

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## IN RECOGNITION OF DONATED DENTAL SERVICES

### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions of Donated Dental Services to the dental health of elderly, disabled and medically compromised individuals across the nation.

The freedom and individual rights at the core of our society come from a shared responsibility for the health and well-being of our communities and for each other. Many members of the dental profession embrace this responsibility by offering their professional services to vulnerable individuals.

Since 1986, some 10,000 volunteer dentists across 32 states have provided an estimated \$50 million in comprehensive dental care to 44,000 needy individuals. The large volume of participation in Donated Dental Services clearly signifies a socially responsible and commendable commitment to expanding access to dental services for the underserved.

Through a coordinated effort, Donated Dental Services will soon endeavor to double its humanitarian service potential by adding 10,000 more volunteer dentists from across the country. This effort holds the promise of ensuring thousands more underserved Americans will receive access to dental care, thereby improving their quality of life and general well-being.

I commend the thousands of dentists who volunteer their time with Donated Dental Services, and I congratulate the program for their commitment to increase charitable care for our nation's underserved.

## RECOGNITION OF KEVIN "MAX" COLDREN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin "Max" Coldren, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Max has been very active with his troop, working on his God & Church award and attending the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for four years where he became brave in the tribe of MIC-O-SAY in 2001. Over the four years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, den chief and bugler. Max also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by becoming a

brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Max worked with doctors and nurses of Medical Aid for Children of Latin America (MACALA), helping them prepare for their 2003 journey to provide surgical and medical aid to the children of the Dominican Republic. Max and his team of scouts and scouters sorted, counted, packed and prepared for shipment medical supplies required for this mission. In addition, Max collected over 300 stuffed animals for the mission so that each child could receive a gift following surgery.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin "Max" Coldren for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## TRIBUTE TO CITY OF HOPE HOSPITAL AND BECKMAN INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I rise to acknowledge the contributions of Philadelphia's own Sarah and Rubin Herman Chapter of the City of Hope Hospital and Beckman Institute of Research. As this institution celebrates its 40th year, its unwavering commitment to both the community and the medical field remain unparalleled.

The Philadelphia chapter is composed of 70 local women, ages 60–85, who have dedicated countless hours of their time to support fund-raising efforts and events. Last year alone, they raised \$35,000 to assist doctors and research scientists in their on-going battle to find a cure for various life-threatening diseases.

The Sarah and Rubin Herman Chapter of the City of Hope Hospital and Beckman Institute maintain an exemplary level of enthusiasm about and dedication to volunteerism. They stand steadfast in their mission to provide hope for a brighter future for the survivors of life threatening diseases and their families. I hope that all of my distinguished colleagues will join me in recognizing the contribution that has been made to Philadelphia, to Pennsylvania and to our great nation.

## HONORING DRUG FREE WEEK ESSAY WINNER

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special student from Gladewater, TX, Brittany Linder, who was a

grand prize winner in the Red Ribbon Week "I am drug-free because..." essay contest sponsored by the city of Longview Partners in Prevention. Brittany represents Weldon Intermediate school in the Gladewater independent school district and is a fourth-grade student of Mrs. Cathy Bedair. She is the daughter of John and Blane Linder and the granddaughter of my longtime friend Carolyn Linder.

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, although recent trends in youth drug use have stabilized, the rates of use remain at high levels. Youth substance abuse, as we know, can lead to many other problems, including the development of delinquent behavior, anti-social attitudes and numerous health risks. These problems not only impact the child but also the child's family, friends, community and ultimately society as a whole.

Brittany speaks to this issue in her essay: "I am drug free because if I take drugs, I would not be able to realize my dreams. I would not be able to be a good teacher, or mother. If I take drugs, I would hurt valuable brain cells and when I found my dreams, I would not be able to do it."

The essay entries from area fourth-graders were judged by LeTouneau University students. Throughout our Nation, dedicated teachers, parents, clergy, law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, local government officials and community volunteers are involved in various drug-prevention programs that raise awareness among our young people of the dangers of drug use and help those already suffering the consequences of such use. Beginning these programs at a young age is one key to their success, and I commend programs such as the Drug Free Week essay contest that seek to instruct and involve our young people in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Brittany on her winning essay and commend her for taking a strong stand against the use of drugs.

## INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT ROH MOO HYUN OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the inauguration of President Roh Moo Hyun of the Republic of Korea (ROK) on February 25, 2003. His inauguration marks a new opportunity for peace on the Korean peninsula and a stronger relationship with the United States.

President Roh represents a new generation of South Korean leaders that have been entrusted with an awesome responsibility to protect democracy in an age of growing instability and open hostility on the Korean peninsula. South Korea has grown into a country that has successfully transformed into a thriving, democratic nation over the last several decades. I am confident that under the leadership of

• 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.

President Roh, a new generation of Koreans will effectively use their country's untapped human, economic, and political potential to shape an even brighter and more prosperous world.

The new South Korean government also presents an important opportunity for US Korean relations. We must work together to ease the tension that has been permitted to rise on the peninsula in recent months. I know Americans share a common goal with the South Korean people in achieving a safer, more secure world, and promoting peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and throughout Asia.

The United States is dedicated to achieving these common goals with South Korea. Both nations must come together to formulate proposals to address the security challenges we are facing. Over the last 50 years, we have joined with South Korea to promote democracy in Asia. I am hopeful that our relationship will continue to grow under President Roh's leadership.

I want to congratulate President Roh and the citizens of South Korea for boldly taking up the challenge to build a better and safer Korea.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXPAND NATIVE CONTRACTING IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

##### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am again introducing a bill to expand the Alaska Native contracting of Federal land management functions and activities and to promote hiring of Alaska Natives by the Federal government within the State of Alaska.

Many rural Alaska native communities are located within close proximity of refuges that play an important role in the culture of Alaska natives and other residents in rural Alaska. Congress, through Sections 1307 and 1308 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish programs whereby Native lands were given preference for siting of conservation service unit facilities and for native hiring. These provisions also recognized that the Natives whose front and back yards were now part of the federal parks and preserves systems should be involved in the administering of the lands because of their special knowledge and expertise concerning the natural or cultural resources of such areas.

P.L. 106-488 authorized two pilot projects in the Bering Straits and NANA Region in northwest Alaska. These include the following preserves: Bering Land Bridge National Preserve; Cape Krusenstern National Monument; Kobuk Valley National Park; and Noatak National Preserve. Neither of these projects have been implemented.

Twenty-three years have passed since the 1980 ANILCA amendments were enacted, and the contracting and native hire provisions remain unfulfilled by the Department of the Interior. My bill would remedy this by directing the Department of the Interior to implement sections 1307 and 1308 of the 1980 ANILCA amendments and enter into demonstration projects.

#### RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN JOHN MOORE

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen John Moore, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, earning his Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos rankings as well as his God and Me, God and Family, and the Arrow of Light Awards. Over the ten years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, quartermaster, and senior patrol leader. Stephen also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen improved portions of a trail at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary. He constructed a rock bridge, two check dams, and a rocked part of the White Tail Trail, helping walkers get through the park more easily.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen John Moore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### MARSHA SHARP EARNS 500TH CAREER VICTORY

##### HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Marsha Sharp for her outstanding accomplishments as the head coach of the Texas Tech Lady Raiders. Her efforts have gained her 500 career wins at the helm of this storied basketball program.

Marsha Sharp has become the 22nd women's basketball coach in NCAA Division I history, and just the second in Texas, to achieve 500 wins. Her career record of 500-156 and winning percentage of .762 ranks in the top 10 among all-time Division I coaches. Marsha Sharp's success as a coach and mentor has been nationally renowned during her 20 years at Texas Tech.

Her commitment to excellence has earned many successes for both her and the teams that she has led. Coach Sharp is in her 21st season as the head coach of the Lady Raider Basketball program. She guided the Lady Raiders to the NCAA National Championship in 1993 and has led Texas Tech to the NCAA Tournament 15 times, including 13 straight. She has taken her team to the Sweet 16 nine times and the Elite Eight three times. She has also led her teams to numerous conference titles.

Marsha Sharp's achievements go far beyond wins and conference titles. She has volunteered her precious time for numerous civic activities and non-profit organizations. She

helps these worthy groups generate awareness and raise much needed funds. Texas Tech and the Lubbock Community are very privileged to have an individual that is as caring and generous as Coach Sharp.

It is with great pride that I commend Marsha Sharp for her accomplishments as a coach and community leader, and I congratulate her on winning her 500th game as the head coach of the Lady Raiders.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, and consequently missed a recorded vote on H. Res. 98. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 33.

And I was also regrettably absent for the recorded vote on H. Res. 46. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 34.

#### HONORING EDWARD MEDEIROS

##### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the citizens of Massachusetts in honoring Mr. Edward Medeiros, former deputy of the Knights of Columbus 40th District in Massachusetts.

Mr. Medeiros has been the leader of five district councils for the past three years. The councils include Monsignor James Coyle Council 82 of Taunton, Massachusetts; Fall River Council 86 of Fall River, Massachusetts; St. Isidore the Fanner Council 4373 of Westport, Massachusetts; St. Joseph Council 4480 of Kingston, Massachusetts; and Cross of Christ Council 12283 of Assonet, Massachusetts.

Furthermore, Mr. Medeiros has served as the Financial Secretary of the Monsignor Augusto Leal Furtado Council 12348 of Somerset, Massachusetts and a member of Rev. Robert H. Buchan Assembly 2314 of Middleboro, Massachusetts. In addition to serving as a District Deputy and Financial Secretary, he has dedicated numerous hours to youth programs, pro-life activities, and church education. Mr. Medeiros was an active organizer and chair of the Fall River Catholic Diocese Charity Ball.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Edward Medeiros is commended for many years of dedication to his community as he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a member of the Knights of Columbus in June. I am sure that the citizens of the 40th District, the people he served in Southeastern Massachusetts as well as my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Mr. Medeiros for his years of community service.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT  
OFFICER CHARLES C. CAULK

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the contributions of a man who has served this country for many years with remarkable dedication and honor. I rise to honor Chief Warrant Officer Charles C. Caulk who is retiring from the United States Army after a phenomenal 43 years of service.

It takes a noble man to serve his country. But a man who dedicates 43 years of his life to protecting and serving the ideas that this country was built upon, is a man that few words can describe. Chief Warrant Officer Caulk's contributions to the armed services have left a lasting impact and will be not forgotten.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to our nation has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I hope that all of my distinguished colleagues will join me in honoring Chief Warrant Officer Caulk's unwavering dedication to both the citizens of our great nation and citizens around the world. His efforts create a resonating hope in the lives of those who do not enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy.

IN HONOR OF AN OUTSTANDING  
AMERICAN AND HIS WORK AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-  
NATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANI-  
ZATION: OLIVER R. SMOOT

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for myself and for Chairman BOEHLERT of the House Committee on Science to recognize Oliver R. Smoot, vice-president for external voluntary standards relations at the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), as he begins his term as the President of the International Standards Organization (ISO). It is a high honor and a major achievement to be asked to be the leader of the World's standards community but it is not surprising that Ollie Smoot is the one chosen. Mr. Smoot has long been a pillar of the standards community, most recently as President-elect of ISO and as Chairman of the American National Standards Institute, the organization which represents the United States in international standards matters and oversees the establishment of U.S. national standards. The ISO, which was established in 1947, serves as the world's primary entity for the adoption of uniform international standards that are relied by all of us every day. Without international agreement on how we measure, determine quality, and provide for health and safety life as we know it today would not be possible. ISO quietly, but effectively, has spent over 50 years helping over 140 nations reach agreement on the standards that underlie world trade, manufacturing, scientific research, and many other aspects of our lives. Since its founding only three other Americans have held

the office of President of this worldwide federation.

We are fortunate that Oliver Smoot is ready, willing, and able to undertake major challenges since his service comes at a pivotal time when the importance of international standards is rapidly increasing. There may never have been a time when ISO faced bigger challenges. As tariffs and other trade barriers wane and world trade increases, the pressures to harmonize standards in many fields increases. As the world becomes more interdependent, the importance of international standards grows. As challenges to ISO's one-country, one vote system of representation mount, having a strong leader at the head of ISO becomes more and more essential. Fortunately, Mr. Smoot has an extensive background in standardization and conformity assessment policies both at the national and international level; he has been a strong leader in numerous ANSI Board-level committees and task forces and has served as chairman of the Institute's Finance Committee and Patent Group. As chairman of the ANSI Organization Member Council, he facilitated ANSI's policy-setting activities affecting more than 250 standard developers, professional societies, trade associations and academic institutions interested in standards, certification and conformity assessment. Balancing the needs of 140 nations can't be that much harder than presiding over the conflicting needs of everyone in the United States who has an interest in standards. If anyone is prepared for the challenge of running the ISO, we assume Oliver Smoot is. He has come a long way from the establishment of the standard "Smoot" as an undergraduate at MIT.

Mr. Smoot will be the guest of honor, on Wednesday the 26th of February at a House of Representatives reception to celebrate his new tenure as President of the ISO. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity at that point to congratulate Mr. Smoot personally. Oliver R. Smoot is a great American who has labored long for the betterment of Science and the global economy and I am pleased that this week he is getting long-deserved recognition of this service.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART  
MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as American Heart Month. Each February during American Heart Month, the American Heart Association launches a nationwide campaign to educate the public about cardiovascular disease. Programs and activities are planned throughout the month to reinforce the message that cardiovascular disease is the number one threat to the overall health and lives of Americans. As a member of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the American Heart Association and reaffirm my commitment to fighting heart disease.

