

the transition appears peaceful, it is not without its strains and stresses, even with the potential of the military stepping in like it has done repeatedly in the past. We can only hope that is not the outcome of this transition.

As an original participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Turkey has accepted a broad range of human rights obligations. As head of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I have worked with my parliamentary colleagues from Turkey to encourage protection for these commitments. With a new government not obligated to continue the ways of the old, there is a welcome opportunity for such initiatives to be undertaken.

There are a few specific matters that I urge the incoming government to address without delay. Four Kurdish members of the Grand National Assembly have been in prison since March 1994. I call upon the new government to free Layla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak and remove the trumped-up charges from their records. They were convicted for, among other things, speaking their mother tongue in and out of the parliament building. As Mr. Erdogan himself has said, such convictions should not stand.

Also, past efforts to return the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced Kurds to their homes in southeastern Turkey have proven ineffectual. The government should take concrete steps to ensure that refugees are allowed to return to their own homes in safety and dignity, which may well require the clearing of land mines and repairing of villages.

Mr. Speaker, without reciting the lengthy list of Turkey's human rights violations, including the use of torture, it is fair to say that Turkey's record of implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments remains poor. While progress has been made, the authority of police officials must be checked by the rule of law. All claims of torture must be seriously investigated, no matter where the investigation leads. It is important that anyone who commits torture—especially police, the security forces or other agents of the state—must be taken to court and tried for high crimes. The Forensic Medical Association should be allowed to carry out its professional responsibilities and act without fear in its attempts to document torture. Victims of torture should be paid due recompense by the state.

I am very concerned about the continuing difficulty no-governmental organizations face throughout Turkey, particularly the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. The Human Rights Foundation exists in an uncertain environment, with arbitrary shutdowns and having its officials harassed, intimidated or arrested. Property has been seized and not returned.

Religious freedom in Turkey, whether for Muslims or other religious communities, had suffered from heavy-handed government involvement and control. The government allows Turkish Muslims to only attend state-approved mosques, listen to state-funded Imams, and receive religious education from state-funded schools. The Directorate of Religious Affairs, which regulates all of Turkey's 75,000 mosques and employs Imams, has been criticized for only promoting Sunni branch of Islam. I would encourage the new government to bring to a close its regulation of all religious institutions.

The wearing of headscarves has also been regarded as quite controversial since it is seen as a religious totem in a secular state. Women who choose this expression of religious conviction are denied the ability to attend state-run universities and work in public building, including schools and hospitals. The public sharing of religious belief in Turkey with the intent to persuade the listener to another point of view is severely curbed for both Muslims and Christians. A number of evangelical Protestant groups throughout Turkey have reported being targeted because of their religious free speech, which contradicts OSCE commitments on religious liberty and freedom of expression.

Turkey's Office of Foundations has contributed its own difficulties for faith communities, as it has closed and seized properties of "official" minority religious groups and unrecognized faith communities. Several religious groups, most notably the Armenian Apostolic and Greek Orthodox churches report difficulties, particularly on the local level, in repairing and maintaining existing buildings or purchasing new buildings. The continued closure of the Orthodox seminary on Halki Island remains a concern.

Furthermore, religious groups not considered "official minorities" under the Lausanne Treaty are provided no legal route to purchase or rent buildings to meet, and are thereby forced to hold meetings in private apartments. In response, provincial governorships, after receiving a letter from the Ministry of Internal Affairs last year, have initiated efforts to close these meeting places, leaving the smaller Protestant communities without any options. The lack of official recognition is an insurmountable hurdle for minority religious groups wishing to practice their faith as a community.

Turkey is at a critical crossroads. I am hopeful that the new government will take this opportunity to move forward, and craft policies which are consistent with OSCE commitments and protective of all peoples living in Turkey.

IN HONOR OF LINDA PAUWELS
FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE
FIELD OF AVIATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to American Airlines pilot Linda Pauwels, a mother, a Latina, and a pioneer on behalf of female pilots throughout the world. Linda is an immigrant from Argentina who came to the U.S. when she was 6 with her 2 year-old brother and widowed mother. Through hard work and dedication, she began her flying career at the young age of 17. By age 25 she had become the youngest female jet pilot ever.

