink. "The only thing left was to attach it to the education bill." In the end, Congress did outlaw sex discrimination in Title VII, but Mink and Green still pushed the change in Title IX.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) immediately added his support.

"I was a Little League coach in Anchorage," he recalls. "I had three boys and two girls. When it came time to pick a team, I had to tell the girls they couldn't play."

His oldest daughter suggested the sue, but Stevens didn't have the time or money to invest in a lengthy court case. Yet he never forgot his daughters' disappointment and his feeling that the playing field was not fair. So when he got to Congress, he joined forces with Mink, Green, and others. He remains a staunch supporter of Title IX.

So does Dot "Doc" Richardson, captain of the softball team that took home the gold from the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. Richardson says that title IX helped her become not just a world-class athlete but a surgeon, too.

"Through Title IX we got the chance to learn that people appreciate athletic talent no matter the gender," she says. "That's the kind of respect every athlete wants: to just be treated as an athlete—not as a male or female athlete." But that's just the beginning. "Title IX is all about education," says Richardson, a surgeon at Ray-Richardson Orthopedic Associates in Clermont, Florida.

"It amazes me that people believe that Title IX means if you have a college football team for men, you have to have a football team for women," says Richardson. What it says is that female students must have equal opportunities to participate in educational programs and activities.

In a way, Richardson says, Title IX taught her to dream, creating opportunities she never imagined possible. The young Dot who longed to play Little League baseball with her brothers never dreamed that one day the best-selling Louisville Slugger bat would bear her name.

KEEPING TITLE IX ALIVE

Mink and Green's short amendment has created opportunities while making equity issues a part of the general consciousness of many men and women, especially those who have grown up since the amendment became law.

Consider the children of ABC News reporter and commentator Cokie Roberts: "My daughter went to Princeton and had a varsity letter in water polo. That would not have been possible without Title IX. But it would never occur to her that she would not have equal education and access to everything. And her brother is appalled at the notion that things would be any different for her than they are for him."

Yet, warns Mink, people must be vigilant in guarding the law that passed so quietly.

"Most of the young people around today don't understand what it was like in the 1940s and '50s," says Mink. "As the older women pass and the younger ones do not have the knowledge, there may be an attempt to water down Title IX."

I ask my colleagues to rise today and recognize our colleague, PATSY MINK; a woman who has dedicated much of her time and efforts advocating the significance and achievements that women can and do contribute to this country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES HOWARD
LARE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Howard Lare, an outstanding citizen and resident of California's 27th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent.

Dr. Lare, who lives in Pasadena, California, is retiring from the faculty of Occidental College in Los Angeles after 51 years of service. Dr. Lare began at the college as a student, and this year, the school celebrates the entirety of his 51 years of services as an undergraduate, alumnus, and distinguished member of the faculty.

Dr. Lare has been an active faculty member, serving numerous committees, as well as establishing and directing Occidental's Master of Arts in Urban Studies Program. He chaired the Political Science Department, as well as the College Task Force on Relations with the Adjacent Neighborhoods, each for five years.

His expertise includes American National Government, European Comparative Politics, Public Administration, Urban Politics, and Public Policy. As a professor, he sent his students to City Hall, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. to participate in and absorb the processes of government. His legions of internship students set a standard for community-based learning at Occidental College.

Dr. Lare has been an exemplary citizen by serving as a Colonel in the Civil Affairs Branch of the U.S. Army Reserve from 1957–1989, and as an Administrative and Technical Assistant in the U.S. Civil Service Commission from 1955–1956.

He has also been a committed civic leader participating in a myriad of community-based organizations such as the Pasadena Men's Committee for the Arts, the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, the Sierra Club, the Northeast Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Town Hall of California, as well as other organizations dealing with urban planning, education, the environment, and the arts.

Dr. Lare has also written, co-authored, and edited numerous books and articles including, "The Essential Lippmann," "The New Democrat: Reassessment of the Democratic Ideal in American Political Thought," "The Five Public Philosophies of Walter Lippmann," "The Civic Awareness of Five and Six Year Olds," and "The Child's Political World: A Longitudinal Perspective."

Dr. Lare's hard work and dedication to his community and our country is to be commended, as is his teaching students the value of political action and involvement, thereby helping to nurture hundreds of aware and active citizens.

I would like all the Members of the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Dr. James Howard Lare for his outstanding leadership as a faculty member of Occidental College and as a community leader.

JACK HARTUPEE, DON ELLIOTT
AND KATHI PILARSKI: ON THE
JOB FIGHTING FOR LABOR

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three individuals whose contributions to labor in the Saginaw Bay region of Michigan cannot be overstated. As Jack Hartuppee, Don Elliott and Kathi Pilarski prepare to retire after many years of service to the Laborers' International Union of North America, their hard work and dedication to advancing the cause of labor throughout the area deserve recognition.

Beginning in 1966, Jack Hartuppee spent thirteen years as a laborer for Local 1098 before becoming the Local's business manager in 1979. For the past 23 years, Jack has handled the business concerns of the Local, while also finding time to lend his time and expertise in other areas, including the board that oversees the Health Care Fund and the Laborers' Political Action Fund. In addition, Jack was a delegate to the District Council. Jack's many contributions and his commitment to his union brothers and sisters have been second to none.

In 1973, Don Elliott also began his career as a laborer for Local 1247, which later merged with Local 1098 in 1985. Don became business agent for the laborers' union in 1996. Like Jack, Don also served as a delegate to the District Council. Don certainly has played a vital role over the years in ensuring the financial interests of his union and of his fellow laborers have been well-tended. His dedication to duty and his admirable work ethic stand as a model of diligence.

Kathi Pilarski has been on the job as secretary for Local 1098 since 1985 when she began work on a part-time basis. For the past 10 years, Kathi has worked fulltime, but those who know the many hours she has put in both on the clock and off understand that she has gone well above and beyond the parameters of her job description. Along with her many and varied duties in the office, Kathi also has been the driving force in making the annual dinner party run so smoothly each year.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the gratitude of the United States Congress to Jack Hartuppee, Don Elliott and Kathi Pilarski for their years of work on behalf of laborers. Our laborers are the backbone of the construction industry and these three individuals have fought the good fight by dedicating their lives to improving the working conditions of their union brothers and sisters. I wish Jack, Don and Kathi all the best in their retirements and I am confident they will continue to be strong advocates for labor well into the future.

RE: ONLINE PUBLICATION OF
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RECORDS

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Secretary of Labor

Elaine Chao and the Department of Labor for their commitment to openness with their plan to use Internet technology to increase the accountability of labor groups.

Beginning on June 13, the Labor Department began posting internal financial documents from hundreds of labor unions on its Web site. Included in these postings is information on union salaries and net assets. Disclosure of these labor-management records has been required of labor groups since 1959, when Congress passed the Landrum-Griffin Act in an effort to improve financial accountability among unions. Yet prior to this measure, those seeking to know more about union finances had to visit a Labor Department field office in person in order to review the paperwork. Now, Americans have all of this information at their disposal with a simple click of the mouse.

This action will empower individual union members to find out, from the comfort of their homes, exactly where their union dues are going. For too long, union members had obstacles to this information. Through this initiative, the Department of Labor has removed these barriers and brought disclosure into the 21st century.

Because these records were already public, this plan reflects the Labor Department's sincere commitment to making more information available to the public. I thank Secretary Chao and her department for remaining vigilant to ensure that money is not being misused for political causes, and I hope that the agency's latest initiative improves transparency of unions.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS
OF RURAL POINT ELEMENTARY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor seven outstanding fourth-graders from Rural Point Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team on the occasion of winning the World Finals Competition in Boulder, Colorado on May 25, 2002.

These students from Hanover County, Virginia participated in the Odyssey of the Mind program, which promotes problem-solving and team-building skills for students from elementary through high school. The Rural Point team won county and state honors before competing in the World Finals in Boulder, Colorado against 48 other teams. In the World Finals, they performed a skit entitled "The Ostrich Factor." The students creatively designed a farm skit starring Leafy Romaine, Headlock Holmes (Cauliflower), Big Cheese, carrot, potato, broccoli, and corn to answer the unsettling question of why apples are disappearing from the farm trees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the seven students on the team, Ben Davis, Tyler Burnette, James Thompson, Ted Westrick, Jonathan Bennett, Jimmy Thorne and Douglas Tibbett and their head coach, Annie Tibbett. Their creativity and team spirit have earned them this impressive honor and will undoubtedly serve them well in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4980, THE
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN CAM-
PAIGNS (CIVIC) ACT.

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced, along with our colleague PAUL KANJORSKI of Pennsylvania, H.R. 4980, the Citizen Involvement in Campaigns Act (or the CIVIC Act). This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning virtually oblige many candidates to focus most of their efforts toward collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from our political system and opens us up to the now-familiar charge that we are "bought and paid for" by special interests.

