

Tree" that could be viewed by our troops, no matter where they were stationed. In fact, Cindy used every message to decorate real Christmas Trees, too! She is anxious to get going on "Trees for the Troops 2002."

I commend this web site to you, Mr. Speaker, and our colleagues. It can be found at <http://www.iwillsoaragain.com/>. There are many things to see and read, including samplings of Cindy's poetry. By scrolling down to the bottom, one can find "Trees for the Troops 2001" and read the heartfelt greetings submitted by thousands of grateful people.

"I Will Soar Again" is one person's way of saying God Bless America. I commend this site to our colleagues, staffs, families and constituents, so they can contribute to the next Christmas Tree.

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HIP HOUSING MARKS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Human Investment Project for Housing (HIP Housing) of San Mateo, California, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary. For the past 30 years, this outstanding organization has been addressing the need for affordable housing.

Founded in 1972, HIP Housing was established to create programs to assist the disadvantaged and disabled living within San Mateo County. In 1979, recognizing a lack of affordable housing in the community, HIP Housing developed its "Homesharing Help and Information Program" and began to focus on expanding the pool of affordable housing in the community. Since then, HIP Housing has made over 12,000 homesharing placements and today serves over 2,500 people each year, 500 of which are children.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living in my congressional district is well documented. High housing prices have forced some out of their homes, leaving many with only expensive temporary housing options. HIP Housing has come to the rescue of thousands of people, finding permanent housing for seniors, single-parents and their children, persons with disabilities, the homeless and working persons.

Fortunately, HIP Housing has long been recognized for its great work. In 1985, the organization received the "Best Practices Award" from the American Society on Aging; in 1990 HIP Housing was appointed the Northern California liaison to National Home Equity Conversion Counseling Task Force; the California American Institute of Architects awarded the organization the "Community Assistance" award in 1991; and in 1998, HIP Housing received HUD's Blue Ribbon Best Practices Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to emphasize just how vital HIP Housing has been to San Mateo County. Through its wide variety of housing programs and incredible generosity, HIP Housing has made a world of a difference for tens of thousands of people and it continues to do so every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, from June 17 through 19, 2002 I had the honor of traveling to the United Kingdom on a Congressional Delegation as the Vice Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations. While in London, visiting the British Parliament's House of Lords, I had the opportunity to discuss policy-related issues and the ongoing war on terrorism with some of my distinguished British counterparts. Specifically, we held the first U.S. Congressional hearing ever in British Parliament on the subject of Gulf War Syndrome. I was excused by the Speaker to participate in this extraordinary experience, which prevented me from voting on legislation that came before the floor of the House of Representatives during that time. Had I been available to cast my vote I would have done the following:

Rollcall Votes: (1) #230—Journal—Yea; (2) #231—H. Con. Res. 415—Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the Importance of Homeownership in the United States—Yea; (3) #232—H. Con. Res. 340—Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Meningitis Awareness Month—Yea; (4) #233—H.R. 327—Small Business Paperwork Relief Act—Yea; (5) #234—H.R. 4794—Designating the Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building—Yea; (6) #235—H.R. 4717—Designating the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building—Yea; (7) #236—Journal—Yea; (8) #237—H.R. 3389—National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002—Yea; (9) #238—Hastings of Florida Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295—Help America Vote Act—No.

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CONGRATULATING NAVY LEAGUE OF UNITED STATES ON ITS CENTENNIAL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 24, 2002*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 416 and congratulate the Navy League of the United States for 100 years of outstanding service.

The Navy League is a civilian organization that provides a valuable service to military communities across the United States. Their programs, such as the Naval Sea Cadet and the Navy Junior ROTC programs, are dedicated to increasing the educational and life experiences of this country's youth. Each year, many deserving high school students are the beneficiaries of generous Navy League scholarships and awards.

I am fortunate enough to have 2 separate Navy Leagues in my district, the Jacksonville Navy League and the Mayport Navy League. The members of both of these organizations dedicate their time, skills, expertise and other resources to help improve the lives of the men and women of the Navy, Coast Guard and

Marines and their families. The Mayport League has sponsored commissioning of local new ships, most recently the USS *Roosevelt*; and both leagues have honored local Navy, Coast Guard and Marine personnel through the Sailor of the Year luncheon and the annual Midway Memorial Dinner. This resolution allows Congress to honor the commitment to this nation by the Navy League and its dedicated members.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride today that I say happy 100th birthday to the Navy League, especially the local Jacksonville and Mayport councils.

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90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary Year as the region's premier provider of community health services, serving more than 100,000 clients each year. The organization that is now VNA of Central Jersey began with a meeting of volunteers on June 24, 1912 at Brookdale Farm, Geraldine Thompson's estate in Lincroft, NJ.

First known as the Monmouth County Branch of the State Charities Aid and Prison Reform Association, the young organization set out to improve prison conditions and achieve a more humane approach to public assistance. It successfully campaigned for a tuberculosis hospital (Allenwood Sanitarium), and was appointed agent for the NJ Tuberculosis League.

From the beginning, the health care needs of women and children were a paramount concern. In its first decade, the agency completed a study of mentally handicapped children in the public schools; it launched child welfare programs and established mobile dental clinics and mobile mental hygiene clinics. Public health nurses were added to the social work staff, and the agency established a county district health office.

The name was changed to the Monmouth County Organization for Social Service in 1918. However, the agency has always been a voluntary, nonprofit organization and is not a branch of county government.

Accomplishments of the second decade included the addition of three satellite health centers and a continuing focus on services for children: well-child conferences, nutrition and parenting programs, and establishment of a children's shelter.

The 1930s brought a training program for student nurses, nursery and play schools at the Hartshorne Health Center in Belford to assist working mothers, and an expansion of services for handicapped children. The agency also assisted Fitkin Hospital (now Jersey Shore Medical Center) in establishing a social service department.

During the war years, MCOSS spearheaded a medical-dental plan for veterans. In the late 1940s the agency participated in organizing the Cancer Society, Heart Association and Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center in the county. The agency's program to provide health