Recent advances in heart treatment are promising—new technologies, screenings and medicines all promote healthier hearts and continue to save millions of lives. Despite

these discoveries and research advances, heart disease remains the nation's leading cause of death, while stroke is the third leading cause of death. More than 61 million Americans suffer from heart disease, stroke or another cardiovascular disease. Combined, these illnesses are expected to cost the nation \$351.8 billion in medical costs in 2003.

Tobacco use, lack of physical activity and poor nutrition all contribute to cardiovascular disease. Smokers have twice the risk for heart attack of nonsmokers. People who are not physically active have twice the risk for heart disease of those who are active, while those who are overweight are also at risk. This February's American Heart Month efforts focus on encouraging individuals to modify these behaviors in order prevent and control cardiovascular disease. American Heart Month is also encouraging citizens to become American Heartsavers by completing training in life-saving CPR and defibrillation and be prepared to act quickly in the case of sudden cardiac arrest.

Recognizing and responding to heart attack symptoms and receiving quick, appropriate care can preclude or limit heart damage. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently funds health programs in 29 states and the District of Columbia that develop strategies to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and related risk factors. As we recognize the work of these important programs, let us also honor the doctors, researchers, health professionals, public education professionals, and volunteers for their diligent efforts in preventing, treating, and researching heart disease and for making American Heart Month a success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALASKA  
NATIVE VETERANS LAND AL-  
LOTMENT EQUITY ACT

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, I introduced a bill to set right an unfair situation dealt to Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans who were unaware that their rights to apply for their Native allotment were expiring while they were off in a foreign land fighting for our country. By far, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest percentage of answering their call to duty when there is a conflict of war.

My bill would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans in their acquisition of land under the Native Allotment Act. This solution has been a long time in coming and my goal is to have Congress rectify this inequity.

Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict and did not have an opportunity to apply for their native allotment. Even though a prior ANCSA amendment gave Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans an opportunity to obtain their allotment, the Amendment contained three major obstacles providing a roadblock to actually obtaining it.

First, Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans could only apply for land that was vacant and unreserved when their use first began. My bill will

increase the available land by authorizing these veterans to apply for land that is federally owned and vacant. This is necessary because most land in Alaska is not available for Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans veteran allotment application under existing law. For example, there is no land available in southeast Alaska because it either is within the Tongass National Forest or has been selected or conveyed to the State of Alaska or ANCSA Corporations.

Second, Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans could only apply if they served in active military duty from January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. My bill will expand the military service dates to August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975, the dates of the entire Vietnam conflict.

Third, Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans had to prove they used the desired allotment land in a continuous and independent manner for five or more years. My bill will replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications. Many Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans could not meet use and occupancy requirements as a result of military service. This bill changes that so that a deserving Alaska Native Vietnam veteran would not be rejected if that veteran were unable to complete the five years of use of the claimed land, before or after the war.

This is an issue of fairness which is long overdue for my Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans. Never before has the federal government given partial benefits to only 1/4 or 1/2 of any veteran of any war. Fulfill our promise to all Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans and allow them to obtain their Native Allotment under the Native Allotment Act.

#### RECOGNITION OF JOHN McDONALD

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John McDonald, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 168, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, completing 31 merit badges and participating in camp Geiger. Over the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. John also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Arrow of Light Award, The Fire'n Chit Award, the Mic-O-Say Brave Award, the Mic-O-Say Warrior Award, the Totin' Chip Award and the World Conservation Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, John built a 35-foot bridge from the street to the Lathrop Community Football Field, over a ditch, in Lathrop, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John McDonald for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF WALTER JEFFERSON LEWIS

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Walter Jefferson Lee passed away on February 22, 2003. On that day, his family and friends a loving son, brother, and companion and the world lost a passionate lover of art, food, travel, and life itself.

Walter Lewis was born and raised in Schenectady, New York. He went on to study at Syracuse University and Schenectady County Community College, graduating with distinction in the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Business Management.

Walter served his country, spending eleven years in the United States Air Force. During that period, he was stationed in Alaska, California, New Mexico, and Germany. The time spent in those distant posts just whetted his appetite for travel; his journeys took him across much of the globe, and he made lifelong friends wherever he went.

That same passion and zest for life fueled both his occupation and avocation of baking. Walter worked for a number of years managing the bakery department of the Golub Corporation, and he shared his culinary skills with those around him: for him, food, family, and friends were all joyously intertwined.

Walter Lewis will be deeply missed by those of us who knew and loved him. He made a special imprint through his faith, his gifts, and his joy for life. While we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his memory. May he rest in peace!

#### THE TERRORISTS LIQUIDATION ACT

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, The September 11th Victims' Compensation Fund was created under "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act" (P.L. 107-71). This unprecedented move will ensure that every citizen injured in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon or their surviving family members will receive at least \$1.6 million in compensation.

It is estimated that this Compensation Fund could cost up to \$6 billion of taxpayer money. While I fully support this initiative to help the families of those harmed or killed in the vicious attacks, I believe that we should minimize the cost to the taxpayer. That is why I am introducing the Terrorist Assets Liquidation Act again for the 108th Congress. The bill authorizes the President to use the funds from the liquidated assets of frozen terrorist accounts to refund the Treasury Department for funds used to compensate victims of terrorism.

Our nation has shown great and moving compassion to the victims of September 11th, with generous donations and support to charity groups providing aid and emergency assistance to victims. While it was important to show compassion and recognize our nation's need to help, we should punish those respon-

sible, holding them accountable for their murderous crimes and limit their drain on our nation's taxpayer resources.

#### RECOGNITION OF BRYANT KAGAY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryant Kagay, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 35, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryant has been very active with his troop, completing 21 merit badges. Over the years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions. For his Eagle Scout project, Bryant landscaped around the sign at his church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryant Kagay for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CHENEY TASK FORCE RECORDS AND GAO AUTHORITY

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, I gave a statement on the floor discussing the serious implications of GAO's decision to drop its lawsuit seeking access to the Vice President's energy task force records. Since then, I have received a letter from the Comptroller General responding to my remarks and asking that I make the press release that GAO issued when he decided to drop the lawsuit a part of the RECORD. In accordance with his request, I would like to make both his response and the press release a part of the RECORD.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, February 19, 2003.*

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. WAXMAN: I am writing in connection with your floor statement of February 12 concerning my recent decision not to appeal the district court decision in the *Walker v. Cheney* case. I appreciate your inserting my recent letter to you in the record and believe that it addresses several important issues. At the same time, I would respectfully request that you consider inserting my related press statement of February 7, 2003, into the record if you have the opportunity to do so. I have enclosed another copy of that statement with this letter.

There are three aspects of your floor statement that are of concern to me. First, as you know, we do not believe that failure to appeal the district court decision precludes us from filing suit against another executive branch party in connection with a different matter in the future. Second, while I did solicit input from a wide range of Congressional leaders from both parties before I made my decision the decision was mine. I was not directed, threatened or unduly pressured to take the action that I did. Just as

in the case of my decision to file suit a year ago, my latest decision was based on what I felt was the right thing to do based on all the facts that were available to me. In addition, the input that I did receive was not divided along party lines and there was significant bi-partisan support for my decision not to appeal.

Finally, my decision to seek a vote by at least a full committee of jurisdiction prior to any possible future legal action to obtain records is one that I believe is both prudent and appropriate, given my experience as Comptroller General and in light of the recent district court decision. Specifically, if we are ever "stonewalled" again in connection with a matter that in my professional and independent judgment we should pursue, I would formally request that an appropriate committee of jurisdiction vote regarding whether they would support a related court action. I can assure you that my related recommendation would be based on the merits of the case and not partisan considerations.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID M. WALKER,  
Comptroller General  
of the United States.

Enclosure.

GAO PRESS STATEMENT ON WALKER V.  
CHENEY

After thorough review and analysis of the district court's decision in *Walker v. Cheney*, as well as extensive outreach with congressional leadership and others concerning various policy matters and the potential ramifications of the court's decision, for the reasons outlined below, GAO has decided not to appeal the decision.

As Comptroller General Walker has made clear on a number of occasions, GAO would not have filed this suit absent a formal written request from at least one full Senate committee with jurisdiction over this matter. Contrary to the district court's decision, and as re-confirmed in a letter to the Comptroller General dated January 24, 2003, two full committee chairs and two subcommittee chairs of the Senate, acting on behalf of their respective committees and subcommittees, all of which had jurisdiction over this matter, asked GAO to pursue its NEPDG investigation prior to GAO filing suit last year. Importantly, under GAO's governing statute, the agency is required to perform work when requested by a committee. In this case, GAO had made exhaustive efforts to reach an accommodation with the Administration, and only after all such attempts had failed did GAO file suit as its only remaining option. This is precisely the process that Congress directed GAO to follow when it enacted GAO's access statute in 1980.

For a number of reasons, GAO strongly believes the district court's decision is incorrect. In GAO's view, the district court misapplied the Supreme Court's decision in *Raines v. Byrd* to GAO. Unlike the legislator-plaintiffs in *Raines*, who sought to invalidate a statute which had been enacted by the Congress, GAO sought to carry out—not invalidate—the information-gathering responsibilities which Congress assigned to it in GAO's access statute. The district court's decision thus has prevented GAO from discharging its statutory responsibilities in this case. Furthermore, the opinion was based, in part, on a material factual error relating to the role various Senate chairs played as noted above. The opinion also leads to the highly questionable result that private citizens have more authority to enforce their rights to obtain information from the Execu-

tive Branch than the Comptroller General of the United States, acting in his official capacity as head of GAO.

Despite GAO's conviction that the district court's decision was incorrect, further pursuit of the NEPDG information would require investment of significant time and resources over several years. At the same time, several private litigants are attempting to obtain much of the same information GAO has been seeking, and this information will be made available to GAO if they are successful in their cases.

Importantly, because the district court's decision did not address the merits, it has no effect on GAO's statutory audit rights or on the obligation of agencies to provide GAO with information. In addition, the court's decision is confined to the unique circumstances posed by this particular case and does not preclude GAO from filing suit on a different matter involving different facts and circumstances in the future.

GAO will continue to fulfill its statutory mission: to support the Congress in the discharge of Congress' constitutional responsibilities and to help assure reasonable transparency and appropriate accountability in government. GAO also will continue to perform its audit, evaluation, and investigative work in a professional, objective, fact-based, non-partisan, non-ideological, fair, and balanced manner.

According to Comptroller General Walker, "In the final analysis, transparency and accountability in government are essential elements for a healthy democracy. In America, all public servants, including constitutional officers, work for the people. While reasonable people can disagree on the proper amount of transparency and the appropriate degree of accountability, in the world's greatest democracy, we should lead by example and base public disclosure on what is the right thing to do rather than on what one believes one is compelled to do. Based on my extensive congressional outreach efforts, there is a broad-based and bi-partisan consensus that GAO should have received the limited and non-deliberative NEPDG-related information that we were seeking without having to resort to litigation. While we have decided not to pursue this matter further in the courts, we hope that the Administration will do the right thing and fulfill its obligations when it comes to disclosures to GAO, the Congress, and the public, not only in connection with this matter but all matters in the future. We hope that GAO is never again put in the position of having to resort to the courts to obtain information that Congress needs to perform its constitutional duties, but we will be prepared to do so in the future if necessary."

JULIE DASH—DIRECTOR'S GUILD  
AWARD NOMINATION, THE ROSA  
PARKS STORY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my pride over the nomination of Ms. Julie Dash for a prestigious Director's Guild Award for her work on *The Rosa Parks Story*. She was nominated in the category of Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Movies for Television for 2002. The winners will be announced at the 55th Annual DGA Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 1, 2003 at The Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Ms. Dash is

the only female nominated in this category this year.

The *Rosa Parks Story* stars Angela Bassett, Cicely Tyson and Dexter Scott King, the son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film brings to life the peaceful dissent an exhausted Rosa Parks showed on a crowded Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955, and the Civil Rights Movement that ensued. The movie originally aired on television on February 24, 2002.

It seems appropriate that Ms. Dash would be nominated for this award during Black History Month. African American actors, directors and others in the industry are hard-pressed to find meaningful, quality projects. Given these challenges, I am even more proud of Ms. Dash's achievement today.

Ms. Dash's own story of success is also very inspiring. She was born and raised in New York City, and in 1992 became the first African American woman to have her film, *Daughters of the Dust*, receive a full-length theatrical release. In 1994 Ms. Dash was chosen as one of the 100 Fearless Women by *Mirabella* magazine.

She has received numerous awards, including The Sojourner Truth Award from the New York Chapter of the Links, the Maya Deren Award from the American Film Institute, a Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

I was honored to host a congressional screening of the film, *The Rosa Parks Story*, last year prior to the film's television debut. I had the good fortune then of meeting Ms. Dash, along with Ms. Cicely Tyson, Ms. Angela Bassett, and many others who were instrumental in the success of this movie. I particularly want to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Willis Edwards in the production of this film. His work as producer of the film was instrumental in its success.

This film has held meaning and significance for me personally, and it brings me great joy to see Ms. Dash's work recognized by the Director's Guild of America. I wish her the best at the awards ceremony on March 1st!

Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNITION OF JOE PHILLIP  
PROTENIC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joe Phillip Protenic, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, where one of his favorite activities was a five day canoe trip, where the troop had Sunday morning worship on the river.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joe designed and built a 4'x6' shed at a house built by Habitat For Humanity in Liberty, Missouri. Because the house does not have a walk-out basement, the homeowners are thrilled to have this easily accessible storage space.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joe Phillip Protenic for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO  
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit to my colleagues in the House the Act to Leave No Child Behind. The Act to Leave No Child Behind 2001 was endorsed by more than 1400 groups and organizations around the nation, more than 400 state legislators and mayors, and it has been the focus of numerous community rallies, petition drives and advocacy events in Washington and throughout the country.