While recent campaign finance reform efforts have focused on limiting the impact of large contributions, past reforms have been designed to enfranchise small donors. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This offered an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Additionally, six geographically and politically diverse states currently offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits differ in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to provide a counterweight against the influence, real or perceived, of big-money special interests.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update this old tax credit program. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year) or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program would have a real impact and aid in making elections at all levels more grassroots affairs than they are now.

This is a limited tax credit for political contributions that can be a cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can invite them in. I encourage you to cosponsor my bill and join in this worthwhile effort.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGNES
FLOOD COMMEMORATED**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 30th anniversary of Hurricane Agnes. I would also like to bring attention to the approaching completion of the landmark Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project in my district to provide protection to the people of the valley in the event of another flood of that magnitude.

On June 23, 1972, sirens sounded across much of my district in Pennsylvania, warning that the valiant effort to contain the surging Susquehanna River had been lost.

Agnes poured 14 trillion gallons of water onto Northeastern Pennsylvania, causing the Susquehanna River to break from its boundaries and spread a layer of flood water 40 feet deep and 2 miles wide across a densely populated region in the Wyoming Valley. The damage caused by the unyielding rush of water was immense. Twenty-six thousand homes and more than 3,000 small businesses and factories were heavily damaged by flood waters and 3,500 families lost their homes completely. In all, 72,000 people were forced from their homes. Nearly 15,000 Wyoming Valley families lived in trailers provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, many of them for the better part of a year.

Luzerne County, located in the heart of northeastern Pennsylvania, suffered 69 percent of the total damage that Agnes caused in Pennsylvania. Property damage amounted to \$1.3 billion, or more than \$4 billion in today's dollars, and another \$300 million in road and bridge damage was incurred. Communities were faced with the prospect of rebuilding entire commercial and residential areas.

In the wake of this disaster, one of the worst natural disasters in the Nation's history, a determined populace emerged. Residents of this region found courage among the ruins and forged ahead with an undying spirit to rebuild their communities. Agnes may have laid waste to their homes and businesses, but it could not extinguish their desire to live and raise their families in the "Valley with a Heart."

The Red Cross and Salvation Army played a crucial role in providing emergency shelter and meals, not just in the first hours of the crisis but for weeks and months afterward. For example, that summer, the Red Cross spent \$13 million locally on food, supplies and personnel, and the Salvation Army provided more than 4 million meals.

Meeting the challenge of recovery were several citizen action groups such as the Flood Victims Action Council under the leadership of Min Matheson, and the Flood Recovery Task Force, which was chaired by Judge Max Rosenn. These groups were instrumental in the economic and social resurgence of the areas most damaged by the Agnes flood.

I had the honor of contributing to this effort as the volunteer legal counsel to the Flood Victims Action Council over a period of almost two years. While the hard work and determination of local community groups and area citizens played a role in this historic rebuilding

of northeastern Pennsylvania, the recovery assistance provided by the Federal Government was truly phenomenal.

Through the cooperative efforts of Congressman Dan Flood, State Senator Frank O'Connell, Bill Wilcox, Secretary of the state Department of Community Affairs working on behalf of Governor Shapp, and Frank Carlucci acting on behalf of President Nixon, the Government rushed approximately \$1 billion in aid to the communities of the Wyoming Valley. When critics disparage the ability of government to do things for citizens, I recall that moment when the Federal Government made an enormous difference for the better for the people of Pennsylvania, and look forward to the completion of the landmark project that will protect the people of the Wyoming Valley in the event of another Agnes-level flood.

In 2002, the people of the valley have something they did not have 30 years ago—the nearly complete \$175 million Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project that includes more than 50 communities and 5 counties along a 60-mile stretch of the river. The structural components of the levee system are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

In 1972, the existing levees were overtopped by several feet during the Agnes flood. In 1986, during my first term, Congress authorized the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project to modify the existing flood control projects to protect against a new flood of the same magnitude. We had a disturbing reminder of the need for the levee raising project during the January 1996 flood. At that time, the rapidly rising Susquehanna River prompted officials to order the evacuation of approximately 100,000 people living in the City of Wilkes-Barre and its neighboring communities in the Wyoming Valley. While the river peaked at nearly 13 feet above flood stage, it remained within the banks of the levees and caused relatively minor damage.

From my first term in Congress, I have made it one of my top priorities to provide Agnes-level flood protection to the Wyoming Valley, and it is heartening to see that day approaching.

Completion of the levee raising project will be a major step forward in transforming the Susquehanna River from a liability into an asset. One of the steps forward that we have already taken is the 1997 designation of the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna watershed as one of just 14 American Heritage Rivers in the nation.

In the years ahead, I hope that we will continue our progress toward a cleaner Susquehanna that will provide recreation and an enhanced quality of life, not only for present-day residents but also for our children and grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF THE COLOMBIAN
RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TEM-
PORARY PROTECTIVE AND STA-
TUS

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic sacrifices and the noble

struggle for peace that the people of Colombia are engaged in today. I rise in strong support of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for the Colombians who reside in the United States and in the 13th Congressional District.

The Colombians who reside here have made, and continue to make, enormous sacrifices for the safety and well-being of their families. I know this because I know them. We look forward to the day, when their beautiful country, our historic friend and neighbor, Colombia, once again stands as the proud nation we know it to be—a peaceful nation, a nation free of conflict, free of the scourge of narcotics, and free to live in peace.

We admire the great spirit of the Colombian people. They are very generous and hospitable people, they are a gifted people with a great culture, and they are among the very best friends of the United States in this Hemisphere.

On the occasion of the Colombian rally in support of TPS on June 21, 2002 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, I want to say to directly to my Colombian friends: "Mis queridos amigos Colombianos: Conocemos bien su situación. La persecución, la violencia, los secuestros, el desplazamiento. Ayer, estubo su presidente-electo, Alvaro Uribe Velez visitando el Congreso. Juntos con él, apoyamos al TPS para Colombia. Que viva Colombia. Que viva los Estados Unidos. Y que viva la amistad de nuestros pueblos."

The crisis of violence and economic strife in Colombia has caused tens of thousands of Colombians to flee their homes and seek out a safe haven elsewhere, including in the United States. Most are not so lucky. There are more than one million displaced Colombians inside of Colombia alone. As long as danger and conflict persists in Colombia, Temporary Protective Status would provide Colombians who are here a safe refuge in America.

I want also to congratulate the Colombian people for the free and fair election of President-Elect Alvaro Uribe Velez, and Vice President-Elect, Francisco Santos Calderon. I, along with all Colombians in the United States, expect and hope that President-Elect Uribe will request Temporary Protective Status for Colombians in the US. I have faith that the situation in Colombia will change for the better. In the meantime, let TPS become a reality for Colombians, let us extend to Colombians the American hand of friendship and of humanity so that they may live without fear for their lives and those of their loved ones.

Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the need for TPS for Colombians. Let us grant Temporary Protective Service to those in need, and let those fleeing Colombians have refuge in the United States.

CONGRESSIONAL WEB ACCESSI-
BILITY DAY: CELEBRATING THE
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
SECTION 508

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-year anniversary of Section 508.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires federal agencies' electronic and information technology (IT) to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. It specifically requires that when federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they ensure that it is accessible, unless it would pose an undue burden to do so.

But the regulations do not apply to the legislative and judicial branches, state and local governments, or the private sector. If we truly are a government of, for and by the people, then every American must have access to it. Today, the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the Congressional Internet Caucus teamed up with the American Foundation for the Blind, HIR, Microsoft, Adobe and Freedom Scientific to demonstrate how easy it is to comply with Section 508 in making websites accessible.

Today's "Congressional Web Accessibility Day" educated Members' staff and the American public on Section 508 and the importance of making government accessible. Through one-on-one sessions with HIR web experts and hands-on, interactive learning, this event was an important first step toward making government accessible.

Web accessibility is not just for the 54 million individuals with disabilities or for the millions of elderly Americans with diminished vision, hearing and other senses, but for any one of us who might one day need this technology. It also provides more options for a typical user who may prefer text over fancy graphics. With 68 million American adults using government agency websites, this typical user is evolving into a powerful "e-citizen."

I hope that today's event marks the beginning of some exciting, new changes in Congress.

The time has come for us to make our websites accessible to our growing e-citizenry. The progress has begun in the federal agencies, and now Congress needs to follow suit.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. Prior to the enactment of Title IX, educational and career opportunities were extremely limited for women. In 1971, less than 300,000 girls participated in high school sports compared to 3.6 million male athletes the same year. Today, this number has risen to over 2.4 million female athletes. Women have continued to demonstrate that, when given the opportunity, they, too, are fully qualified to be successful participants in athletics and education.

In the past 30 years, women have gained numerous other advantages from the passage of this historic legislation. Scholarships provided to women in increased numbers since passage of Title IX have opened doors that were otherwise closed to women. In 1971, only 18% of women finished four years of college; today more female students than male successfully complete a four-year college edu-

cation and go on to obtain a Master's degree. It is because of historic Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools, that women have been able to overcome these barriers.