Since then, she has flown most major jets including huge C-130 transports and 707s. Just last year, she diverted tragedy when the MD-80 she was flying with 128 passengers experienced engine failure on its way to Chicago. Because of her experience and her ability to handle difficult situations, she was able to successfully perform an emergency landing in Sioux City, Iowa.

Linda is a dedicated wife and mother of two. She is also the only woman spokesperson for the Allied Pilots Association, and dedicates much of her free time to promoting women in aviation and encouraging Hispanics to work hard to fulfill their dreams.

Linda Pauwels is a striking example of the many hardworking pilots who are dedicated to making sure that the skies are safe for all airline passengers.

MAURICE A. AND RITA A. LUTZE:
FORGING THEIR GOLDEN ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special friends, Maurice and Rita Lutze of Otter Lake, Michigan, as they celebrate fifty years of marriage and a loving commitment to each other and their three children. The Barcia family has known the Lutze family for many years. It has been especially heartwarming over the years to get to know such a loving couple and their children.

With Rita's brother Cliff and his wife Pat serving as witnesses, Maurice and Rita eloped and were married in Angola, Indiana, on September 13, 1952. Choosing to elope somehow seems appropriate for two people who have never been afraid of life's challenges.

Maurice served as a Marine in the Korean War, was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He later worked as a toolmaker at Northern Tool and Die and as a foreman at General Motors Corporation's Fisher Turnstead plant. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for the Beecher Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Chief. Meanwhile, Rita worked to create a loving and nurturing home environment in which to raise their daughters, Carrie and Charlotte, and son, Kim. After the children were grown, Maurice and Rita literally put their house on a trailer and moved it to a 10-acre parcel in Otter Lake where they raised horses and cows.

From the day Maurice and Rita first met at the Red Lion restaurant in Bay City, they shared a special bond and a like-minded sense of humor. Friends and family are familiar with the story of that day at the Red Lion when Maurice and Rita couldn't stop laughing about a customer whose bald head was so shiny that Rita tried to fix her hair in the reflection. It was their mutual ability to find humor in everyday events that brought them together and that has kept them together through good times and more difficult circumstances.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maurice and Rita Lutze for achieving a rarely reached milestone of fifty years of marriage. I am confident they will enjoy many more years of love and happiness.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly today on the Conference Committee report for the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization.

The House of Representatives sent to the Conference concurrent receipt provisions that were a solution to the problem of the nearly 15 million veterans and their families in this Nation. Last night, after 40 minutes of debate, the House adopted a version of the report that will aid merely 33,500 of our military retirees who suffer from a combat-related disability.

While I appreciate Chairman HUNTER's efforts to keep some language in the conference report, I am left to wonder: what have we done for the other 14,966,500 servicemen and women who have stood behind this great Nation?

We had the support and votes of over 400 Members of this House and funding in this year's budget to solve this seemingly unsolvable problem. When are we going to put our money where our mouths are?

Adding insult to injury, the concurrent receipt provisions are confusing and complicated. Deserving or not, approved or not, claimants will inundate the Department of Defense, causing further delays and postponements in an already backlogged system. We may very well end up losing more Federal dollars in a drawn-out claims process than will reach our retirees in payments due to these vague eligibility provisions.

I have the greatest respect for BOB STUMP, for whom this legislation is appropriately named. He has been a tireless advocate for America's Uniformed Services, and an invaluable mentor to me. And while this is a first step on the road to improved compensation for our veterans, I was unable to sign this conference report. We have just sent a message to the men and women that defend our freedoms that I cannot support. That message is this: 20 years or more of honorable military service is enough to warrant receipt of military retirement pay only if you are injured in combat.

Mr. Speaker, we must pledge now to provide for the welfare of veterans who have contributed in every capacity to the defense of our Nation.

The remainder of this legislation is a cumulative statement on how this Congress views its armed forces. Our vote sends a clear message to our men and women in uniform that we support your efforts and appreciate your sacrifice to defend this great Nation.