Our nation currently faces many great challenges. We are engaged in a war on terrorism—a war we can and must win. We are on the brink of a possible war overseas, in Iraq. If the time comes, we will put aside our differences on the merits and the timing of this war and rally in support of our men and women in the armed forces.

But we cannot afford to neglect our responsibilities at home. We cannot afford to turn our Federal programs into piggy banks that Governors can raid to fill gaping state budget shortfalls. We cannot afford—morally, socially, or economically—to write off the needs of a generation of children.

This bill is intended to remind us of those obligations. We have obligations to ensure that our children have access to quality health care; obligations to provide our children with an education that will prepare for their role in our workforce and our society; obligations to make sure our child have a safe, affordable, and stable place to live.

Together with many of my colleagues in the House and my friend CHRISTOPHER DODD in the Senate, we are introducing this bill today because we can no longer afford to abandon the children and families in this country who struggle daily with poverty, hunger, inadequate health care and education, poor housing and crime.

This bill calls upon the federal government to lead the way with vision and commitment toward a future where all children have quality health care, educational opportunity, family stability and safe communities. No child in this country should grow up poor, or hungry, or sick, or scared.

Now is the time. America must make a choice when it comes to the future of our children. We must decide whether we will invest in the healthy development of all our children or in tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens in this country. We cannot do both. This bill represents a vision and a commitment toward a future where all children have a chance to succeed so that we may use our resources in a constructive way to truly leave no child behind.

This legislation provides every child and their parents with health insurance, lifts every child from poverty through tax credits, work

supports, and a new minimum wage, and ends child hunger through the expansion of food programs. This bill makes sure every child is ready for school by fully funding quality early learning programs, and offers significant reforms for our system of public education that increases accountability, reduces classroom size, and guarantees that all children will be taught by qualified teachers in modern and safe classrooms. This legislation also builds affordable housing and safe communities through sensible environmental protections, gun safety laws, and programs to reduce children's exposure to neglect, abuse, and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Act to Leave No Child Behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2003, I was in my Congressional District in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would of voted:

Yes on H. Res. 46

Yes on H. Con. Res. 40

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the record following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the record.

IN HONOR OF ANNIE LEE  
PINCHBACK

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today, we will commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with the passage of H. Con. Res. 36. In recognition of today's action, Mr. Speaker, I also want to honor the memory of Annie Lee Pinchback, a matriarch of one of America's historic Black families.

Annie Lee Pinchback was born to the late James Lucius and Elizabeth Booker on November 7, 1911. Known as Mama to all, Annie Lee was educated in the Danville Virginia School System, graduating from West Mollen High School in Danville, Virginia. At an early age, she married the late Mr. William T. Pinchback, a direct descendent of the nation's first African-American Governor, P.B.S. Pinchback. Five children were born out of their union: Mrs. Elizabeth Crosland, Mrs. Gloria Tucker, Mr. James Lucius Pinchback, Mrs. Canzada Allaway and Mr. Harry T. Pinchback. She and her husband relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to live with her aunt. In later years, she moved to Brooklyn, New York.

For forty years, Annie Lee worked as a seamstress at Admiral Embroidery in the New York City Garment Center. In 1936, she made Mount Lebanon Baptist Church on the Hill on Howard Avenue and Herkimer Street, her church home. Annie Lee served there as an usher; was a member of the Helping Hand

Club; and served as Treasurer of the All-State Club. She also sang in the R.A. Laws Ensemble Choir and the Sanctuary Choir until her health failed her. In 1962, she met the late Worthy Matron, Sister Fannie Johnson and joined the Order of Eastern Star, Maria Chapter #18 O.E.S. of Brooklyn, New York.

While Annie Lee departed this life on November 26, 2002, her memory will live on through her brother and sister as well as her five children, her eighteen grandchildren, forty-six great-grandchildren, and thirteen great-great-grandchildren. I would urge my colleagues to take note of the great life and work of the great woman, Annie Lee Pinchback who is more than worthy of the recognition that we will bestow her today.

RECOGNITION OF CODY EDWARD  
ROTH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Edward Roth, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, including that of quartermaster. Cody also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and receiving the Coup of the Long Trail Award.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Cody designed and built a series of steps on a trail at the Parksville Nature Sanctuary. What would have been a muddy, slippery area after rain is now easily accessible.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Edward Roth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AID

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to go to war, I want to reiterate the importance of supporting our military families through the Impact Aid program. This program is vital to the education of millions of children across the nation.

Impact Aid was created in 1950 when Congress recognized the obligation of the Federal Government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the Federal government. Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid Program was fully funded by Congress. Since that time the funding

level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay approximately 46 percent of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven sections of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federally Connected Children).

The result of this shortfall is that the education of our military children and other federally dependant students is suffering. Over 90 percent of funding for education comes from local funds such as property taxes. But what happens if that property is owned by the federal government and is off the tax rolls? Kids report to class with no property tax dollars needed for their school.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

Impact Aid is critically important because it benefits all children within a school district, not only the children who reside on military bases, Indian lands or Federal Low Rent housing projects. In the United States, 1,397 school districts receive Impact Aid funding. Enrollment in these schools total 13.08 million students of which 1.19 million are federally impacted. This is a compelling detail, because without Impact Aid all children in these federally impacted school districts suffer.

In my district, 36 percent of all students attending North Chicago's School District 187 are Impact Aid children. School District 187 spends an average of \$6,500 per pupil on education, and herein lies the problem. The North Chicago school district receives only \$3,250 per pupil from the federal government for their Impact Aid children. With over 1,400 Impact Aid students, District 187 finds itself over \$4.5 million short in funding levels. This short fall creates a huge strain on the school district overall, decreasing the quality of education for every child in District 187.

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually late and fail to cover the cost of all children attending school. For example, Highland Park's North Shore School District 112 spends approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. At this rate, many Impact Aid children entering a school can bankrupt an entire school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago's School District 187. This community is home to Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, District 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact Aid payments had been late and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school

system was saved through additional appropriations.

The quickest way to take a soldier or sailor's mind off their mission, is to have them worrying about their children's education. Kids from military families come from some of the hardest working, most patriotic families, but the schools they attend sometimes face bankruptcy. This is because of the way we fund our nation's schools. Impact Aid honors our commitment to military families, and especially Native American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom are in turn protected by the federal government.

Our constitution commands that the first job of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." As we improve the pay and benefits of men and women in uniform, we must also support their kids and the local schools they attend. This may take many years to accomplish but the time is now to support schools that educate the children whose parents wear our nation's uniform.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcalls No. 33 and No. 34. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on both. I ask unanimous consent that this appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

#### RECOGNITION OF BRANDON MICHAEL KIMBLE

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Michael Kimble, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, earning the ranks of Tiger Cub, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Over the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Brandon also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and receiving the God and Me Award, the God and Family Award, the Arrow of Light, and Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Additionally, Brandon has earned 38 merit badges, qualifying him for the Eagle Award, the Bronze Eagle Palm, the Gold Eagle Palm, and the Silver Eagle Palm.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brandon helped the city of Parkville, Missouri, comply with the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. His project involved spray-painting "drains to streams, don't pollute" on every storm sewer drain in the National and the Bluffs subdivi-

sions in Parkville. It is his hope that this will discourage illegal dumping of chemicals into the storm sewers, thereby lessening the risk of pollution in the receiving streams.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Michael Kimble for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ENCOURAGED TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS MADE BY BLIND AND SEVERELY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

##### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the record: For the past 64 years the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today 38,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities across the country under this program. These Americans are proud to provide federal and military customers with a wide array of SKILCRAFT and other JWOD products and services. The JWOD Program prides itself on delivering high quality products and services at a competitive price in the most convenient way possible.

Some of the product categories offered by the JWOD program include office supplies, military specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to the federal and military customer include but aren't limited to call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal office building supply centers, CD-Rom duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care.

I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard working Americans. Furthermore, I urge my colleagues to purchase SKILCRAFT and JWOD products from the House-Senate Office Supply stores not only because of their quality and value, but also because of the socioeconomic benefits that can come from supporting the program. By purchasing these products and using these services we are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become taxpayers. Today in Greensboro North Carolina, 68 blind Americans are employed under the JWOD Program and are producing items or services for us, the federal customer.

The JWOD Program is administered by the Presidentially-appointed Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the quality products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the JWOD Program.

The JWOD Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership that has the ability to

continuously grow with the changing procurement environment within the federal government.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program works for America.

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IN MEMORY OF THOMAS JOHN  
JANIS, AN AMERICAN HERO

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the career and the ultimate sacrifice made by my constituent, Thomas John Janis, who was killed near Florencia, Colombia on February 13th, while serving to defend his country in the war on narco-terrorism.

Thomas Janis, a native of Chicago, Illinois, was born on November 23, 1946. Tom's distinguished military career began in 1966 when he entered the Army and served as a military policeman. While serving in Korea, Tom became interested in Army Aviation, and by 1969, he graduated from the Warrant Flight Officer Program.

Tom Janis' tours of duty included serving in Vietnam, Panama, Germany, and several installations in the United States in aviation billets. Tom was an accomplished aviator with over 12,000 flight hours and had several assignments as an Instructor Pilot. After 32 years in active service to the country, Tom Janis retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 with numerous decorations for valor and service to his credit, including the Bronze Star, four Meritorious Service Medals, an Air Medal with valor, and numerous other commendations.

After leaving the U.S. military, Tom continued his service as a pilot contributing to our nation's drug interdiction and counter-terrorism efforts in South America. On February 13, Tom was piloting a Cessna Caravan on a counternarcotics mission over southern Colombia. His aircraft experienced engine failure, yet he skillfully brought it to the ground without loss of life of any brave men on board his aircraft. Tragically, the crash site was in the center of a zone controlled by FARC narco-terrorists. While seeking to reach a safe area, Tom and a Colombian military colleague were deliberately killed by FARC narco-terrorists. Tom's murder will not go unpunished and his sacrifice will not be forgotten. Appropriately, Tom was buried with full military honors earlier this week at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tom married his hometown sweetheart, Judith G. Gibaszek. As Tom's career progressed, the Janises raised four children—Christopher, Greer, Michael, and Jonathan. Tom's legacy of service lives on as two of his children are also Servicemen—Christopher is an Army Aviator, and Michael is in the Army Reserves. We all grieve Tom's loss and the entire Janis family will be in our prayers through these difficult days. Tom was one of Alabama's best and we shall truly miss him.

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, February is American Heart Month, which attempts to educate people on the dangers of heart disease and other heart related medical problems. It is in recognition of this important issue and the way in which it affects women that I come to the floor to speak today.

One in two American women will eventually die of heart disease or stroke. One in Two! This is compared with one in twenty-seven who will die of breast cancer. This is a stark and alarming fact that most women have not heard. For my state, that means that every year around 11,500 women in Tennessee die from causes brought on by Heart Disease.

But there are things that women can do to decrease their risk. The first of these is to stop smoking, which is the single greatest risk factor for a heart attack in women. Check your cholesterol level and blood pressure. High blood pressure makes the heart work harder, causing it to enlarge and weaken over time. High blood pressure also increases the risk of stroke, heart attack, kidney failure and congestive heart failure.

In addition, try to get out and exercise. Even modest levels of low-intensity physical activity are beneficial if done regularly and long term. Making exercise a priority is hard for today's busy women, but the rewards are great.

Obesity also puts women at risk for heart disease, even if other risk factors do not exist. This is because excess weight strains the heart and raises blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Even losing ten or more pounds will help lower your risk for heart disease as well as many other health problems.

I urge women to get regularly scheduled check ups and to recognize the signs of heart disease. Take advantage of American Heart Month and visit a health fair in your community. These fairs provide an opportunity to have your cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure checked. In addition, you can get information from specialists on various health related issues such as fitness, heart healthy diets and much more.

Whatever you do, please take the time to visit a health care specialist and find out how you can keep yourself and your family healthy and safe from heart disease.

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RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW ALAN  
VANECEK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Alan Vanecek, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the

Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the nine years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 57 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Matthew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by earning the Bear Claw Award, the God and Me Award, the God and Family Award and the Arrow of Light Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matthew planned and built a wooden swing set for the Salvation Army Community Center. The set is built so that it could be moved to other locations if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Alan Vanecek for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on yesterday's suspension bills. Had I been capable of voting, I would have voted in support of:

H.R. 46—Honoring the life of Al Hirschfeld.

H.R. 40—Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capital for a ceremony in remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

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CONGRATULATING THE GREATER  
COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL'S  
CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE PROGRAM

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Children of the Future Program.

Children of the Future, a nationally recognized AmeriCorps after-school program, provides constructive, positive alternatives to delinquency in the higher-risk neighborhoods of Columbus, Ohio. It has effectively reduced crime by creating physical and social safe havens for approximately 3,500 Columbus children.

On January 24, 2003, Children of the Future was honored by the Americans for the Arts and the United States Conference of Mayors with the "2003 Award for Excellence in Arts Programs for Youth." This prestigious, national award recognizes the emphasis this arts-based program has placed on the development of life-long skills including: critical thinking, constructive communication and conflict resolution.