While much has been accomplished since the enactment of this legislation, much still remains to be done. We need to be vigilant in our enforcement of Title IX and provide the funding needed to help our schools fully comply with the law. We need to fight for the passage of legislation that will ensure equality for women once they enter the workforce. Although today the majority of students are women, as is the majority of the U.S. population, women face continued inequalities in the workplace. In my home state of Michigan where pay inequity is at its worst, women make just 67 cents for every dollar men earn. This is inexcusable, and it has to stop. We should view Title IX not as a completed effort, but as a first step in ensuring equality for women.

With the passage of Title IX, our Nation declared that it is in our best interest to allow all men and women an equal chance to excel in any field or activity to which they commit themselves. It was pledged that all individuals should be given the same opportunities to realize their potential throughout their education and professional lives. We need to work harder to ensure that no American suffers discrimination on the basis of gender. We cannot rest until all women, all Americans, receive the opportunities they deserve. In my 26 years in Congress, I have committed myself to working toward the ideals of justice and equality for women, and I will continue to make this effort among my top priorities.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED
STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United States Army Special Forces and honor a great American hero and "Father of the Green Berets," Colonel Aaron Bank.

Perhaps more than ever, our generation appreciates the unique and vital mission of the U.S. Special Forces. They are the elite, unconventional warfare arm of the United States military and our Nation is at a place in history where our greatest threat is from the unpredictable foes they are trained to fight.

In a time when many of us have fears and doubts about the vulnerability of our Nation to future attacks, we can continue to have hope in the shield provided to us by the Special Forces. In valor, courage, and fidelity, the Special Forces are the world's finest fighting force and I am thankful that they are in the business of protecting the United States of America and its citizens.

Due to the covert nature of many of their missions, both the measure of their sacrifice and their contribution to freedom here and abroad may never be known. However, today, I hope all Americans will join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary and thanking them for giving more to this country than could ever be repaid and perhaps, could ever be measured.

I wish to especially extend my appreciation to Colonel Aaron Bank, the founder and first commander of the Special Forces. As an operative in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, he led his team on missions to hunt down high-ranking Nazi leaders, search for missing allied prisoners in Indochina and lead a counter-intelligence cell in Germany. It was clear there was a place for such operations using highly trained unconventional forces. So, when the OSS was disbanded after World War II, Colonel Bank began working to convince the U.S. Army to adopt a permanent unconventional warfare force. After tireless efforts, the U.S. Army launched its first Special Forces unit, the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) with Colonel Bank, appropriately, as its first commander.

Since then, the U.S. Army Special Forces has spawned special operations units from the other military branches such as the Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, and the Marines' Force Recon. We have Colonel Bank to thank for emphasizing the strategic and tactical importance of such units, which he modeled in designing, implementing and commanding the Army's first Special Forces unit.

In passing H. Con. Res. 364, Congress not only recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Special Forces, but also acknowledges the invaluable contribution of a great American and outstanding soldier, Colonel Aaron Bank. At age ninety-nine, he is a living legend and I consider it an honor and privilege to participate in recognizing both his contribution and the legacy of his vision and foresight, the United States Special Forces.

My most sincere gratitude goes out to Colonel Bank and his fellow Green Berets as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ON 70TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of The Missouri Officers Association, which represents over 900 Federal, State, and local police officers.

I would like to honor this organization in this, their 70th year, for their charitable work and dedication to scholarship and community. The primary focus of the officer's association is to provide low cost training to police agencies across the State of Missouri. Another very notable deed is the provision of an immediate \$1000 death benefit to families of fallen officers.

Beyond their efforts in the law enforcement community, the association organizes two scholarship programs. The first is a yearly college scholarship that awards \$1000 to five Missouri students and the second is an essay contest for eighth grade students, which awards six students cash awards totaling \$1200.

The philanthropic work of this organization also extends to the community through a variety of donations to groups such as Concern of Police Survivors, Ronald McDonald House,

Special Olympics, The Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial, The National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Missouri Police Chiefs Foundation and many others.

The law enforcement community is of paramount importance to our cities, our states and our Nation. This organization represents some of Missouri's finest members of the law enforcement community and is worthy of the esteem of this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the great work of The Missouri Officers Association on their 70th anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DEZIE WOODS-JONES, PERALTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS, FORMER CITY
COUNCILWOMAN AND VICE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dezie Woods-Jones for her 40 extraordinary years of educational leadership and public service to the City of Oakland. She will retire on July 14, 2002 from her position as Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs for the Peralta Community College District, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in education and community activism.

Dezie Woods-Jones has served the community as a committed activist, working diligently on behalf of the underprivileged, the underserved, the disenfranchised, youth, and for women's rights.

Born in Ruston, Louisiana, and raised in Fresno and Oakland, California, Dezie Woods-Jones began her civic involvement as a high school student, serving as president of the Fresno Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she also worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Black Conference Planning Committee (BCPC), and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Hayward.

In 1968, Dezie Woods-Jones accepted her first position with Peralta Community College District, as Director of the Community Outreach Center in North Oakland. Before being promoted to Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, she held a number of management positions in the District, including Director of Governmental Affairs, where she served as the District's lobbyist for almost eight years. She also served as an instructor, and she still considers herself first and foremost an educator and teacher.

In 1991, Dezie Woods-Jones was elected to the Oakland City Council, and she served as the city's Vice Mayor from 1996-1997. She was also the first woman to run for mayor of the city of Oakland. During her tenure on the council, she served as chair of the Council's Rules Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Legislation Committee and the Public Safety/Health and Human Services Committee.

A dedicated advocate for women's rights, Dezie Woods-Jones was a founding member of the pioneering organization Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and has served as the organization's statewide president for over 30 years.

Dezie Woods-Jones was named one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's Enews in 2002, and she received a nomination as one of the "Bay Area's 10 Most Influential Leaders," in City Flight Magazine in 2001. She was also included in "Women of Courage," a book published by Nestle, Inc. that featured stories of 35 women from across the country. She is a frequent guest on Bay Area radio and television shows, and has been invited as a guest speaker in South Korea, West Africa, South America, and Mexico.

She has held membership in over 50 community, state, and national organizations, chaired over 20 commissions, committees and boards, received hundreds of awards and recognitions, and has been appointed to special task force projects by the governor of California and several Oakland mayors.

I am honored to congratulate Dezie Woods-Jones on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to education and her community have touched the lives of countless Oakland residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 17th, Tuesday June 18th, and Wednesday June 19th, I missed rollcall votes 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235 and 236 due to my previously scheduled surgery being conducted in Alabama. If I had been present I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

2ND LT. WILLIAM WOLBER, ONE OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities that abound for all Americans are the products of sacrifice on the part of so many. Often at far distant places in the world and under great stress.

There are literally tens of thousands of stories, so many of which involve what it is widely acknowledged to be "The Greatest Generation." One such story, that of Army Air Force Second Lieutenant William Wolber, is of heroic dimensions. It was relayed to me by a mutual friend and neighbor, Fred Carville of New Hartford, New York. Here it is, in the words of Mr. Carville:

Second Lieutenant William Wolber served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was a bombardier serving in the 8th Air Force, 466th Bomb Group, which flew the B-24 Liberators out of England.

On one mission into Germany there were 12 planes in the formation flying in three flights of four planes each. Wolber's plane

was flying in formation as plane three of the first flight. The standard procedure was for all planes of the mission to follow the lead plane of the first throughout the entire mission. Radio silence was of the utmost importance.

On this particular mission planes one and two of the first flight were downed by enemy flak. Plane three (the one Bill was in) then took on the role of "the lead plane" for the return flight to England. All remaining planes were now taking their lead from plane three. However, Bill's plane, number three of the first flight, (for some reason) did not have a navigator on board during this particular mission.

Second Lieutenant William Wolber, bombardier, assumed the role of navigator. He evaluated the situation, looked at the navigator's maps and equipment. Based on target information Wolber determined a heading for the return flight and passed the bearing he had calculated on to the pilots to follow.

According to Bill's recollection, it was a very overcast day and the entire return flight was over cloud cover. There were no visual observations to aid in determining the correct return flight path. Bill continued to estimate the progress of the flight using the maps, heading, air speed, etc. All of the remaining planes of the mission continued to follow the lead of his plane.

At one point Bill told the pilot "we should be over the field, drop down through the cloud cover." The pilot dropped down through the cloud cover and lo and behold there was the field as Wolber had calculated. All remaining planes of the mission landed without incident. Bill continued his role as bombardier and flew 32 missions.

I have thanked Carville for sharing that story with me. Because it says so much about the character and courage of a fellow American, I want to share it with you, my colleagues in the House of Representatives. But I want to add a postscript.

I, like Mr. Carville, have been a friend and neighbor of Bill Wolber for years and yet never learned of that eventful mission in enemy territory during a peak period in a great world war until just recently. I wasn't surprised. You see, Bill Wolber is one of the finest, most decent, patriotic citizens I have ever had the privilege of meeting and getting to know.