Of the total \$355.1 billion, \$93.6 billion (\$11.5 billion over fiscal year 2002) supports the budget request for 1.4 million active duty and 864,558 guard and reserve personnel; it fully funds the pay raise of 4.1 percent and adds \$110 million over the budget for enhanced force structure for B-52 squadrons, and Guard and Reserve full time support personnel.

The Navy, of particular interest to Northwest Florida, will receive \$3.2 billion for 46 Navy F/

A-18 E/F fighters, including an additional \$120 million over the budget request for 2 additional aircraft. The appropriation will also provide \$4.0 billion for 23 F-22 fighters and \$3.5 billion for continued development of the multi-service Joint Strike Fighter.

Defense health programs are funded at \$14.8 billion with \$7.7 billion going towards Tricare for Life, post-65 military retirement medical care.

Additionally, I am happy to see \$26 million for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System or JPATS. JPATS brings Naval aviation training into the 21st century by providing student aviators with glass cockpits and ejection seats, a more realistic training, for a more realistic age of war fighting.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is progressive, reflective of Congress and goes a long way in supporting our men and women in uniform.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. McKEON Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman BOB STUMP for whom this bill is named. It has been a great privilege to serve on the committee with Chairman STUMP. He has served his country with distinction in a number of capacities. From the time he concealed his age to be eligible to join the fight during World War II to his patriotic leadership in the HASC, Chairman STUMP had exemplified bravery, integrity and honor. Truly, he has been a role model for all Americans.

Post September 11, Americans are painfully aware of the need to equip our military with not only the tools, but also the training vital to securing and preserving freedom at home and abroad. I strongly support H.R. 4546 because this bill is an aggressive plan to provide our men and women in uniform with the best in both training and equipment.

Furthermore, H.R. 4546 honors those who protect our freedoms each day. It is unfair and unpatriotic to ask the men and women of the armed services to perform one of the most difficult and more important jobs without compensating them fairly. I am extremely pleased that the defense reauthorization act includes a 4.1 percent military pay raise.

This legislation marks a critical point for the United States in the war on terror. For over a decade the U.S. military has suffered the blows of defense budget cuts. I support H.R. 4546, which including the President's goal to increase funding and to repair the damage caused by these cutbacks.

IN HONOR OF ZLAKET FAMILY
BUSINESS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Zlaket Family of Garden Grove for 75 years of service to their community.

In 1927, Leo and Mary Zlaket decided to open a general store, selling bulk items to farm housewives, like flour and sugar, as well as fabric to sew clothes for their families. Chickens were sold whole, without the modern day pre-packaging.

Today, the Zlaket market caters to the fast-paced and busy community of Garden Grove by selling specialty and gourmet items. However, they still maintain their old world charm by selling "Moms Cakes" baked by 81-year-old mom Kay Roman, who wakes up early each morning to bake her delicious creations.

I am very proud of the Zlaket family for sustaining a business over 75 years through events like World War II and the Great Depression. Their dedication to their community, their business, and their family is to be commended.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS H.
DITTRICK

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an outstanding member of our community and northern New Jersey—Douglas H. Dittrick, who on November 18, 2002, will be honored by the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America as one of 2002's "Good Scouts." I am privileged to know Doug as a constituent, a counselor, and, most important, a valued friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to list all of the contributions Doug has made to New Jersey as a businessman, as a civic leader, and as a philanthropist. Doug is an outstanding example of the type of person who makes Bergen County, our State, and our Nation such a wonderful place.

As President and CEO of Douglas Communications Corporation II, Doug has been a leader and pioneer in the telecommunications industry for more than twenty-five years. He has served as Chairman of the National Cable Television Association, and has been honored as Executive of the Year by Cable Television Business magazine. Doug is a recipient of the NCTA's Vanguard Award for outstanding contribution to cable television, and has been a champion of the telecommunications industry for decades.

Equally important, Doug has been a leader in innumerable charities and civic institutions within and outside of New Jersey. In my own district, he has chaired the Valley Health System and served as chairman of the board of the Valley Hospital's Board of Trustees. He has been actively involved in the leadership of the American and National Red Cross on both the state and national level. In my hometown