I congratulate the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Children of the Future Program for its many accomplishments and outstanding service. This program is truly an asset to the people of Central Ohio.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE PERRYSBURG JOURNAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2003, the Perrysburg Messenger Journal will celebrate its 150th birthday. The Perrysburg Journal, one of the parents of today's Perrysburg Messenger Journal, began publication on March 10, 1853. It was not the first newspaper in Wood County: Eight weeklies in Perrysburg preceded it. But today it is the oldest newspaper in Wood County and the oldest business in Perrysburg.

The eight-pager made its appearance without fanfare because of President Franklin Pierce's inaugural address. The lengthy railroad laws also crowded out the "salutatory" editorial Silmon Clark had prepared. Mr. Clark heralded his newspaper with an announcement at the bottom of page 7. Under the flag, he dedicated it to "Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures." By carrier, the paper cost \$1.75 a year; by mail, \$1.50. He set up shop "in a room upstairs, north end of the Baird House." Although the Journal was a new publication, Mr. Clark hailed it as the successor to his earlier Fort Meigs Reveille, which he renamed The Perrysburg Star because he said "Reveille" was not a good English word, people couldn't pronounce it, and he was tired of "the cruelty of the attempt."

He ceased publication of the Star in 1852 and he sold the printing office to A. D. Wright. Professor Wright then started the North-Western Democrat. Along with the laws and the political news, the first paper carried pieces on far-ranging subjects, such as current conditions in Rome, census figures for St. Louis, poetry, and platitudes. As was common practice, Mr. Clark borrowed freely from other newspapers, stories not limited to sharing police reports from other parts of the country. Frontier newspapers in the isolated villages and busy river towns were like that in those days. They entertained and they informed. They brought the outside world to eager readers. Perrysburg readers waited for installments of such serials as "Indian Story" and "Walmsby House", or the "Lover's Revenge, a Story Laid in the South of Ireland."

The newspaper also advised and chastised. It contained strongly partisan opinions, national news gleaned from larger papers received by the latest post. It contained literary material or "notices" (advertisements) for goods like Dr. Rojack's Blood Purifier. One had to look for the little bits of local news, which usually had no headlines and were scattered in the columns. The early weeklies of the era were small, hand-set, and often crude, but they had much to do with the crystallization of public opinion that made the West a new factor in American politics, according to a history of the mass media, "The Press in America" by Emery and Emery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Perrysburg Messenger Journal on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. For well over a century now the Journal has provided the news fairly and accurately to the people of Northwestern Ohio. I am proud

to offer these sentiments today properly documenting this event in the record of the 108th Congress.

RECOGNITION OF ANDREW JOSEPH GRAVES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Joseph Gordon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, where he progressed to the rank of Webelos. He also participated in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the thirteen years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 41 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the order of the arrow. Andrew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the Bear Claw award, the God & Me Award, and the Arrow of Light award. Andrew has also served in a variety of leadership positions, including Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Andrew built a rock foot bridge and rocked part of the path at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Joseph Gordon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

H.R. 1716

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, As an initial co-sponsor, I offer my support of H.R. 1716, a bill to make sure that Impact Aid to school districts to provide educational support, is assured as an entitlement. Today, as members of our military are being shipped abroad in large numbers to prepare for a possible war, it is critical for them to know that their children's schools are being supported by their government.

The need for Impact Aid has been clear for over half a century. Begun in 1950, Impact Aid recompenses districts for the loss of a variety of taxes which form the basis of school support. Military land and the military homes located on that land do not contribute to property taxes. Over three-quarters of the military members in my district claim residency in other states and do not pay state income or car registration taxes. In addition, all sales on military installations are exempt from state sales taxes. Property, income, and sales taxes are the money which pays for education.

Because the frequent transfer of military members results in increased transiency in

schools, districts which serve large numbers of military children have increased costs.

The school districts located in my congressional district are also known for offering a variety of services to special needs children. When military families have children with a high level of needs, the service provides compassionate assignment flexibility to enable them to stay in the area. This further increases costs for these districts.

After more than half a century of support, it is time to stop making annual judgments about the value of Impact Aid. It is time to openly declare to every member of our armed services that we assure them that support for their children's education is not negotiable. Our commitment must not waiver.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation important to victims of crime and their families. The Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, was a tremendous victory in the fight to aid those affected by crime. It established a trust fund composed of criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees and special assessments collected by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Sadly, a spending cap was installed on the VOCA trust fund. This trust fund generates close to \$1 billion dollars each year, yet only an average of \$535 is actually distributed annually to the states. While state crime victim assistance programs struggle to remain fully funded, the balance just sits there unused. My legislation, the "Victim of Crime Fairness Act of 2003" would eliminate this spending cap and direct the money toward its original intention, helping victims of crime.

Every day we see in our local news stories of homicides, sexual assaults, child abuse, drunk driving accidents, kidnapping and arson. The list goes on and on. I applaud President Bush for his efforts to strengthen and organize security on all fronts for our country. Preventing all crimes, whether they are acts of terrorism or domestic abuse, is the first step in creating a more peaceful world. However, when a crime does occur there is a victim. This victim is stripped of their security, their dignity, and often times their physical capability to function normally in the day-to-day world. Eliminating the spending cap on the VOCA trust fund would allow victim advocates to do their job. It is a fact; helping mend people's lives that have been tragically altered by crime cannot be done for free.

My state of Connecticut loses almost \$5 million a year due to the VOCA cap. This money could make all the difference in thousands of peoples lives. Connecticut's State Victim Advocate James Papiello wrote, "The programs funded by the VOCA fund benefit crime victims in Connecticut through direct financial support and crime victim support services. These funds help crime victims when they most need it. Given the substantial reduction in the amount of funds available to the states caused by federal earmarks, and the real

need for increased services to crime victims in Connecticut, it is clear that removal of the cap is necessary to ensure that Connecticut will be able to meet the needs of crime victims.”

The Victims of Crime Fairness Act of 2003 is common sense legislation. I ask my colleagues to join me in helping victims of crime by eliminating the VOCA fund spending cap.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF  
CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY AS  
PART OF COMMEMORATION OF  
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VIC-  
TIMS OF HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con Res 40, to allow the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. Our Nation's capitol is a symbol of freedom and democracy to so many. This resolution gives us a forum to pay service to the victims of the Holocaust. I pray that such a tragedy should never touch the world again.

A Holocaust memorial is not something to be taken lightly, or to be rushed without its due respect. The Holocaust is a product of authoritarian government and evil intentions, and we must continue to study and remember it, lest it be repeated. Hate, genocide, racial supremacism still occur in parts of the world and I believe that we as Americans can still focus our efforts on stopping them before they grow to an uncontrollable magnitude.

My heart goes out to the victims and survivors of Adolf Hitler's death camps. Every time I reexamine the Holocaust, and pay tribute to what happened, I am still shocked and pained by the organized, methodical killing that went on in Europe.

For the 12 million people that Nazi Germany exterminated, we must remember. For each of the six million Jews killed, we must respond. For the Gypsies, the gays, the political dissenters and any of the righteous people who spoke out against what they thought was evil—for this we commemorate and remember the Holocaust. It can never happen again.

RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM  
BARRET SIMS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Barret Sims, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, earning the ranks of bobcat, wolf, bear, and webelos as well as participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of

Mic—O—Say. During the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 35 merit badges and is Brotherhood Member of The Order of the Arrow. William also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the bear claw award, the God & Me award, the arrow of light award, and the god and church award. William has also served in many leadership capacities, including patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader.

For his Eagle Scout project, William planned, designed, and with the help of fellow scouts, built an outdoor storage shed for a habitat for humanity home located in Kansas City north, providing much needed storage space for the lawn and outdoor equipment of the homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Barret Sims for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT  
NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH, AND  
CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION  
ACT OF 2003

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to be joined by my Colleague from Ohio, DEBORAH PRYCE, to introduce the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2003.

The existence of significant health disparities in this nation is undeniable. For years, research has told us that minorities and low-income populations are the least likely to receive the health care they need to live a long, healthy life. We've done a very good job of identifying this problem—it's high time we do something to solve it.

That's why I'm very excited about the bill we are introducing today and the strong support we've already received for it. The bill is supported by the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the Intercultural Cancer Council and their Caucus, the National Council of La Raza, 100 Black Men of America, the National Rural Health Association, Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center, MHz Networks, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc., the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, and the National Patient Advocate Foundation.

This bill addresses what I believe are the root causes of health disparities in minority and underserved communities: lack of access to health care in general—and particularly lack of access to prevention and early detection—as well as language and cultural barriers to care.

The bottom line is: the only way to stay healthy is to see a doctor when you are healthy. Yes, there are a number of explanations for the higher rates of disease among minority populations, including higher rates of uninsured, reduced access to care, and lower quality of care. But all of these barriers point

to the same underlying problem, minority patients are less likely to receive early screening and detection, so their disease is found at a much later stage and they have less chance of survival.

The bill we're introducing today will ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, income, or geography, will have access to prevention screening and treatment, and that they will have an advocate at their side, helping them navigate through today's complicated health care system.

It does this by building upon the existing infrastructure of the Consolidated Health Center program, the Indian Health Service, the Office of Rural Health Policy, and the National Cancer Institute.

It creates model programs to ensure that people are educated about the importance of prevention screening and early detection. A key component of the proposal is year-round outreach to the target community, in a language that they can understand.

It funds culturally and linguistically competent providers that reach out into the community, build their trust, build relationships, and educate the public, while providing prevention screenings and follow-up treatment.

And it ensures that navigators are available to help patients make their way through the health care system—whether it's translating technical medical terminology, making sense of their insurance, making appointments for referral screenings, following-up to make sure the patient keeps that appointment, or even accompanying a patient to a referral appointment.

The original concept for the legislation comes from Dr. Freeman's "navigator" program, which he created while he was Director of Surgery at Harlem Hospital. Recently, I was fortunate to get to visit Dr. Huerta's local Cancer Preventorium, which replicates Dr. Freeman's navigator concept within a comprehensive model of prevention services. This bill will translate the work of Dr. Harold Freeman and Dr. Elmer Huerta into a legislative model for cancer and chronic disease prevention and treatment for minorities and underserved communities.

The track record of these programs speaks for itself. It's very clear that these are not new ideas or new concepts, they're models that have been proven to work. And it's time that we take what's worked and use it to benefit underserved populations across the country. That's exactly what this legislation will do.

HONORING MR. VICTOR MANUEL  
ARRAÑAGA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Victor Manuel Arrañaga and his contributions to his family and community. Mr. Arrañaga was a man who worked hard all his life to better the lives of those around him. He was also a man who instilled important values in his family and practiced those values everyday towards those around him. He died on December 30, 2002.

Mr. Arrañaga grew up in Del Rio, Texas, where he operated the Arrañaga and Sons

grocery store with his father, brothers, and sisters. He was known for extending credit with no questions asked and for offering free groceries to those who could not afford to purchase them. In 1967, Mr. Arrañaga moved to San José, California, and began work at Food Villa in Santa Clara. As a dedicated employee for 20 years, he built a reputation for extraordinary customer service and was admired for his sense of humor. Mr. Arrañaga was also a member of the Retail Clerks Local 428 Union.

Mr. Arrañaga was active in the community both in Del Rio and San José. Elected to the Del Rio City Council in 1958, he was the second Latino in the town's history to hold the office. As a city councilman, Mr. Arrañaga formed a partnership with the neighboring border town of Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, in order to strengthen the relationships between the United States and Mexico. While performing his civic duties, he developed the city's first fire station and created high-quality low-income housing in the disadvantaged Del Rio neighborhood of San Felipe. The development's first street was named "Arrañaga Avenue" to recognize his dedicated efforts to the city and the project. Mr. Arrañaga was also an active member of the Lions Club in Del Rio, where he was the first Latino to serve as President and Zone Chairman. He was also a member of the club's recruitment committee. While in San José, he was an active member of the Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Alviso, California.

A devoted family man, Victor was married to his wife, Ina, for 54 years. Together they raised seven children, eighteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Arrañaga encouraged his children to pursue higher education and to be active in their communities. He also imparted and practiced his core principles of love, honor, and respect for family to all of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering and honoring Mr. Victor Manuel Arrañaga for his service to his community and his dedication to his family. He was a man of great integrity and an inspiration to all of us.

CONGRATULATING NORAH JONES  
ON HER GRAMMY AWARDS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share my admiration with you for one of my district's most popular artists, Norah Jones.

During the 45th annual Grammy Awards held on February 24, 2003, Norah Jones was awarded 5 Golden Gramophone statuettes for Album of the Year, Best New Artist, Record of the Year for the single "Don't Know Why," Best Pop Vocal Album, and Best Female Pop Vocal Album.

Norah Jones has shown a strong aptitude for music since childhood. Ms. Jones graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts of Dallas, Texas in 1997.

Norah Jones follows in the footsteps of the many successful Booker T. Washington High School alumni, such as Erykah Badu and Roy Hargrove.

Norah Jones later went on to the University of North Texas to major in jazz piano. Already career-minded, she knew that a solid foundation of jazz piano could pave the way for better things.

Mr. Speaker, Norah Jones is an inspiration to our youth, not only in Texas but across the nation, that their dreams can come true, and that they should reach for the stars.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVOR BENEFITS ACT

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's public safety officers for their commitment to our communities and service to our nation. I am re-introducing my bipartisan legislation, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important initiative.

Every day, public safety officers protect our families and possessions from fire, keep our streets safe, and are the first to respond to an emergency. Across this nation, our law enforcement officers and corrections officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service workers are dedicated and prepared, and when we call on them, they risk their lives for us.