Bill Wolber is a quiet, unassuming guy who, I suspect, was always a giver, one who did things for others whenever the opportunity was there because it was "the right thing" to do. I'll bet deserved recognition never crossed his mind. I know he doesn't talk much about helping others, he just does it. And that is why he and his contemporaries like him have earned the accolade "The Greatest Generation."

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS CLAIMS PROMPT PAYMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's doctors and hospitals face funding challenges. Today, to help address these challenges, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002.

We have heard a lot about the need to stop the declining payments from Medicare, especially since the proportion of patients on Medicare continues to grow. Further, doctors and

hospitals face great uncertainty as to when they will be paid by health care plans for services rendered. As a result of this uncertainty, doctors and hospitals have no guarantee that they can pay their own obligations in a timely manner. That's unfair. That's bad business.

This week, several congressional committees began the arduous process of considering Medicare legislation. Among the provisions that have received widespread bipartisan support in that legislation are payment updates for hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers. These provisions attempt to address the decrease in Medicare payments to doctors and other providers by 5.4 percent this year. They also help to address similar hospital funding shortfalls, especially in rural areas where hospitals are paid less than their urban and suburban counterparts due to the use of a biased and outdated formula. While these changes will not fully address the decline in payments and the funding shortages from Medicare that our providers face, they are a good first step.

But, addressing the Medicare funding problems is not enough. Doctors and hospitals need to be paid, and paid on time, by the private group and individual health plans. On-time payments are critical for doctors to pay their own bills and for the long-term financial survival of medical practices and hospitals.

Several states have passed legislation to ensure prompt payment for health care claims. However, the shortsightedness of politicians in some states—as in my home state of Texas—has prevented such legislation from becoming law. Even in states where laws are on the books, doctors and hospitals face possible federal ERISA preemption of state laws—meaning that without a federal “prompt pay” law, health plans will continue to be able to manage their cash flow on the backs of doctors and hospitals.

Today, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002. This legislation will ensure that doctors and hospitals are paid “promptly” for the health care services they provide to participants in private health care plans. Failure to pay such claims on time would result in interest penalties being imposed on health plans.

This bill also specifically protects a state's right to provide doctors and hospitals with even more certainty—allowing states to impose harsher penalties or stricter standards on the payment of claims.

The Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002 is one way to help ensure that doctors and hospitals can focus on what they do best—treating patients and practicing medicine.

SPEECH BY RACINE EVANS OF
WYANDANCH, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following words to you and all of our colleagues, Racine Evans of Milton Olive Middle School in Wyandanch, New York delivered this speech on May 13, 2002.

Hello Congressman Steve Israel, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, my name is

Racine Evans and I'm a six grade student at the Milton L. Olive Middle School. My desire is to be a teacher. I have been inspired by two powerful human beings, my mother, Theresa Johnson and my teacher Mrs. Deborah Charles. Mrs. Charles is always instructing me about the fact that knowledge is power. My mother Theresa is an assistant pastor and is also the Evangelist of my church. She also preaches to me how knowledge is power and knowledge is the key to life. I'm inspired by both my teacher and my mother with their words of wisdom and inspiration. Between church and school, teaching seems to be my calling. When I have the opportunity to become a teacher, I'll make sure that I'll share the wisdom that was passed on to me down to my students. I just want to be able to pass down my knowledge to someone else, because knowledge is a powerful thing. I am determined to be successful. I plan to come back to my community, and set an example for others. When they see that I have reached my goal, then they will know it's possible for them to be successful as well.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL AND THE
COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, a columnist for the Omaha World-Herald wrote, “What do you get when you cross Notre Dame with the College World Series? Magic is what you get.”

This entire baseball season has been magical for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish baseball team. Behind a spirited team effort, the Irish return to one of college athletics most storied events, the College Baseball World Series in Omaha, Nebraska for the first time since 1957. Not since Jake Kline was coach and Jim Morris batted .714 (10 for 14) in four games, a standing College World Series record, have the Irish traveled to Omaha to compete for the NCAA national championship.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a dramatic season for the Irish. Some people in South Bend have dubbed it the “boomerang season.” After starting 9–10 in the first nineteen games and losing their first four games in the Big East Conference, the Irish rallied with the heart and determination befitting of a championship team. Down 5–0 to the West Virginia Mountaineers, the Irish rallied behind the solid pitching of Drew Duff, Martin Vergara, and Matt Buchmeier and the offensive productivity of Steve Stanley, Paul O'Toole, and Javier Sanchez to win the game 10–6 in ten innings. Following this inspiring comeback, the Irish dominated their competition, winning forty games and losing only six.

The Irish's regular season hot streak served as momentum for the Big East Tournament in Bridgewater, New Jersey three weeks ago. The Irish beat Rutgers University, 3–2, after Steve Sollmann's clutch game-winning hit in the 10th inning to win their first Big East championship title. Ryan Kalita pitched seven shutout innings in relief. Senior clubhouse leader, Steve Stanley, was awarded the Big East Tournament's Most Outstanding Player Award after batting 6-for-16 with one double, one triple, and one RBI in the championship game.

After winning the Big East championship, Notre Dame was rewarded as the host team

for the NCAA South Bend Regional. The Irish made quick work of the South Bend Regional field beating Ohio State (8–6), South Alabama (25–1), and Ohio State again (9–6). The 25–1 drubbing of South Alabama was easily the most impressive victory margin of the year. The Irish batters swatted thirty-two hits, one hit shy of tying an NCAA tournament record for hits. Steve Sollmann went 6-for-7, Paul O'Toole batted 5-for-5, and Steve Stanley was 4-for-5 during the offensive explosion. The offensive dominance during the South Alabama game should not overshadow the brilliant pitching performance by freshman Grant Johnson. Johnson faced only thirty batters while allowing one walk and one hit. Johnson became only the thirteenth pitcher in NCAA history to post a no-hitter or one-hitter.

With the NCAA South Bend Regional in tow, the Irish advanced to the Super Regional in Tallahassee, Florida to take on the top ranked team in the nation, the Florida State Seminoles, in a best of three series. Against all odds, the Irish prevailed by upsetting the Seminoles in game one (10–4) and game three (3–1). The Irish halted Florida State's twenty-five game winning streak which was one of the longest in NCAA history and earned a place in the College World Series.

Upon arrival in Omaha, Notre Dame became a crowd favorite as the underdog of the College World Series. After losing a close game to the Stanford Cardinal (4–3) in the opening game of the double-elimination tournament, the Irish trailed in their second game to the Rice Owls 2–3 with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning. A loss to Rice would end the season for the Irish. With the bases empty, consummate team leader Steve Stanley ripped a triple down the baseline. The next batter, Steve Sollmann, hit a clutch game-tying RBI single. With Sollmann on first base, Brian Stavisky belted a game winning two-run homer. Coach Mainieri summed up the spirited comeback best, “I'm not sure I can adequately describe what we just witnessed. I'd like to say I'm surprised at what happened in the bottom of the ninth inning, but I'm really not. I've watched these kids do it for the last three or four years.”

Notre Dame has head coach Paul Mainieri and his exceptional assistant coaches, Brian O'Conner, Dusty Lepper, and Wally Widelski, to thank for this successful season. Through the course of his eight years at Notre Dame, Coach Mainieri has won the right way by recruiting student athletes who represent our university in a positive light. Coach Mainieri has compiled a 353–140–1 (.716) record at Notre Dame making him one of the most successful skippers in Big East Conference history.

The eight seniors on this record breaking Irish baseball team must also be commended for their dedication and leadership. Matt Bok, Andrew Bushey, Paul O'Toole, Steve Stanley, Ken Meyer, Matt Strickroth, Matt Buchmeier, and Drew Duff compiled a four year record of 187–65–1 that ranks as the fourth-best four year winning percentage in school history.

I would also like to acknowledge the other members of the baseball team who have brought the University of Notre Dame's students, faculty, and alumni so much excitement this season: Geoff Milsom, Zach Sisko, Kris Billmaier, Chris Niesel, Matt Macri, Jay Molina, Matt Edwards, Brent Weiss, Brian Stavisky, Peter Ogilvie, Joe Thaman, Mike Holba, Cody

Wilkins, Mike Morgalis, Scott Bickford, Matt Laird, Tyler Jones, George Howard, Mike Milligan, Brandon Vilorio, J.P. Gagne, and John Axford.

Mr. Speaker, although the Irish fell short of winning the College World Series this week, the players and coaches should be proud of this exceptionally successful season. I am reminded of when Hall of Fame pitcher, Bob Feller said, "Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is." After watching the determination and spirit of the 2002 Fighting Irish baseball team coached by Paul Mainieri, I am certain that college baseball fans across the country will come to know what Notre Dame fans already appreciate; a new baseball power is emerging from Eck Stadium in South Bend, Indiana. Thanks for a great season and go Irish! Watch out next year!

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND HONORS SMITH COLLEGE GRADUATE ANNE MARTINDELL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the career and commitment of Former ambassador and Smith College graduate Anne Martindell.

Ambassador Martindell's involvement in government is notable in itself. Her early support for women's rights and principled objection to the Vietnam conflict were part of a long career of public service. She served four years in the New Jersey State Senate before being appointed director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. In 1979 she was appointed Ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa. She continues her involvement in US-New Zealand relations as founder of the United States-New Zealand Council.

Anne Martindell's friends have always known her as a determined, energetic, and extraordinarily capable person. What brought these qualities to the attention of the general American public was her decision a few years ago to return to college to obtain her long-delayed degree—after nearly 7 decades. She was admitted to Smith College in 1932, but her parents removed her after her freshman year. Despite a lifetime of achievement, she felt this lack of a college degree, and returned to Smith College in the fall semester of 2000. She graduated this May 19th with a Bachelor of the Arts degree and received an Honorary Law Doctorate, certainly an unusual combination.

Ambassador Martindell's commitment to education and public service should serve as a model for us all. In her unwavering commitment to education lasting 69 years, she should inspire us all to similar commitments to higher education. In the words of her Smith College advisor Prof. Daniel Horowitz "At the most profound level, Anne is a testament to the importance of education." It is an honor to represent Ambassador Martindell in congress.

Once again, I rise to commend Ambassador Anne Martindell for her long career of public

service and her commitment to education. I wish her much success in her future endeavors, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 18, I was honored to be the keynote speaker at my daughter Jessica's eighth grade graduation ceremony and was therefore absent from this chamber during the last two votes of the day. I would like the Record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 237 and roll call vote 238.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution that expresses deep concern about ongoing violations of human rights in Kazakhstan. President Nursultan Nazarbaev, the authoritarian leader of this energy-rich country, has been flagrantly flouting his OSCE commitments on democratization, human rights, and the rule of law, and thumbing his nose at Washington as well.

In the 106th Congress, there was a near unanimous vote in the House for a resolution I introduced voicing dismay about general trends in Central Asia. We sent a strong signal to leaders and opposition groups alike in the region about where we stand.

Since then, the overall situation has not gotten better—throughout the region, super presidents continue to dominate their political systems. But their drive to monopolize wealth and power while most people languish in poverty is finally producing a backlash. Today in Central Asia, things are stirring for the first time in a decade.

Even in quasi-Stalinist Turkmenistan, an opposition movement-in-exile led by former high ranking government officials has emerged which openly proclaims its intention of getting rid of dictator Saparmurat Niyazov. In Kyrgyzstan, disturbances in March, when police killed six protesters calling for the release of a jailed parliamentarian, were followed by larger demonstrations that forced President Akaev in May to dismiss his government. The iron-fisted Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, under considerable pressure from Washington, has made some limited concessions to domestic and international public opinion, sentencing policemen to prison terms for torturing detainees and formally lifting censorship.

In Kazakhstan, however, President Nursultan Nazarbaev has reacted differently to domestic pressure and to Washington's calls for reforms to keep repression from breeding terrorism. Since last fall, Nazarbaev has cracked down hard, when his position became a little shakier. First we saw squabbles within

the ruling—or should I say, "royal"?—family burst out into the open when Nazarbaev demoted his powerful son-in-law. Then a new opposition movement emerged, headed by former officials who called for urgent reforms. Two of the leaders of that movement are now in prison. Subsequently, Kazakhstan's prime minister had to acknowledge the existence of \$1 billion stashed in a Swiss bank account under Nazarbaev's name. Some of the few opposition legislators allowed into parliament have demanded more information about the money and about any other possible hoards in foreign banks.

This would be a scandal in any country. But with a consistency worthy of a nobler goal, Nazarbaev's regime has for years stifled the opposition and independent media. And as detailed in a recent Washington Post story, which I ask to be inserted for the Record, Kazakh authorities have recently intensified their assault on those few remaining outlets, employing methods that can only be described as grotesque and revolting. In one case, the editor of an opposition newspaper found a decapitated dog hanging outside her office. Attached to a screwdriver stuck into its body was a message that read "there won't be a next time." On May 23, the State Department issued a statement expressing "deep concern" that these assaults "suggest an effort to intimidate political opposition leaders in Kazakhstan and the independent media and raise serious questions about the safety of the independent media in Kazakhstan." That statement did not have the desired effect—last week, someone left a human skull on a staircase in the building where the editorial office of another newspaper is located.

Mr. Speaker, after September 11, the U.S. Government moved to consolidate relationships with Central Asian states, seeking cooperation in the battle with terrorism. But Washington also made plain that we expected to see some reform in these entrenched dictatorships, or we would all have to deal with consequences in the future. Nursultan Nazarbaev has ignored this call. Increasingly nervous about revelations of high-level corruption, he is obviously determined to do anything necessary to remain in power and to squelch efforts to inform Kazakhstan's public of his misdeeds. But even worse, he seems convinced that he can continue with impunity as his goons brutally threaten and assault the brave men and women who risk being journalists in a country so hostile to free speech.

Mr. Speaker, against this backdrop, I am introducing this resolution, which expresses concern about these trends, calls on Kazakhstan's leadership to observe its OSCE commitments and urges the U.S. Government to press Kazakhstan more seriously. I hope my colleagues will support this resolution and I look forward to their response.

[Washington Post Foreign Service, Mon., June 10, 2002]

NEW REPRESSION IN KAZAKHSTAN
JOURNALISTS TARGETED AFTER PRESIDENT
IMPLICATED IN SCANDAL

(By Peter Baker)

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN.—The message could not have been clearer even without the note. In the courtyard of Irina Petrushova's opposition newspaper office, a decapitated dog was hung by its paws, a green-handled screwdriver plunged into its torso with a computer-printed warning attached to it.

"There won't be a next time."

The dog's missing head was left along with a similar note at Petrushova's house. Three nights later, someone threw three molotov cocktails into her office and burned it to the ground.

The political climate in this oil-rich former Soviet republic has taken a decidedly ominous turn in recent weeks, ever since the revelation that the country's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, secretly stashed \$1 billion of state money in a Swiss bank account 6 years ago. As the scandal blossomed, opposition leaders were suddenly arrested, newspapers and television stations shut down, and critical journalists beaten in what foes of the government consider a new wave of repression.

What inspectors and regulators have not accomplished, mysterious vandals have. One of the country's leading television stations was knocked off the air when its cable was sliced in the middle of the night. Shortly after it was repaired, the cable was rendered useless again when someone shot through it.

"Everything that's been achieved over the last 10 years, it's been wiped out," Petrushova lamented.

"This political system we have is still Soviet," said Yevgeny Zhovits, director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law. "By its spirit, by its nature, by its attitude toward personal freedom, it's still Soviet."

The tale of intrigue emerging in Kazakhstan, while familiar across the former Soviet Union, takes on special significance in Central Asia, a region that has become far more important to the United States as it fights a war in nearby Afghanistan. The case also sheds some light on the tangled world of oil, money and politics in a country with massive energy reserves.

The U.S. Embassy and the State Department have issued statements condemning the pattern of events and fretting about the state of democracy in a country still run by its last Communist boss. But many reformers in Kazakhstan worry that the West has effectively turned its eyes away from human rights abuses to maintain the international coalition against terrorism.

"All this is happening with the silent consent of the West," said Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov, a leading figure in Democratic Choice for Kazakhstan, an opposition party founded last year. Until Sept. 11, Nazarbayev's government worried about offending the West, he noted, but not anymore. "The ostrich party of Western democracies actually unties the hands of dictators."

Nazarbayev, a burly, 61-year-old former steel mill blast-furnace operator, has run this giant, dusty country of 17 million people with an authoritarian style. Nazarbayev was a former member of the Soviet Politburo who took over as head of the republic in 1990, became president after independence in 1991, and continued to dominate Kazakhstan through uncompetitive elections and a referendum extending his term.

His relationship with oil companies has prompted investigations in Switzerland and the United States as prosecutors in both countries probe whether an American lobbyist helped steer millions of dollars in oil commissions to him and other Kazakh leaders.

The long-brewing questions about such transfers and rumors of foreign bank accounts erupted into a full-blown scandal in April when Nazarbayev's prime minister admitted to parliament that the president diverted \$1 billion to a secret Swiss bank account in 1996. The money came from the sale that year of a 20 percent stake in the valuable Tengiz offshore oil fields to Chevron.

The prime minister, Imangali Tasmagambetov, said that Nazarbayev had

sent the money abroad because he worried that such a large infusion of cash into Kazakhstan would throw the currency into a tailspin. Although he never disclosed the secret fund to parliament, Nazarbayev used it twice to help stabilize the country during subsequent financial crises, Tasmagambetov said.

In an inter-view last week, a top government official dismissed the significance of the revelation and the resulting furor.

"The so-called Kazakh-gate, the government officially explained this," said Ardak Doszham, the deputy minister of information. "There was a special reserve account set up by the government. It's a normal account that can be managed by officials appointed by the government. It's not managed by individuals. The money that goes into it is state money, and it's supposed to be used to meet the needs of the state."

Asked who knew about it, Doszham could identify only three men, Nazarbayev, the prime minister and the chairman of the national bank. Asked why lawmakers were never informed, he said, "It was impossible to raise this issue before parliament because it would have elicited many questions."