Heart attacks and strokes are one of the greatest threats to public safety officers, especially firefighters. In fact, almost half of all firefighter deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes. Fighting fires is dangerous, exhausting, and extremely stressful work. Indeed, a firefighter's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke greatly increases when he or she puts on their turnout gear and rushes into a building to fight a fire. Likewise, law enforcement and corrections officers and EMS workers face daily situations that put stress and strain on the heart.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, last year 102 firefighters died while on duty, affecting 86 communities in 35 states. In the wake of their tragic losses, many of the families of these brave first responders received financial assistance from the Public Safety Officer Death Benefit, which was created by Congress over 25 years ago to provide these families with help in their time of need. However, some of these families are denied these benefits because of a glitch in the law.

During the last Congress, I introduced the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act to correct this technicality in the Public Safety Officer Benefit. This bipartisan legislation will allow the families of public safety officers who have died from a heart attack or stroke while on duty, or within 24-hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation, to receive this benefit.

Last year, 113 of our colleagues cosponsored this bill, and the House unanimously passed it. Unfortunately, we were not able to move the bill through the U.S. Senate before adjournment, despite the strong support of several Senators from both parties.

Today I, along with Representatives STENY HOYER, CURT WELDON, MIKE OXLEY, and 40

other members of this House, are re-introducing the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act. During this time of increased awareness and concern regarding the threat of terrorism, we are calling on our public safety officers to work longer and harder than ever before. This legislation shows our public safety officers and their families that we recognize their selfless contributions to protecting us and our communities, and that we stand with them.

We urge every Member in this House to join our bipartisan coalition by cosponsoring this critical legislation and working with us to pass it into law.

COMMENDING DR. KOICHI NISHIMURA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Koichi Nishimura and his contributions to the Bay Area and Japanese-American communities. Dr. Nishimura will soon retire from Solectron Corporation after leading the company to its current standing as one of the world's largest electronics manufacturing services company. He has accomplished this through years of hard work and dedication to his friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Born in 1938 in Pasadena, California, Dr. Nishimura is a Nisei, or second-generation Japanese American. Like many of his fellow Nisei, he has experienced strong Western and Eastern influences. During World War II, Dr. Nishimura spent five years, from age three to seven, at an internment camp in Manzanar. Despite spending his childhood in Southern California, he spoke only Japanese until the first grade.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from San Jose State University, Dr. Nishimura received his Doctorate in Material Science and Engineering from Stanford University. Upon completion of his education, Dr. Nishimura began his career as a test engineer with IBM. After 23 years with IBM, he was asked to join the then-regional Solectron Corporation. Coming on as the Chief Operating Officer in 1988, he quickly moved to President and then Chief Executive Officer. In 1996, he became Chairman of the Board. Dr. Nishimura has made Solectron Corporation not only the biggest company in the electronics industry, but also the most profitable. Under his leadership, Solectron was twice awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, becoming the first company in the history of the program to do so.

Dr. Nishimura is very active in both the business and Japanese American communities. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Institute. In addition to serving on various boards, he has been a member and the Chairman of Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business. Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his time and energy to the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation, serving as Vice President, as well as the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California, having served as a board member. In recognition of his work in the community, he was awarded the Silicon

Valley Manufacturing Group's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

Within the Japanese American community, Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his efforts to groups such as the U.S.-Japan Business Council, Japanese Western U.S. Association, Japanese American Citizen League, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Asian Law Alliance, and the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Community Center in San Jose.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. Ko Nishimura for his dedication to excellence in Silicon Valley. Through his tireless efforts, he has created a company grounded in sound principles and has dedicated his valuable time to better his community. I congratulate Dr. Koichi Nishimura on his tremendous achievements and wish him continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO KUNI HIRONAKA

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Kuni Hironaka, one of the region's greatest champions for protecting and promoting Asian American hiring and promotion policies. Kuni played an instrumental role in securing the inclusion of Asian Americans as a protected minority in the affirmative action hiring and promotion process that is used by all federal civilian and military agencies. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Kuni's wonderful achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most dedicated citizen leaders.

In 1967, Kuni realized that there were only three categories of protected minorities specified for the affirmative action program at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, these were: black, Hispanic, and women. Kuni was particularly alarmed by the fact that there were no Asian foremen on the maintenance side of the workforce and no Asian supervisors on the management side of the workforce. Many Asian employees failed to rise through the ranks despite their considerable experience and education.

Kuni's decision to explore the issue with the civilian Affirmative Action Officer was greeted with an unsatisfactory response. At the expense of jeopardizing his own employment and promotion future at McClellan Air Force Base, he boldly pursued the matter up the chain of command. In the course of standing for his principles and furthering the interests of Asian Americans in the workforce, Kuni would come to bring about change on a national level.

Kuni was appointed by Phil Hiroshima, President of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) at the time, to represent the JACL in meetings with top military officials to make the case that the affirmative action category should be expanded not only to include Asian Americans, but also Native Americans as well.

As a result of Kuni's remarkable dedication to the cause and a relentless pursuit of justice, the process of leaving Asian Americans out of the affirmative action hiring and promotion process was eventually examined by the United States Department of Defense. Ultimately, the term "oriental" was changed to

Asian American and Pacific Islanders and McClellan Air Force Base began to promote qualified Asian Americans within the maintenance and civil workforce.

Kuni's decision to challenge the establishment to bring about equal treatment for Asian Americans at McClellan Air Force Base had a resounding impact nationally. In addition to military installations, Asians Americans also came to be recognized as a protected minority by all federal civilian and military agencies. Kuni played a crucial role in paving the road for his and future generations of Asian Americans by breaking down the glass ceiling in the workplace.

Kuni truly represents the real spirit of community service. Throughout his life, Kuni has demonstrated the importance of giving back to his community. Kuni's commitment to helping others and improving his community is an inspiration and example to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Kuni Hironaka's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing my dear, dear friend Kuni continued success in all his future endeavors.

#### IN MEMORY OF DARYL THOMPSON

### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent; a person who was one of the most active, hard-working and dedicated educators in the State of Illinois—Mr. Daryl Thompson. Sadly, Mr. Thompson passed away on January 14, 2003.

Mr. Thompson began a 37-year career at Oswego High School in 1961. In his early years at Oswego High School, Mr. Thompson taught bookkeeping, business law, general business and typing, in addition to serving as the freshman basketball coach, faculty advisor to the school newspaper, and sponsor of the National Honor Society. And, after earning his certificate in education administration, Mr. Thompson was hired as Oswego High School's Vice Principal, and in 1974 was appointed Principal.

Throughout his years as an educator and administrator in Oswego, Mr. Thompson was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. To name a few, Mr. Thompson was awarded the Illinois State Board of Education's "Educator for Excellence in Education," Coca-Cola's Educator of the Month, and was selected by the Oswego Ledger-Sentinel as one of the top 50 people of the 20th Century to make a positive impact on Oswegoland. Furthermore, in 1997, a portion of Illinois Route 71, which passes by Oswego High School property, was named the honorary "Daryl Thompson Highway."

Moreover, Mr. Thompson served as a member of the Illinois High School Association's Legislative Commission for 12 years, served as Director of the Illinois Principals Association and was involved with the Oswego Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Nonetheless, we should also remember Mr. Thompson as a dedicated friend and mentor. He will be remembered for his keen sense of humor, thoughtful guidance and his genuine interest in the well-being of the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daryl Thompson for his contributions to the Oswego school system and the many students, parents, teachers and fellow administrators whom he touched. His accomplishments deserve our praise and appreciation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2003, I was in my congressional district in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 35, and "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### RECOGNITION OF CARLIN OWEN LESLIE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carlin Owen Leslie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carlin has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Carlin also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the rank of senior patrol leader. He was also the first scout from Troop 314 to become a runner in the Order of the Arrow, and now serves as the head of the Troop 314 OA runners.

For his Eagle Scout project, Carlin restored and repainted a train caboos at Fox Hill Elementary School which is used by the school and the Missouri Department of Conservation as an education lab.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carlin Owen Leslie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MANIECE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Dr. Robert Maniece is presently serving as interim Superintendent for the Quitman County School District. In 1967, Robert Maniece led a number of black students over to then Marks Junior High, a predominately white school. That action led to the integration of the public school in 1971.

In the same year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King visited Marks, he also visited Mississippi's Cotton Street, the street on which Robert and his family lived. This is the place where Dr. King witnessed families so victimized by poverty that he created the Poor People Campaign. Thereafter, Robert and his family members became heavily involved in this fight to rid the Nation of poverty and want. He has traveled to Washington, D.C. many times to participate in the protests and has continued to fight the fight for those in the greatest need.

In 1993, he became Director of Instruction and Professional Development Coordinator for Quitman Mississippi County Schools. In that position, he has led the District from academic probation to one of the best performing schools in all the Mississippi Delta and the State.

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**CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN  
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**
**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo my colleagues' concerns with the prevailing digital divide in African American communities.

As our society continues to make leaps and bounds in the digital information age, too many people are still left behind. It is especially evident in the African American communities, where currently only four out of ten African-Americans have access to internet access—30 points behind the national average. This sharp contrast continues to represent a very substantial and real divide in our society.

But the picture is not all gloomy. In 2001, for instance, internet usage among African Americans increased by 31 percent, as compared to 19 percent among whites. High-tech companies have also begun to focus on technological literacy among our nation's students, such as Microsoft's recent initiative to donate a \$15 million software grant to Historically Black College and University campuses.

Now it's up to this Congress to do more. The Omnibus Appropriations bill we just passed has under-funded many of the pro-

grams aimed to stimulate technological usage and access for more Americans, among them the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the Community Technology Centers (CTC), and the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP).

We must recommit ourselves to those resources. We must also maintain an open market for competition in the telecommunications industry so that better services can be brought to more communities at lower prices.

I urge my colleagues today to work towards those goals.

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**NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2003**
**HON. CHRISTOPHER COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National Peace Corps Day. It is with great pleasure that I send my congratulations to Peace Corps volunteers serving throughout the world as we celebrate the Peace Corps' 42 years of service.

Forty-two years ago, President John F. Kennedy mobilized a generation to work in developing nations around the world in education, community development, agriculture, health care, and public works. Although each volunteer is given a particular role in a community, the most important job is the simple day-to-day interaction each volunteer has with the people of the villages in which they serve.

Since 1961, over 168,000 Americans have volunteered their expertise, time, and energy to foster development and progress in 136 countries. There is no greater symbol of America's generosity than American volunteers living and working in partnership with the people of developing nations to encourage education and opportunity.

As grass-roots ambassadors, Peace Corps volunteers have conveyed the message of freedom and hope to communities in need of help. In doing so, they have strengthened the ties of international friendship and understanding, and have spread the spirit of sharing that is so fundamental to American society.

It is my deepest hope that we continue to recognize and support the Peace Corps' work. By honoring the Peace Corps, we reaffirm our nation's commitment to strengthen freedom and create opportunities around the world.

I am very happy to join with Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, to celebrate National Peace Corps Day 2003.

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**WHITE MARLINS AND THE  
LONGLINE INDUSTRY**
**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this important piece of conservation legislation. In the last session of Congress the Resources Committee worked hard to report

out, my good friend from Maryland and Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. GILCREST's bill, H.R. 4749, the Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendments of 2002. While I was pleased with many of the provisions, I felt the bycatch section could be strengthened and was successful in getting a provision added to H.R. 4749 addressing the concerns I still have today, with regard to the amount of bycatch of white marlin by the domestic longline industry, which is why I am introducing this bill today.

This bill creates a closed area in the mid-Atlantic that protects marlin from being caught by longlines, when marlin are the most prevalent in those waters. This area consists of the entire Mid-Atlantic Conservation Zone for Highly Migratory Species and closes the upper zone July 15 through September 1, and closes the lower zone from August 15 through October 1. The bill allows for the maximum fishing effort by the longline industry consistent with the conservation.

I continue to be concerned about this species because stocks domestically and internationally have continued to rapidly decline. On September 4, 2001, an environmental group petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to list Atlantic white marlin under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. On December 19, 2001, NMFS found that the Atlantic white marlin petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information indicating that a listing of Atlantic white marlin may be warranted.

On September 4, 2002, NMFS determined that the species does not warrant being listed at this time. However, the most recent stock assessment indicates the total Atlantic stock population had declined to less than 12 percent of its maximum sustainable yield level; current fishing mortality was estimated to be at least seven times higher than the maximum sustainable level; over fishing had taken place for over three decades and the stock is less productive than previously estimated, with a maximum sustainable yield of less than 1300 metric tons. The bottom line—this species needs an immediate strong conservation measure or it may disappear forever.

I have for many years been very concerned about the dramatic drop in population of this species, and the fact that NMFS even considered listing it confirms my concerns have not been unfounded. I am therefore introducing this piece of legislation as it is critical we continue to make every possible effort to save this species from extinction, which is a distinct possibility should nothing be done to stop the tremendous amount of bycatch.

It is so important we work together to conserve all species, and the dramatic drop in population of white marlin sends a strong message that if we do nothing the potential for other species to be in equal jeopardy is almost guaranteed. Our oceans could well be void of many species we now enjoy and take for granted if we do not take aggressive steps to halt their disappearance now, before it's too late.

It is of the utmost importance that today, more than ever, we work diligently to ensure our world's fisheries populations are maintained at sustainable levels. If we fail to protect them, there are some species that may disappear forever, which would be tragic.

THE "SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT OF 2003"

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, despite the will of the American people, despite the will of bipartisan majorities in Congress, despite the insistence of the President of the United States and the maxims of decency, and fairness, a mental health parity bill has yet to be enacted.