But opposition leaders and journalists said Nazarbayev finally revealed the account this spring only after they pushed Swiss prosecutors for information. The opposition and journalists said they believe the president announced the \$1 billion fund only as a smoke screen to obscure other matters still under investigation by the Swiss and U.S. prosecutors.

"All around there is bribe-taking and stealing and mafia," said Serikbolsyn Abdildin, the head of the Communist Party and one of two parliament deputies whose information request to prosecutors preceded the announcement. "There's corruption in the top echelon of power." The disclosure of the \$1 billion Swiss fund was designed to "fool public opinion," he said.

The disclosures have coincided with an escalating series of troublesome incidents for those who do not defer to the government.

Just days before Tasmagambetov's speech to parliament, Kazakh authorities arrested opposition politician Mukhtar Abilyazov, while his colleague, Ghalymzhan Zhaiqyanov, avoided a similar fate only by fleeing into the French Embassy here in Almaty, the former capital, two days later.

After assurances from Kazakh authorities, he left the embassy, and promptly was also taken into custody. The government insisted it was pursuing embezzlement charges against the two, both founding members of Democratic Choice. The opposition called it blatant harassment.

Other opposition figures began to feel the heat as well. While independent media in Kazakhstan have often experienced difficulty in the decade since independence, a string of frightening episodes convinced many journalists that they were being targeted.

The government began enforcing a five-year-old law requiring television stations to ensure that 50 percent of their broadcasts were aired in the native Kazakh tongue, a language that in practice remains secondary to Russian here. Most television stations cannot afford to develop such programming and prefer to buy off-the-shelf material from Russia, including dubbed Western television shows and movies. As government agents swarmed in and began monitoring channels this spring, they began seizing licenses of those stations that did not comply.

Similarly, inspectors showed up at newspaper offices demanding to see registration papers and suspending those publications that did not have everything in order. Some that did not list their addresses properly were abruptly shut down. Printing houses

began refusing to publish other papers, and one printing house was burned down in unclear circumstances.

Tamara Kaleyeva, president of the International Foundation for Protection of Speech here, said about 20 newspapers have been forced to stop publishing and about 20 television stations have been shut down or face closure.

"It appears the Swiss accounts are the reason for a terrible persecution against free speech," she said. Added Rozlana Taukina, president of the Central Asia Independent Mass Media Association, "The country is turning into an authoritarian regime."

Doszham, the deputy minister, denied any political motivations behind the recent actions. Television stations had been flouting the language law, he said, and the government has suspended about seven or eight, and gone to court to recall the licenses of another six or seven. Similarly, he said, newspapers had been violating requirements. "The law is harsh," he said, "but the law is the law."

Even more harsh, however, has been an unofficial but often violent crackdown. It is not known who is orchestrating it. Bakbytzhan Ketebayev, president of Tan Broadcasting Co., whose Tan TV station was among the best known in Kazakhstan, has been off the air for two months following repeated attacks on his cable. Even after it was repaired following the gunshots, it was damaged yet again when someone drove three nails in it. "Once it's an accident, twice it may be an accident," he said. "But three times is a trend."

At the newspaper Soldat, which means soldier in Russian but is also a play on words in Kazakh meaning "that one demands to speak," the assault was more personal. One day in late May, four young men burst into the newspaper office and beat two workers there, bashing one woman's head so hard she remains in the hospital. They also took the computer equipment.

Ermuram Bali, the editor, said the attack came the day before the weekly was to run the second of two installments reprinting a Seymour Hersh piece from the New Yorker about oil and corruption in Kazakhstan. "This is the last warning against you," he said the assailants told his staff. Other journalists have been physically attacked as well.

And then there was Petrushova and the headless dog. Like Soldat, her newspaper, the Republic Business Review, had written about the scandal. Then the mutilated animal was found May 19, and finally the newspaper office was set aflame on May 22.

Petrushova suspects state security agencies were behind the incidents but cannot prove it. "The throne started to waver, and in order to hold it in place, all sorts of measures are being used," she said. Now she works out of borrowed offices at Tan TV headquarters, putting out the newspaper on her own typographical machine and stapling each issue. "It's just like it was in the time of the Soviet Union."

GRACE OMEGA GARCES, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 2002 REGION IX ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate

Grace Omega Garces for having been selected for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Environmental Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who have done exceptional work and have shown commitment to the environment. Grace is the public information and education officer for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Under this capacity, Grace has directed and implemented the Guam EPA's public information, community outreach and environmental education programs through the use of strategic planning to create an educated and informed citizenry. She has also been in charge of enhancing the agency's public profile and credibility through media releases and updates. She has made determinations on the forms, messages, audiences and desired impacts of high-quality communications products regarding the Guam EPA and Guam's natural resources. Part of her responsibilities included serving as adjunct risk communications officer for contingencies such as the Supertyphoon Paka Disaster, the Ordot Landfill Fire, the Orote Landfill Seafood Warning, the Installation Restoration Project, the Agana Swamp PCB Warnings, the Agana Power Plant and the Base Realignment and Closure Project. She has also produced and conceptually developed the Guam EPA website.

The youngest of Joe and Nieves Garces' five children, Grace was born and raised on the island of Guam, graduating from Oceanview High School in Agat, Guam. While in high school, she was inducted into the national honor society and was elected student body president. She received the Soroptimist International of the Mariana Youth Citizenship Award and was selected as youth ambassador to Japan for the Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation Guam/Japan Youth Exchange in the summer of 1996. She was also a co-captain of the cheerleading squad.

Dedicated to the pursuit of higher education, Grace earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, San Diego. She majored in both Political Science and History with minors in Economics and Advanced Calculus. In June of this year, a Master of Public Administration degree was conferred upon her by the University of Guam. While at the University of Guam, she was the recipient of the Dr. Pedro C. Sanchez Professional Scholarship.

Grace's work experience include a wide variety of posts in both the private and public sector. Prior to her employment with the Guam EPA, she worked, on several occasions, as an aide and a consultant to local senators. She has both been a freelance writer and a copy editor for the local daily newspaper. She has also been a volunteer broadcaster and radio program host for Guam Public Radio. While in college, she was the executive director of the university's Associated Students Internship Office and later became a Research Assistant and Fellow.

In addition to this recent award, Grace has also been the recipient of a number of local, regional and national honors and awards. The Government of Guam Bureau of Women's Affairs named her the Outstanding Woman of the Year for Local/Federal Government in 2002. She has received a number of awards and nominations for the Governor of Guam's Employee Recognition Program. For several years running, she has also been given the honor of making presentations in regional and national EPA conferences.

The hard work and dedication of Grace Garces brings much welcomed recognition, focus and attention to the island of Guam. I applaud her efforts and urge her to keep up the good work.

HONORING DEAN KAMEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MODERN DAY THOMAS EDISON, FOR HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF ALL PEOPLE AND RECOGNITION BY THE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to the attention of the United States House of Representatives Assembled, the contributions that my friend Dean Kamen has made toward improving the health, productivity, freedom, and aspirations of people around the world. I therefore request the following proclamation be made part of the permanent CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United State of America:

Whereas, Dean Kamen and his inventions have improved the lives of millions of people around the world; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has captured the hope and imagination of all citizens who remain convinced that he will one day unlock even more secrets of physics, engineering, and biology to revolutionize the way we live; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has sought to inspire younger generations and many others the drive to study and surpass the known boundaries of humanity and science, by organizing and ceaselessly promoting For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST); and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has made residents of the Great State of New Hampshire proud of his successes and appreciate his loyalty to the Granite State's way of life; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen on this day has been named "Person of the Year" by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation New England Chapter—New Hampshire Branch;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives that Congress congratulates Dean Kamen on his award and thanks him for his many contributions to our society.

On this date, at the House of Representatives, in Washington, D.C.

A TRIBUTE TO LANDON DONOVAN AND THE U.S. WORLD CUP TEAM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Americans have found a new set of sports heroes in the past through weeks as we have watched the breathtaking performance of the U.S. men's team in the World Cup soccer championship. While the entire team has won the hearts and cheers of the nation for going further than any U.S. team in 72 years, my

constituents and I are particularly proud of a native son, Landon Donovan of Redlands.

A former student at Redlands East Valley High School, Landon Donovan can rightfully be called a soccer prodigy. Quickly moving on from the Youth soccer leagues in my San Bernardino County district, Landon was the most valuable player for the Under17 World Championship as a 16-year-old in 1999 and played for the U.S. team in the 2000 Olympics.

His promise was recognized by one of Europe's top soccer teams when he was recruited by the German club Bayer Leverkusen. But his real potential was revealed in 2001 when he Joined the San Jose Earthquakes of the professional Major Soccer League and led the team to the national championship.

Landon Donovan's impact on the World Cup has mirrored that of the U.S. team. He has taken on some of the world's best players and shown that he can be competitive with anyone. He scored a goal in the first U.S. match against Portugal and very nearly scored another. He scored the only goal in a loss to Poland. And he was named the "Man of the Match" in the U.S. team's win over Mexico after scoring the team's second goal and nearly scoring another.

Thanks to the speed and determination of Landon Donovan and his teammates, this year's U.S. team went further in the World Cup than any time in the past 72 years. In their final match against Germany, one of the elite teams, they pressured the German goal again and again. Donovan broke away for four shots on his own, and forced the German keeper to make desperate saves each time. The German victory at 1-0 ended the U.S. run, but will in no way lessen our pride in the players' spirited performance.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of San Bernardino County have now been treated to thrilling hometown performers twice in the course of a year. Derek Parra of San Bernardino shocked and inspired the world at the Winter Olympics with his recordbreaking gold medal performance in speedskating, a sport long-dominated by cold climate European nations.

And now Landon Donovan, a product of Redlands youth soccer, has helped his team win against some of the elite teams of the World Cup. Please join me in thanking this team for showing Americans how entertaining soccer can be, and for reminding us all that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

MILITARY PAY GAP

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and respect for our men and women in uniform that I introduce legislation to ensure elimination of the pay gap that exists for our military personnel.

Since 1982, when military pay was last considered to have achieved "reasonable comparability" with the private sector, military raises have lagged behind those enjoyed by the average American. Legislation passed for FY2000 included a large pay raise and mandated pay raises of "inflation plus one half of one percent" through 2006.

Despite a series of generous raises, the pay gap will not be eliminated by 2006. My legislation would do two things. Extend the mandate from 2006 to 2013, when the gap would be eliminated, and then ensure that raises keep pace with inflation.

As our military personnel consider the very personal decision to stay in the military or move to the private sector they do factor in future pay raises. From my own personal experience visiting with our service men and women I know that they don't choose to serve for financial gain. They serve because they believe in America and the freedoms that we all enjoy and are committed to service. Like all of us here in this House, they understand that a lifestyle of service entails a certain amount of sacrifice. In exchange for all their sacrifices, they have a simple request: that their nation make a commitment to them that parallels their commitment to the nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join in that commitment and support my legislation to permanently eliminate the military pay cap.

HONORING MELISSA MILLER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there are a group of individuals who constantly sacrifice, give their time and love, and truly make the world a better place. These individuals are the mothers of the world, and they represent a constant source of kindness, advice, and reliability. These women play numerous roles, from nurse to teacher to counselor to chauffeur, and Melissa Miller of Georgia's 7th district is certainly a great example.

Mrs. Miller was recently named the 2002 Mother of the Year by Sixes Living Magazine. Mrs. Miller is a very busy mom, constantly on the road transporting her children from ballet lessons to baseball games. The time which she finds to devote to her kids is sure to contribute to their development into the type of Americans we all hope our children will become—kind, caring, smart, hard-working, and honest.

More women like Mrs. Miller are needed in our great country so that we can continue to instill morals and values in the next generation of Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for roll call votes 239 and 240. Had I been present I would have voted yes for both votes.

OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD CONGRATULATIONS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the principal, faculty and students of Oak Middle School in Los Alamitos, California, on that school's receipt of the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" Award.

The Blue Ribbon Award is a highly competitive honor awarded to schools that are judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national education goals. To qualify for the award, schools must undergo a rigorous selection process culminating in a decision made by a panel of educators from across the country selecting schools for recommendations to Secretary Paige.

I can think of no school more worthy of this award than Oak Middle School, which under the excellent leadership of Principal James Elsasser consistently produces well-educated and active students. Because of the vision and determination demonstrated by Mr. Elsasser and his committed faculty, Oak Middle School has been recognized by the Federal Government for its excellence—a recognition that I think is long overdue.

I congratulate Oak Middle School on its achievement, I encourage the students and faculty to continue their tradition of excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEONARD HOFFMAN

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Hoffman for his years of service in the educational system. Mr. Hoffman, who retires this year, has served the educational system since August 25, 1969. Leonard began his career at Channahon Elementary School and has taught every subject except Science. He has also served as Union President, Union Vice-President and building representative.

Always striving for excellence, Leonard initiated special school activities to keep the students active and interested in learning. One special activity is called the President's Test. The President's Test required students to be able to name the Presidents in order. Fifth grade students need to pass the President's Test to be "eligible to go into sixth grade." This involved many practice sessions for the students and time for encouragement and positive reinforcement from the teachers. The President's Test has become an important "rite of passage" for the students.

Other activities initiated by Mr. Hoffman include the Campbell's soup label saving program which provides funds to purchase new library books and audiovisual equipment. The students celebrated President Washington's birthday by making tri-cornered hats and making a button toy similar to those of that era. A

history lesson on the Boston Tea Party included drinking tea and eating biscuits. Arbor Day was celebrated by Mr. Hoffman giving each student seedling trees to take home and plant. There are adults in the community that still talk about "their trees".

Leonard Hoffman was born on February 25, 1947 in Morris, Illinois to Judge and Mrs. Leonard (Erb) Hoffman. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. In 1973, Leonard received his Master's Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. Leonard married Carol Collins Hoffman on March 9, 1974. They are the proud parents of Martha Hoffman.

Leonard has also given his time and energy to the whole community. He is a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Dwight and a charter member of the First Bank of Channahon. Currently serving as Vice President, Leonard is one of the original trustees of Three River's Library system. He is also a Life Loyal Member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and a member of the Channahon Methodist Church.

Leonard is best remembered for an oft-cited quotation he learned from his first grade teacher, Miss Canaday, "Directions are your friends, they tell you what to do". In fact, you would not be able to find a former student of Leonard's that would not be able to remember this statement. His daughter, Martha, is now using this statement with her students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE UPPER PENINSULA VILLAGE OF BERGLAND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call your attention and that of our House colleagues to a ceremony that will take place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on July 3–6. On those days, with all the fanfare and activities that local residents have been planning for a year, the community of Bergland will celebrate its centennial.

As Bergland residents frequently note for distant acquaintances, this is a small community that's easy to find on a map of Michigan. Just find Lake Gogebic, a lake in the western end of the U.P. that looks like an upside-down boot, and Bergland is at the toe. On the map, it's just another black dot—you need to see Bergland as I have seen it so many times, passing through on my way west on M–28 to Ironwood or turning north on M–64 to go to Ontonagon. Then you would see a tidy village of wood-framed structures, tucked in the forest on the shore of a lake. It's the kind of friendly community that says, "Why are you rushing by? Stop here a while, and your life will be enriched and at peace."

Like so many northern Michigan communities, Bergland is a village created by the lumber industry. In 1902 Gunlek Bergland, then age 55, and his wife Hanna signed the

Plat of the Village of Bergland, giving birth to a community that was located within the 18,000 acres of timberland Bergland had obtained. He had already constructed a sawmill and a short-line railroad into his timber holdings, and the new town's location along the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad ensured his wood products would find distant markets.

The town of Bergland was born at a unique time in Michigan's lumbering history. Most of the virgin strand of giant white pine had been harvested, but the land Gunlek Bergland purchased was far enough away from the Lake Michigan shore that it had remained uncut. This North Woods stood at town's edge. Charles Freed, a 12th grade graduate of Bergland's first school, built in 1904, once reminisced about this timber stand, saying, "Within a few feet of the rear of the building there stood a forest which had not yet been touched by the ax."

It's quite amazing, Mr. Speaker, when you consider that within the 20th Century and right in the Midwest, a community was being built on a forest frontier. It would not be frontier for long, because 20th Century changes were having an impact on the lumber industry. Witness the fact that Gustav Bergland built an actual town for families, which in itself was a change from the tradition of the 1800s, when lumberjacks spent all winter living in isolated lumber camps to do their work. In the 19th Century, logs were floated down rivers to communities like my home town of Menominee, where sawmills cut them and shipped the lumber south by water to growing cities like Milwaukee and Chicago. In the dynamic new 20th Century, railroads reached inland to small communities like Bergland to bring out wood products. Hardwood was now needed by the Upper Peninsula mines, and the growing auto industry needed lumber, too, as much as 250 board feet—the equivalent of a 27-inch diameter, eight-foot-long log—for each vehicle produced.

Those boom days are gone, but Bergland and its forest heritage remain. Forest products are still an important regional industry, a managed industry that recognizes northern Michigan's forests as a renewable resource, Bergland stands surrounded by the million-acre Ottawa National Forest, an area that is also rich in recreational opportunities,

Residents and former residents of Bergland will gather in July to celebrate this history, and they will also honor some of the community's oldest residents. Among those to be honored are Walter Borseth, 90, and Stan Lackie, 85, both of whom were born of Bergland pioneering families and have spent their entire lives in Bergland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in wishing the best to the people of Bergland on this celebration of their centennial, and in saying a hearty, "Well Done!" to the Bergland Centennial Planning Committee of Gay Frulik, Junior Gray, Winnie Borseth, and Tom Borseth. We hope many former Bergland residents are drawn back home for this celebration, so that families may be reunited, old friendships renewed, and a remarkable quality of life rediscovered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, from June 17 through June 19, I was in London, England participating in a Government Reform National Security Subcommittee meeting on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote number 230, "yes" on recorded vote number 231, "yes" on recorded vote number 232, "yes" on recorded vote number 233, "yes" on recorded vote number 234, "yes" on recorded vote number 235, "yes" on recorded vote number 236, "yes" on recorded vote number 237, "yes" on recorded vote number 238, and "yes" on recorded vote number 239.