That is why, today, with Senators DOMENICI and KENNEDY, and Congressman Jim RAMSTAD, I am again introducing the Senator Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2003. This bill has been named in honor of the late Senator Paul Wellstone who fought hard for the cause of equal opportunity for all Americans.

The Wellstone Parity Act is, at its core, a civil rights bill. It recognizes that the right to basic healthcare for millions of Americans continues to be violated due to lingering bigotry. It reflects the values on which this country was built, principles of inclusion and opportunity for all Americans.

This bill will help tens of millions of our fellow countrymen and women who suffer from mental illnesses gain needed access to treatment. Treatment, which they currently are denied and have been for quite some time. This bill is based on parity provisions in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP), which Members of Congress, other federal employees, and their families already have.

Specifically, it requires that group health plans, which choose to provide mental health benefits not impose any treatment limits or financial requirements for mental health care unless comparable treatment limits or financial requirements are imposed for physical health benefits.

With that said, there has, unfortunately, been a lot of misinformation circulated with regards to this bill. Therefore, it is important that I clarify what this bill does not do.

It does not require health plans to cover treatment of mental illnesses. It only applies if they choose to include mental health benefits.

It does not prevent group health plans from managing benefits as a means to contain costs, and to monitor and improve the quality of care. In fact, it specifically protects insurers' right to apply management techniques.

It does not mandate coverage of specific mental health services, nor does it allow endless "Woody Allen-like" psychoanalysis for every beneficiary. This bill unambiguously allows plans to make medical necessity determinations so that care can be provided judiciously.

It does not require parity between two or more employer-sponsored benefits plans. It only requires parity within each individual plan.

It does not require parity for out-of-network benefits, as long as in-network benefits are provided at parity and the plan provides reasonable access to in-network providers and facilities.

Opponents of this bill will say it is too expensive and drives up the cost of healthcare.

The data, however, show otherwise. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has projected that enactment of a parity bill of this kind would result in premium increases of only 0.9%. The collective experience of many states that have passed parity laws, as well as the FEHBP, closely mirrors the CBO projections.

In fact, the CBO estimate may be too high. The CBO projections did not take into account the billions of dollars of savings employers will gain with reduced absenteeism, fewer disability claims, and lower general health services associated with untreated mental illnesses.

The Senator Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2003 is not just an instrument to repeal the prohibition on Americans to gain access to affordable and needed mental health care; it is also a bill that addresses an ever-increasing public health crisis in our nation.

Mental illness is our nation's second leading cause of morbidity and mortality. In the United States, severe mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes or heart disease; one in four Americans will suffer from a serious mental disorder in their lifetime; more than 51 million Americans suffer from a mental disorder in a year; 67% of elderly nursing home residents have a diagnosable mental illness; 67% of the population with AIDS will develop a neuropsychiatric disorder; more than ten million children suffer from a serious emotional disorder and more than 30,000 people commit suicide every year.

Each of these statistics has a human face associated with it. Anna Westin of Chaska, Minnesota suffered from a serious eating disorder that required inpatient hospitalization. When her insurance company told her hospital that her mental health benefits had been exhausted, she was prematurely discharged and sent home. One month later, after receiving this inadequate medical care, she committed suicide. Anna is just one of many Americans victimized by the cruelty of medical discrimination.

Discrimination is a discarded idea from the past. Yet, in certain sectors of our society it continues to thrive like a malignant cancer infecting and feeding off the soul of our nation. For the sake of our parents, our grandparents, our children, our neighbors, and ourselves, we must finally excise this cancer from our society.

In the 19th century, famed novelist and poet Victor Hugo wrote: "There's one thing stronger than all the armies of the world: And that is an idea whose time has come."

The time for mental health parity has arrived. I want to thank my colleagues for the strong bipartisan support this legislation has received, and I look forward to finally removing this dreadful stain of discrimination that defiles the spirit of America.

RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW ISADORE REYES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Isadore Reyes, a very

special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the six years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 38 merit badges and is Brotherhood Member of The Order of the Arrow. Matthew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the rank of Patrol Leader of the Panther Patrol and Runner at Camp Naish.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matthew built two cedar benches and planted a tree for the Rolling Hills Community Church. He was able to get all of the materials for his project donated.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Isadore Reyes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO IRVIN WHITTAKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Irvin Whittaker is a native of Carrollton County. Although many close to Mr. Whittaker felt that education should not be his primary focus, he had a strong desire to complete high school. With money that he saved from sharecropping, Mr. Whittaker moved to Jackson, Mississippi. It was here that he decided to enter Lanier High School. During High School, Mr. Whittaker became part of the active reserves and spent six months in the Army. In 1959, he re-entered high school at Marshall High School where he started to play basketball. While playing he was noticed by a coach and was offered a scholarship to Mississippi Industrial College.

Upon graduating, Mr. Whittaker's professional career in education began. In 1963, he was appointed as a teacher at Old Salem High School in Ashland, Mississippi. Mr. Whittaker was then appointed as principal of Marshall High School where he served until 1968. In 1968, Mr. Whittaker became assistant principal at Amanda Elzy High School. After serving for two years, Mr. Whittaker later became the principal. In 1983, he was asked by the Superintendent of Leflore County Schools to serve as Assistant Superintendent. In 1991, Mr. Whittaker was elected to the office of the County Superintendent, an office which he held until his retirement in 2000.

REMEMBERING REV. EDWARD  
VICTOR HILL SR.

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness in the passing of a great community and civic leader, Dr. Edward Victor Hill Sr.

He was known throughout the United States and the world for his compassionate sermons and teaching. He will be dearly missed.

For the past 42 years, Rev. E.V. Hill has been the pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. He grew up in poverty in a Texas log cabin. By the age of 21 he became pastor of the Mount Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, where he was one of seven black pastors who joined Dr. Martin Luther King in forming the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Rev. Hill soon became a confidant of Dr. King and a central leader to the civil rights struggle.

Rev. Hill came to Los Angeles in 1961 to become the pastor of Mount Zion. By 1972, he was elected as the youngest president of the California State Baptist Convention. Under Rev. Hill's leadership, his congregation became a center of political and social activism in Los Angeles. He fought for government programs that would bring housing and economic development to his communities. He also started a number of church-based programs, among them the creation of senior citizen housing, a credit union, and a service for the hungry called the "Lord's Kitchen."

I send my heartfelt condolences to the Hill family. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on February 26, 2003, I would have voted "yes" on H. Con. Res. 36 to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commend President Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECREATIONAL WATERS PROTECTION ACT

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Recreational Waters Protection Act.

I have been working on this issue for some time, and introduced this bill in the last session of Congress because its passage would reduce pollution from recreational boats by encouraging boaters to use and purchase new Type I marine sanitation devices (MSD) instead of discharging their waste into the water

because pumpout stations are either unavailable, inoperative or inconvenient to use.

This legislation would harness new technology and establish new standards for Type I marine sanitation devices that are 100 times more stringent than current standards, which have not been revised in over twenty years.

This bill would grant an exemption allowing those who have such Coast Guard certified devices to use them in any state-declared no discharge zones that are designated after the enactment of this bill into law. It would not impact any existing state-declared no discharge zones.

The available evidence shows that the existing NDZ approach does not work to the benefit of the environment. It is highly unlikely that law enforcement efforts will ever be sufficient to make the NDZ approach work, even if sufficient pump-out stations were accessible and operational.

Giving boat owners the opportunity to improve the operation of their vessels and at the same time contribute to improving the aquatic environment through their voluntary installation and use of the new Type I MSDs is clearly preferable to today's situation.

When the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was signed into law, this type of technology did not exist and therefore simply prohibiting dumping via NDZs seemed like the best solution at the time. However, with the overall poor performance with pumpout stations and non-compliance with NDZs, I believe it is time to revisit this bill and these issues and recognize if there is a better, more environmentally conscious way to fight pollution, we ought to be using it, period.

I encourage other members to join me in support of this important piece of conservation legislation.

RECOGNITION OF SARAH DOTY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sarah Doty, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 300, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the gold award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting; and 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project

that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Sarah organized a golf clinic for middle and high school girls.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sarah Doty for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. GRAVES,  
JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Justice Graves began his distinguished career as the valedictorian of his high school graduating class. He then went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Millsaps College. Justice Graves then decided to enroll at Syracuse University where he earned his law degree. He also received a Master's of Public Administration from Syracuse University.

Upon finishing law school Justice Graves worked as a staff attorney at Central Mississippi Legal Services. Just prior to being appointed Circuit Justice Judge he was director of the Division of Child Support Enforcement for the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Justice Graves then engaged in private practice of law for more than three years.

His teaching experience includes serving as an instructor at Harvard Law School where he taught for four years. Justice Graves has also served as adjunct professor at Jackson State University where he taught both media law and civil rights law.

Justice Graves is also active in public school activities. He teaches the youth about the legal system as well as coaches mock trial teams which have reached state mock trial finals every year since 1991.

Justice Graves has been the recipient of numerous awards. Some of his recognitions include Humanized Education Award, Parent of the Year, Parent of the entire State of Mississippi, Innovation Award, Distinguished Jurist Award, and the Judge of the Year Award.

TIMBER TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which corrects an inequity in the Internal Revenue Code which affects the sale of certain assets.

Under current law, landowners who are occasional sellers of timber are often classified by the Internal Revenue Service as "dealers." As a result, the seller is forced to choose between a "lump sum" payment method or a

pay-as-cut contract which often results in an under-realization of the fair value of the contract. While electing the pay-as-cut contract option provides access to capital gains treatment, the seller must comply with special rules in Section 631(b) of the Internal Revenue code. The provisions of Sec. 631(b) require these sellers to "retain an economic interest" in their timber until it is harvested. Under the retained economic interest requirement, the seller bears all the risk and is only paid for timber that is harvested, regardless of whether the terms of the contract are violated. Additionally, since the buyer pays for only the timber that is removed or "scaled" there is an incentive to waste poor quality timber, to under scale the timber, or to remove the timber without scaling.

The legislation I am introducing will provide greater consistency by removing the exclusive "retained economic interest" requirement in IRC Section 631(b). This change has been supported or suggested by a number of groups for tax simplification purposes, including the Internal Revenue Service. I urge my colleagues to join in this tax simplification effort and strongly urge its passage.

#### ON COMBATING TERRORISM AND PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, at its recently concluded meeting, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs adopted a number of resolutions. One very important one was the resolution "On Combating Terrorism and Protecting Civil Liberties." The very title of this resolution indicates its importance—that is, the JCPA recognizes that it is important for us to be fully mindful of civil liberties as we adopt the measures needed to protect ourselves against terrorism.

As a Member of Congress, and also as a Jewish American, I welcome the balanced and thoughtful resolution, coming particularly as it does from a group which ranks high on the target list of those who engage in terrorism. In this context, when the JCPA notes that it is "particularly concerned about the treatment of United States citizens, including questions of indefinite detentions, denial of legal counsel and trials that are closed in their entirety," its members provide an excellent example of the approach that all of us should be taking in this critical time—namely, protecting ourselves against violence without infringing on our constitutionally protected freedom and liberties.

#### RECOGNITION OF KATIE TELGEMEIER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Katie Telgemeier, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of Amer-

ica, troop 1815, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Katie updated and refurbished a girls locker room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Katie Telgemeier for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. EARNEST ANDREW SMITH

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Earnest Andrew Smith. Dr. Smith was born in Macon, Georgia on August 25, 1913. His family later moved to Birmingham where Dr. Smith began school. After finishing high school, Dr. Smith entered Rust College in Holy Springs, Mississippi where he graduated in 1937. Dr. Smith continued his education at Oberlin in Ohio and Hartford seminary Foundation in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Smith then began to take courses at Drew University and Gammon Seminary. He has received honorary degrees from Gammon Seminary and Lambuth College.

Dr. Smith has many accomplishments. He has been the pastor of three churches as the parish minister, was principal of two high schools and was executive secretary of three different conference programs of Christian education.

In 1957, Dr. Smith was appointed president of Rust College where he managed to keep the door open despite several efforts to close the school. Dr. Smith later served thirteen years as director of the human relations for the Board of church and Society. Upon retirement, Dr. Smith moved to Memphis, Tennessee until he and his wife moved to Benton, Mississippi.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Peace Corps Day on Friday, February 28. It is a special day not only for my fellow returned Peace Corps volunteers, but also for everyone who has been touched by the Peace Corps' global reach. The Peace Corps' mission of compassion and diplomacy is more important than ever to the world population, and so I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Peace Corps on this important day.

Since 1961, Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. During these 42 years, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to progress, opportunity, and development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

In all, more than 168,000 Americans have responded to our nation's call to serve by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 135 countries, and I am proud to say I am one of them. As a young man, I served as a Volunteer in the Republic of El Salvador, building schools and health clinics, learning the language, and developing an enduring bond with the people, culture, and language. The experience instilled in me a profound connection to that country, and a dedication to improving international relations around the world and fulfilling the Peace Corps' third mandate.

Here in Congress, I am firmly committed to ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities that I did to carry out the mission of the Peace Corps. In fact, I believe that we need to dramatically expand and enhance these opportunities given how vital the Peace Corps' mission is in the current global climate. In that effort, I have cosponsored H.R. 250, a bill proposing to increase the number of Volunteers across the globe, reaffirm the Peace Corps' independence, and promote better mutual understanding between those serving and those whom they serve.

Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps has been a part of my life for almost forty years. I have served as a Volunteer, I have supported important Peace Corps legislation, and now today I rise in honor of National Peace Corps Day. It is a day to honor all Peace Corps Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

#### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I, rise today in recognition of the opening of Minnesota's

new Transitional Housing Program for homeless veterans, located at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Today's celebration is an accumulation of hard work, dedication and determination, reflective of Minnesota's commitment to our nation's veterans and a testament to the spirit of the veterans' community in our great state.