H. CON. RES. 415, RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives passed a resolution that recognizes National Homeownership Month. Democrats and Republicans are united in their support for homeownership. However, we should not fool ourselves by claiming that this resolution is going to solve our affordable housing crisis.

We need to back up our words with action. Housing is not a top priority of this House or the Administration. HUD provides down payment assistance through several of its programs, yet without sufficient resources HUD will not be able to accomplish its homeownership goals. In fact in real dollars, HUD's budget is one third of what it was during the Ford administration. This is unacceptable.

Yesterday the Financial Services committee marked-up the "Housing Affordability for American Act of 2002." Several members of the majority voted against an amendment to create a national affordable housing trust fund. The approved amendment creates a trust fund that utilizes FHA surplus funds. By creating a housing trust fund we can provide the necessary resources to build and preserve 1.5 million units of rental housing over the next 10 years.

Also, predatory lending continues to be a serious problem for homeowners. The Coalition for Responsible Lending estimates that homeowners lose \$9.1 billion annually due to predatory loans. Predatory lending is especially a problem in the subprime market. People who have trouble getting access to conventional mortgages often use the subprime market for mortgage assistance.

Predatory lenders disproportional prey on the elderly and minorities. In 2000, HUD completed a study that found that borrowers in upper income African American neighbor-

hoods, who would easily qualify for conventional, low rate loans, were twice as likely as homeowners in low-income white neighborhoods to receive subprime refinance loans. In Chicago the number of high interest loans rose 3,685 between 1993 and 1999. To combat this problem, I and several of my colleagues have introduced anti predatory lending legislation. Regrettably, none of our bills have been given consideration by the Republican House leadership. Simply supporting homeownership is not enough. We must act to make sure the people are able to keep their homes as well.

Homeownership is expensive and it is difficult for people with low incomes to own a home. People in Chicago and across the country need affordable housing whether it is a home or an apartment. In Chicago, we're short 150,000 units of affordable housing. Nationally, there has been a 37 percent increase in the number of people seeking emergency shelters in the past year and five and a half million people are facing the worst housing crisis in the United States. That is why I have introduced H.R. 2999 "The First Things First Act." My legislation puts tax breaks for the rich on hold until we address our nation's housing crisis and other critical needs. This resolution is only effective if we take strong actions to make affordable housing a reality for America's families.

HONORING PASTOR T.R. WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend Theodore Roosevelt (T.R.) Williams, Sr., on his 25 years of exceptional service to the New Faith Church located at 4315 West Fuqua Street, Houston, Texas. On June 23, 2002, Reverend Williams will be joined by his family, friends, and the congregation of New Faith Church to celebrate his 25th anniversary.

Born in Alexandria, Louisiana on July 26, 1945, Theodore Roosevelt Williams was one of five children born to Nathaniel and Violet Williams. The Williams' established an extraordinary foundation for their children centered around developing their faith in God. Reverend Williams often recalls how his parents would awaken him along with his brothers and sisters on Sunday morning for family prayer and fondly speaks of his parents' willingness to sacrifice their desires to ensure that their children's needs were met.

After receiving his degree from Southern University in 1966, Rev. Williams soon found himself being called to the ministry. On December 2, 1966, he preached his first sermon at Greater Saint Lawrence Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Williams accepted his first pastoral position at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in rural Louisiana in 1968 and his second at Loyal Baptist Church beginning in 1972 and resigned in 1977. After his resignation, Reverend Williams organized New Faith Church on February 27, 1977, where he currently presides as Senior Pastor.

Since its inception, New Faith's priorities have been in accord with God's directives,

and have made tremendous strides in the efforts to improve the quality of life in the Houston area. Under the leadership of Reverend Williams, the congregation has grown to more than 3,000 members with facilities on more than ten acres of property. Throughout his tenure as senior pastor, Reverend Williams, has a number of accomplishments that highlight his commitment and dedication to serving God, his congregation and the Houston community. Some of his many achievements include, the development of the ministerial staff concept, the Family Life Center, the Crisis Counseling Center, and the Violet P. Williams Educational Building. Reverend Williams has implemented more than twenty-five ministries and provides leadership to a number of dedicated and talented staffers.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 34 years in the ministry, Reverend Williams' intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity has served his congregations well. He brings a tireless energy, an unflagging drive, and an unparalleled passion to each of his endeavors, whether it's as a Pastor, a civic leader, or friend. His tremendous strength over the years is a testimony to the success of his efforts to address the needs of his congregations and community.

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY
PATROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Sgt. James E. Closson of Marshall, MO, who recently was named Officer of the Year by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He has distinguished himself, the Missouri Highway Patrol, and the State of Missouri with dedicated service.

Sgt. Closson has been serving and protecting the citizens of Missouri for 28 years. He is respected by the members of Troop A for his diligence in ensuring assignments are met and completed without fail. His years in the Troop A area and as the zone sergeant of Zone 10 in Saline County have established him as a leader in the community.

Sgt. Closson is the son of a distinguished former Missouri Highway Patrolman, A.F. Closson.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. James E. Closson has been dedicated to serving and protecting the

citizens of Missouri for 28 years and is well deserving of this prestigious award. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Sgt. Closson and his wife, Jenny, all the best.

THE TREATMENT OF GIRLS AND
WOMEN BY THE BURMESE ARMY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand firm against the impunity with which the girls and women of Burma are raped, tortured, beaten, and killed as part of a systematic campaign by the Burmese army to terrorize and subjugate its people.

This week, a report was released detailing the heinous acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence carried out on the women and girls of the Shan State on the Burmese border with Thailand. Compiled from interviews with brave victims who would talk about their story, the report serves merely as a microcosm of the ongoing and endemic commitment by the Burmese army to thwart resistance and opposition by officially condoning the use of rape as a weapon of war against its civilian population.

Mr. Speaker, the reports that have surfaced describe how the overwhelming majority of these rapes are being carried out by officers, and usually in front of their own troops. Girls and women are being beaten mutilated, suffocated—tortured. A quarter of these rapes result in death, and in some incidences the victim's body is publicly displayed to send out a message of terror and fear to local peoples. These crimes against humanity are often times even taking place within military bases where some women have been detained for up to 4 months—only to be raped, even gang raped, repeatedly by soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN FRED "POT
LICK" CLAY CUTRER, JR.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Captain Fred "Pot Lick" Clay Cutrer, Jr., United States

Air Force, of Mississippi, who was laid to rest on Thursday, June 6, 2002. Captain Cutrer had been missing in action in South Vietnam since August 5, 1964. Captain Cutrer was the first pilot to be killed after President Johnson's escalation of American involvement in Vietnam due to the Gulf of Tonkin. At the time Captain Cutrer's plane went down he was only 29 years old.

Captain Cutrer and his navigator, Lieutenant Leonard Lee Kaster of Massachusetts, were flying a B-57B Canberra on August 5, attempting to land at a nearby base, when they were shot down by Viet Cong soldiers. Unfortunately, a rescue or recovery mission could not be attempted, as the area where the plane went down was deemed too dangerous. Both men were listed as Missing in Action and their names were on the Vietnam Wall when it was dedicated in Washington, D.C., in 1982. Captain Cutrer's name can be found on Panel 1E, Line 60.

In August 1992, the Defense Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office found the crash site with the help of a Vietnamese native who saw the plane as it crashed in Long Khan Province. Follow-up visits led to an excavation in March and April 1997 and recovery of Captain Cutrer's remains. In January 1998, Captain Cutrer's family was notified that his dog tags and remains had been found. He was given a full military burial at Arlington Cemetery on Thursday, June 6, 2002. Since Lieutenant Kaster's remains were never found, he was buried with Captain Cutrer. He and Lieutenant Kaster were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Captain Cutrer grew up in Mississippi in a loving family and alongside great friends. He was married to Shirley Cutrer, who was a First Lieutenant who was honorably discharged as an Air Force nurse in 1962 after becoming pregnant with the couple's first of two sons, Fred III. She died September 10, 1998, when her car collided with an 18-wheeler in Pennsylvania. Later this summer, she will be exhumed and buried beside her husband's plot.

On Thursday, June 6, many of Captain Cutrer's friends and family met at Arlington to finally lay to rest their beloved friend and family member. Among those attending the funeral were Captain Cutrer's two sons, Fred III and Dan, his brother Hugh Molve Cutrer and his two sisters, Lillie Cutrer Gould and Connie Cutrer Blair of Simsbury, CT.

Captain Fred "Pot Lick" Clay Cutrer, Jr. is a true American hero and I urge my colleagues to stand today to honor his memory.