Most Americans are not aware of the severity of our veterans' homeless problem. Nearly 25 percent of homeless people are veterans, and many veterans who live in poverty are at risk of becoming homeless. On any given night, 275,000 veterans of the United States armed forces—including thousands in Minnesota—are homeless, and many struggle with alcohol, drug, and mental challenges.

The goal of the new Transitional Housing Program is to provide and coordinate preventive transitional and permanent housing and supportive services for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or who are in danger of becoming homeless. This new program will help assist Minnesota's homeless veterans in gaining the necessary skills required to successfully transition back into mainstream society.

The most effective programs for homeless veterans feature transitional housing with the camaraderie of living in structured, substance-free environments with fellow veterans who are succeeding at bettering themselves. Minnesota's new Transitional Housing Program seeks to employ these methods and provides an important community partnership in improving the lives of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom and democracy.

As we celebrate this new program, I urge my colleagues to remember the thousands of homeless veterans across America that go without help each and every day. We must continue to support the efforts of those who seek to provide these honorable veterans with a better way of life.

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#### NAGORNO KARABAKH LIBERATION MOVEMENT

### HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want bring the attention of my colleagues to an anniversary that occurred this past Thursday, February 20th, 2003. That day marked the 15th anniversary of the modern day liberation movement of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK). Fifteen years ago, in the twilight of the Soviet Union, the people of NK petitioned the Soviet government to correct historical injustices and reunite them with their brethren in Armenia.

The Armenians of NK were placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921, as one of the many ethnic groups that were separated by Joseph Stalin through his "divide and conquer" strategy. Despite the fact that 96% of the population of NK were ethnically Armenian, and NK's stated wish to be part of Armenia—or even be represented as an autonomous region within Azerbaijan—the Armenians of NK were subjected to brutal Soviet Azerbaijani rule for 70 years.

During those seven decades, the Armenians of NK repeatedly stated to each successive Soviet regime their desire to be joined again with Armenia. These peaceful and legal maneuvers were met with violent repression and forced settlement of ethnic Azeris into NK.

Heydar Ailyev, current President of Azerbaijan, ran the Azeri spoke of these policies frankly to reporters on July 22, 2002. He said, "I tried to change Nagorno Karabakh's demography . . . Instead of sending Azeri workers to Baku, I sent a large number of them to Karabakh from surrounding Azerbaijani regions . . . With these and other measures, I was trying to make sure that Azerbaijani population grew in Karabakh while the Armenian population diminished. Those who used to work in Karabakh back then, know what I am talking about." This comment smacks of human rights abuses; working to directly change to demographics of the region while paying no mind to the Armenian or Azeri human condition.

In 1988, when the Armenians of NK heard of the Mikhail Gorbachev's democratization agenda, they began to again move peacefully for reunification with Armenia. At this time, the Soviet and Azeri armies would not stand even to entertain this request and immediately resorted to violence. Public expressions of determination by the Armenians of NK were met with a campaign of ethnic cleansing, deporting the Armenians of NK and Azerbaijan.

In 1991, as Armenia and Azerbaijan followed most soviet states in succession from the USSR, NK also voted to succeed. In an internationally monitored referendum, the NK population overwhelmingly voted to establish an independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, currently known as NKR.

Following this referendum in which the country was established, the Azeri army began a full-scale war on the Armenians of NK, which took thousands of lives over three years, but eventually ended up with NKR repelling Azeri forces. This victory was gained with an army that was out-manned and out-gunned, but had desire and guile that proved to be overwhelming. This conflict had a terrific human cost, leaving 30,000 dead and over one million displaced. Thankfully, although small skirmishes have broken out from time to time, the peace has been kept since an agreement ceased hostilities in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly come to the House floor to speak of the plight of the Armenians of NK. I can now speak from personal experience about NKR, having traveled there with Congressman DOGGET of Texas last August. We had the opportunity to travel to NKR to witness the Presidential elections there, where we served as official monitors. I am proud to say that all election observers that participated in this historic event gave an overwhelmingly positive response. One group in particular, headed by the Baroness Cox from England stated that, "Our overall conclusion is one of congratulations to all the people of Artsakh (NKR) for the spirit in which the elections have been conducted, their commitment to the democratic process and their pride in their progress towards the establishment of civil society."

This process is astounding considering that NKR is not recognized internationally; that they still must deal every day with Azeri ag-

gression, and that their economy is still devastated from the war. The elections were reported to have met, if not exceeded international standards. All this just 9 short years removed from all-out war.

Congress recognized this consistent move towards democracy, granting NKR 20 million dollars in humanitarian assistance in FY '97, and an additional 5 million dollars in FY '03. This assistance has not just been crucial for needs of the people of NKR, but has also fostered the beginnings of an excellent relationship between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end with a final example of what I saw in Armenia in August last year. During the elections, as I visited the capitol city and small villages alike, everyone I spoke to was incredibly excited about the prospect of voting. They viewed the vote not only as a choice of the leader of their country for the next five years, but a statewide referendum on the democratic process and independence of NKR.

I congratulate the people of NKR for the 15th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation movement and their incredible determination to establish a free and open democratic society.

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#### RECOGNITION OF HEIDI TILLY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Heidi Tilly, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 472, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the gold award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Heidi refurbished and painted a playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Heidi Tilly for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the gold award.

## TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOMIE GREEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Judge Tomie Green. Judge Green received her primary education from the Jackson public school system. Upon completing, she entered Tougaloo College where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. She then earned a Master of Science degree from Jackson State. Judge Green then received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Mississippi College School of Law. In April of 1999 Judge Green then continued post-graduate training at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and the National Judicial College, University of Nevada Reno.

Judge Green served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1992–1998. She served as Vice Chair of Ethics and a sub-chair of the Judiciary Committee. While serving in this position Judge Green aided in passing several monumental laws. Judge Green also participated in the creation of the laws that established the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Mississippi Court of Appeals, and the Mississippi Torts Claim Board.

Judge Green practiced law for fifteen years before taking the bench. On January 4, 1999, Judge Green took the oath of office to become the first woman elected to the Hinds County Circuit Court. She also continues to be an adjunct law professor as Mississippi College School of Law.

## TRIBUTE TO VERA RISON

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an outstanding humanitarian, Vera Rison. Vera is being honored Thursday night at a Community Tribute and Retirement Dinner in my home town of Flint Michigan.

Vera Rison is one of my dearest friends. I treasure her wisdom, her common sense, and her ability to go to the heart of a dilemma and seek a solution. The many years she spent working at Genesee Memorial Hospital gave Vera insight into the problems faced by average families. She has never stopped working to ease the burdens faced by so many. Through the positions she held as chair of the Service Employees International Union Local 79, director of human resources at Amy Jo Manor Housing Complex, the Genesee County Community Mental Health Board, the Substance Abuse Services Board and the Jobs Central Workforce Development Board, Vera has always maintained her vision and commitment to a better future for everyone.

Through her work as a Genesee County Commissioner and a State Representative, Vera was able to see some of her ideas be-

come concrete, working plans. She sponsored a bill to reduce the number of abandoned houses. She also was the driving force behind the renovation of the Amy Jo Manor Housing Complex. In addition, Vera worked tirelessly for individuals in trouble. She frequently advocated on behalf of persons sentenced to prison. She arranged for basic services to be provided for the handicapped and devoted many hours to ensuring the uninsured received health care.

The Genesee District Library paid Vera an awesome compliment when they named the Beecher branch of their library the "Vera B. Rison Library." It is a tremendous tribute that the library, where all persons of every age can come and improve their minds and lives through knowledge, is named for the woman who spent a lifetime witnessing the potential in all persons and pushed them to achieve their personal best.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a dear friend, Vera Rison. She is an inspiration to me and I wish her the best as she starts the next phase of her life.

## REMEMBERING MS. ESTHER JONES LEE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day, during Black History Month, to pay tribute to a trail blazing civic leader, Ms. Esther Jones Lee. I take pride in honoring Ms. Jones Lee for her lifetime of dedication to organizing and empowering the African American community, particularly African American women, in their struggle to secure the purportedly unalienable rights promised to the people of this nation at its founding.

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1885, the daughter of Ms. Mary Wanzer Jones and the Reverend J.W. Jones, Ms. Jones Lee inherited her family's unyielding commitment to serving God and her community. The monumental integrity and deep compassion that came to characterize Ms. Jones Lee's legacy were deeply rooted in the lessons she learned growing up in her father's ministries. After graduating from high school in Chillicothe, Missouri, Ms. Jones Lee was trained in pedagogy and taught high school in Macon, Missouri. In 1904, Reverend Jones and his family relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he was charged by the American Baptist Association with establishing the McGee Avenue Baptist Church, still a vibrant spiritual community to this day. Married in 1908 to Mr. George E. Lee, Ms. Jones Lee had three children, of whom only one, Ms. Esther Lee Higgs, survived infancy.

In the Bay Area, Ms. Jones Lee provided skillful and passionate leadership to a plethora of organizations and clubs, especially the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), which she served for three terms as president of the state chapter. In 1918, Ms. Jones Lee was appointed by the President of the NACW, Ms. Mary Burnett Talbert, to lead California's efforts in the Anti-Lynching Campaign, working closely with State Senator William Knowland to introduce the successful legislation that out-

lawed this heinous practice. Ms. Jones Lee also served as: Vice President of Child Welfare for the Civic Center of San Francisco, the predecessor of the Big Sister Movement; President of the Women's Work Baptist Association of the State of California; a founding member of the Fannie Wall Children's Home, the area's first home to care for African American orphans; a founder of the Linden Branch YWCA, the area's first YWCA open to all girls, regardless of race; and head of the Women's Division of Northern California for the 1928 Herbert Hoover Campaign.

During her lifetime, the promises of equality, and justice for all made by our nation's framers were not extended to Ms. Esther Jones Lee. Born into a world in which she could neither vote nor hold public office, she found power by raising her voice and taking action where her conscience deemed it necessary. Inspiring and empowering those whose lives she touched, she rose to positions of leadership from which she challenged the status quo, contributed to policy reform, and advocated for equality. While partaking in the club activities expected of women of their social stature, Ms. Jones Lee and her fellow organizers became fierce, courageous, and compassionate political forces, needing no one's permission but their own. I take great pride in joining Ms. Esther Jones Lee's family and the people of California's 9th Congressional District in honoring her memory and celebrating her legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to include in the RECORD the following articles regarding Ms. Esther Jones Lee.

[From the Oakland Tribune, May 30, 1926]

## ACTIVITIES AMONG NEGROES

(by Delilah L. Beasley)

## WELCOMING SPEECHES

Mrs. Esther Jones Lee, as president of the northern section of California, will have the honor of welcoming the distinguished group of women to Oakland and Mrs. Corrine Bush Hicks, of Pasadena, state president of the California Federation of Colored Women's clubs, will welcome them to California on the night given over to state. Notwithstanding, the great task there are citizens in the east who have visited Oakland, notably Miss Hallie Q. Brown, who have faith in the citizens rally to the assistance of these brave women and helping them in this great effort which will mean much as an educational development of the race.

The following are appointments given to California women by the national president, Mrs. Mary McCloud [McCleod] Bethune: Regional chairmen for northern section—Temperance, Miss Masterson of Stockton; kindergarten—Mrs. L.-J.-Williams, Vallejo, headquarters for the national in Washington, D. C., Mrs. H. B. Tilghman; physical education, Esther Jones Lee, Oakland; state chairmen—Peace and foreign relations, Mrs. Irene Bell Ruggles, San Francisco; citizenship, Mrs. Frank Henry, Oakland; temperance, Mrs. Lillian Smith, Oakland; hygiene, Mrs. L.J. Williams Vallejo; arts and crafts, Mrs. Melba Stafford, Oakland; social work and recreation, Esther Jones Lee, Oakland. She is also local chairman of arrangements for the national.

[From the California Voice, Friday, December 30, 1960]

## FEDERATED WOMEN CLUB NOTES—(CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION)

Maker of History—This is a brief, historical sketch of a personality of pronounced individuality who helped put over remarkable

undertakings in all phases of club, church and community work. Mrs. Esther Jones Lee of 1548 Parker Street, Berkeley, began club work in California in 1913 as a member of Mothers Charity Club. Prior to her residence in California, she worked with the Fannie B. Williams Club in Buxton, Iowa, where she was United States post office clerk. Later she taught school in Macon, Missouri.

Mrs. Lee served in every department of the California State Association and was elected to the presidency of the State Association in 1926, becoming the thirteenth president. Following the election to the presidency, she joined Fannie Jackson Coppin Club.

Mrs. Lee was Chairman of Affairs during the Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., in 1926. She was one of the California women accorded special credit for her influence in obtaining the keys to the City of Oakland for this gigantic meeting—the largest and finest group of colored women that had ever crossed the Continent. At the next National Convention which convened in 1928 in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Mary McCleod Bethune, the national president, fittingly referred to Mrs. Lee as "the local chairman of the National in Oakland, California." Mrs. Lee was overwhelmingly elected a member of the Board of Control. Mrs. Bethune appointed Mrs. Lee as her special representative to the Y.W.C.A. Biennial Convention which was meeting in Sacramento, California.

Mrs. Lee attended the Seventeenth Biennial Convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1930. She was delegated to give the response to the address of the Arkansas governor, local officials and others. During the Hoover-for-president campaign, she was head of the Women's Division of Northern California.

Mrs. Lee has given valuable information on numerous historical facets for the State Association's records—two of them being the inadvertent birth of the unit called "Northern Federation," and the founding of Fannie Wall Children's Home, and how and why it was named.

During the presidency of the late National President, Mrs. Mary D. Talbert, 1916 to 1920, Mrs. Lee was appointed regional official for California of the Anti-lynching Campaign.

Mrs. Lee has been prominently identified with the women's work of the General Baptist Association of California, its auxiliaries and also fraternal orders. The honor of Club Mother for 1954 was conferred upon her by Fannie Jackson Coppin Club.

Mrs. Lee's service in important offices on the National State, Regional and local club levels have blazed a trail and laid a foundation upon which we are pursuing and building. The potency of her character, intellect, personal energy and Club fealty, has guided the State Association and Fannie Jackson Coppin Club in paths of high purpose and achievement.

RECOGNITION OF KATHERINE  
TOMLIN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Katherine Tomlin, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1002, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To

earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing résumés, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Katherine made lap blankets for the hidden Lake Care Center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Katherine Tomlin for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO LANDRES CHEEKS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Retired 1st Sergeant Landres Cheeks graduated from Madison County Training School in 1940. He received his Clerk Typist Certificate in 1946 and his NCO Certificate in 1947, from the United States Army NCO Academy.

Ret. 1st Sergeant Cheeks was a 1st Sergeant for 23 of the 30 years in the U. S. Army. He was a personnel sergeant major, medical Intelligence non-commissioned officer, postal clerk during WWII, facilitated driving testing station for non-commissioned officers, served one tour of duty in Vietnam, served four tours of duty in Germany, and served one tour in France. Cheeks was the first black staff non-commissioned officer of the 69th artillery division in Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was the first black 1st Sergeant of the 33rd station hospital in Bremen haven, Germany and the first black 1st Sergeant of the 54th truck company in Hanau, Germany. Cheeks assisted soldiers in absentee ballot voting from 1951–1974.

During 1974–1992 Sergeant Cheeks was owner of Wynn & Cheeks Grocery Store where he managed accounts payable, accounts receivable, ordered stock, supervised daily operation of the business. Cheeks also registered people to vote in the grocery store.

Retired 1st Sergeant Landres Cheeks was the first black appointed layman to become a Member of the Board of Trustee of Madison General Hospital in Canton, Mississippi during 1985–1988. He also was Chairman of the board of the Madison County Voters League

which would organize campaign fundraisers, voter registration, absentee ballot, and provide transportation to polls during 1988–1998.

At the present time, Cheeks juggles being Commander of the Boy Scout and Cub Scout of America, fundraiser for Madison County Women for Progress, and Utility Commissioner, City of Canton.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. International Women's Day is celebrated each year on March 8 by the United Nations and millions of people around the world in recognition of the contributions of women and men throughout history who have worked for gender equality and in acknowledgement of the work that has yet to be done.

I am proud to be joined in this effort by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the gentlewoman from California, our distinguished Democratic Leader (Ms. PELOSI), and the gentleman from California, the ranking Democrat on the International Relations Committee (Mr. LANTOS), and several other members. I also want to acknowledge the assistance my colleague from Illinois, the distinguished Chairman of the International Relations Committee (Mr. HYDE), has given me.

Women all over the world contribute to the security and well-being of their communities, families, and nations. Yet, women still have yet to achieve full political and economic equality and millions of women continue to face discrimination, abuse, and violence in their daily lives. International Women's Day serves as a time to recognize this reality and to join together across cultures, languages, nations, ethnicities, and income levels to celebrate a common commitment for equality and justice.

It is my hope that this Resolution will find unanimous support in the House of Representatives as a demonstration of the commitment members share to working for fairness and justice for all people around the world.

I urge the House leadership to schedule this measure for a vote next week so that the members of the House may join our international partners in recognition of International Women's Day.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PEACE  
CORPS DAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 2003

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, this Friday is National Peace Corps day. All over the country, former Peace Corps volunteers are bringing their skills, knowledge and experience to

schools and community centers, sharing their experiences from all parts of the world.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 have volunteered in the Peace Corps. I was among the first in the mid-sixties. I spent two unforgettable years working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Medellin, Colombia. I have carried that experience with me ever since.

National Peace Corps Day will be a day of reflection for me. As I think back to my experience—and how it led me into public life and ultimately here to the U.S. Congress—I also think of the new opportunities for the next generation. I think of the fifteen volunteers from my home district who are now all over the world serving as Peace Corps volunteers. In particular, I think of Matthew Allen who began his service in Thailand last April. I remember him talking to me, asking me if going into Peace Corps was the right thing to do. I remember telling him that going into Peace Corps would be one of the most important decisions of his life.

It was for Matthew Allen, and thousands like him, that I introduced a bill last Congress—the Peace Corps Charter Act for the 21st Century—to increase the number of volunteers in the Peace Corps. I would like every American, who is qualified and wants to serve in the Peace Corps, to have the same opportunity that I did.

I have introduced the bill again this Congress—H.R. 250. Among other things, it authorizes sufficient funds to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers by 2007. The President shares this goal and I hope that he will support this legislation. The bill also calls for the Peace Corps to enhance person-to-person contacts with the Middle East. It calls for Peace Corps to provide expanded training in HIV/AIDS treatment for volunteers in Africa and Asia.

H.R. 250 also authorizes the creation of a new fund which supports the third goal of the Peace Corps—bringing the Peace Corps experience home to communities in America. This is exactly the spirit of National Peace Corps Day.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Peace Corps today and everyday. Contact Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in their districts. Ask them to bring the story of Peace Corps to their schools and community centers. I would also ask them to support H.R. 250, so that everyone who is willing and able will have the opportunity to become part of this great American experience.

TRAINING FOR REALTIME  
WRITERS ACT OF 2003

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to sponsor the "Training for Realtime Writers Act of 2003," which I introduced this afternoon with Representative ISAKSON from Georgia. I also would like to thank Senator HARKIN for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

Today, over 28 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. Approximately 90% of these individuals rely on captioning services to participate in mainstream activities. In addition, research has found that many more people

can benefit from watching captioning television, such as those learning English as a second language, illiterate adults, young children learning to read, and remedial readers.

Today the potential audience for captioned television is estimated at nearly 100 million, including the deaf and hard-of-hearing. There are approximately 30 million learning English as a second language, 27 million illiterate adults, 12 million young children learning to read, and 3.7 million remedial readers.

Furthermore, the events of September 11th demonstrate how imperative it is to have more closed captions. The captioning industry was strained to capacity in this effort to ensure that round-the-clock news and information was accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of our country. Without this service, a segment of our population would have been without critical information during a national crisis.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 mandated that all television programming be fully captioned by 2006. The mandate is unrealistic, however, given the current number of trained closed captioners. Presently, schools are educating only half as many closed captioners as are needed to provide captioning services, leaving thousands of hours of programming unavailable to the deaf or hard of hearing. Thus, this legislation we are introducing today will provide grants to schools to educate students to become proficient in closed captioning and provide this important service to many people.

It is not right for so many of our citizens to be without access to such significant news or be excluded from mainstream activities due to a lack in captioning services. Let us fulfill the promise we made in the Telecommunication Act of 1996 and help the deaf and hard of hearing and many others by increasing the number of qualified closed captioners. This will ensure access to closed captioning television for everyone who requires such services.

RECOGNITION OF TIFFANY TRITCO

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

MR. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tiffany Tritco, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1444, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of

ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award Project, Tiffany organized an arts and crafts collection for a special needs camp.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tiffany Tritco for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

WAR WITH IRAQ

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I commend this speech by the leader of the liberal party in the House of Lords.

Baroness Williams of Crosby: My Lords, I too thank the Deputy Leader of the House for the very forceful, although not at all untypical, way in which she addressed the House. We on these Benches share completely the objective of the disarmament of Iraq. There is no question about that.

I want to remind the noble Baroness of the second part of Resolution 1441. It states that Iraq should have, "a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations under relevant resolutions of the Council", and that it has been accordingly decided, "to set up an enhanced inspection regime with the aim of bringing to full and verified completion the disarmament process".

The difference between these Benches, the noble Lord, Lord Howell, and the noble Baroness, Lady Symons, is straightforwardly that we believe that the present draft resolutions pre-empt that process, that it is not yet completed, and that there is still an opportunity to avoid war. Let me say very clearly, in case there is any misunderstanding, that we believe that we, as powerfully as any other part of this House, have an obligation to our troops to make absolutely certain that men and women are not put into war, risking their lives, unless it can be shown to be absolutely necessary to do so. It is to that that I intend to address my remarks. The first question is whether we are convinced that Iraq is an imminent and present threat. There is no question but that it could be a potential threat, although I must dispute briefly with the noble Lord, Lord Howell of Guildford. Not only the CIA in the United States but Ministers in this House have on more than one recent occasion admitted that there is no clear evidence to link Al'Qaeda to the Government of Iraq, much as we might find things easier if that were so. That must be stated very explicitly, because repeating a misconception over and again does not turn that misconception into a truth. Therefore, I doubt whether we can show that Iraq is an imminent threat.

If we are seeking imminent threat, I need only quote from a very senior colleague of mine who is the head of the security unit in the Belfer Center at Harvard University. Ash Carter is a former National Security Agency assistant secretary. He said: "News reports late last week indicated that . . . North Korea is trucking the fuel rods away where they can neither be inspected nor entombed

by an airstrike . . . as this loose nukes disaster unfolds and the options for dealing with it narrow, the world does nothing”.

That is a much more imminent threat.

Secondly, we are not convinced that containment has failed. I can quote from an authoritative source. These are the words of the Prime Minister himself in November 2000: “We believe that the sanctions regime has effectively contained Saddam Hussein in the last 10 years. During this time he has not attacked his neighbours, nor used chemical weapons against his own people”.—[Official Report, Commons, 1/11/00; col. 511 W.]

Nor has he done either in the past three years—since that statement.

Another authoritative source said: “Through a process of inspection and verified destruction, the UNSCOM inspectors have demolished more weapons capability than was destroyed by the allied forces during the Gulf war”.—[Official Report, Commons, 17/2/98; col. 900.]

Those are the words of Robin Cook, then the Foreign Secretary. Even much more recently, it has been restated more than once that containment has proved more effective in destroying weapons of mass destruction than any war at any time in the past few years. The third issue is whether we believe that the peaceful options have been exhausted. Again, I quote from two unimpeachable sources. The first is the Congressional Research Service of the United States Congress, which said: “In meetings with Blix and ElBaradei in Baghdad on February 8 and 9, 2003, Iraqi officials handed over documents on anthrax, VX, and missile programs . . . On February 10, Iraq notified the UN that it would permit overflights of American U-2, French Mirage, and Russian Antonov aircraft”.

Let us add to that the report in the Independent today, which said: “Mr. Blix said the details of the weapons”—

I have described when they were handed over to the inspectors—“were ‘positive steps which need to be explored further’. Asked if there was any indication by the Iraqis of ‘substantive progress or proactive co-operation’”, which are exactly the requirements mentioned by the noble Baroness, Lady Symons, Mr Blix, a man of few words, replied, “Yes”. That was only yesterday. We on these Benches are not persuaded that all peaceful options have been exhausted. We point, not to illusions or statements by Members on these Benches, but to clear and unimpeachable sources such as the Congressional Research Service and the chief inspector, Mr Blix himself. None of this would matter so much if the consequences of war were less serious than they are. I wish to say a few words about them. First, the Financial Times states: “The coalition of the willing, sounds ever more like a coalition of the reluctant”.

Huge pressures are being brought to bear, not least on moderate Muslim countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Egypt and others, to subscribe to being part of an alliance to destroy the Iraqi regime. Those countries have protested over and over again that they do not wish to be involved in the war.

Let me give two examples. There was a great deal of controversy over Turkey because it was argued that it had been refused Patriot missiles as a result of a disagreeable coalition between France and Germany. It later emerged that Turkey had never asked for Patriot missiles or for any of the other equipment that was sent to it. Turkey had asked for consultation under Article 4 of the NATO treaty. It had not invoked Article 5, which is the article concerning mutual defense. Even now, Turkey is driving a colossally hard bargain. Members of the House will have seen that one part of the bargain is

that Turkey should be allowed to bring 55,000 troops into northern Iraq—the Kurdish area, much of which is protected by a no-fly-zone—a situation which, at the very least, is likely to foment great anger and, at worst, could lead to civil war and the disintegration of Iraq. It has also—incidentally, almost—helped to destroy the real prospect of a united Cyprus entering the European Union some time in the next seven or eight years.

The International Crisis Group—I declare an interest as a board member—has discovered that there is tremendous public concern about the possibility of a war against Iraq in the Middle East. In its report, it states: “ICG interviews throughout the region, in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria, indicate that there exists wide and deep scepticism about US motives”. That may be unfair, but it is a fact that we have to take into account when deciding whether the price of war is too high. It also emphasizes the importance of pursuing every other possible alternative.

I need not add the special complication of the wretched situation in the Middle East, referred to in another place yesterday by that distinguished and brave Member of Parliament, Gerald Kaufman, as the daily almost casual slaughter of Palestinians by the IDF and the daily almost casual slaughter of Israelis by terrorists from the West Bank and Gaza. We cannot pretend that this is not a desperately serious complication. With great respect to the noble Baroness, Lady Symons, she and I both know that the reason why the UN resolutions are mandatory on Iraq, and not mandatory on Israel, which has also broken many of them, is because the United States refuses to agree to their being made mandatory on Israel.

I have the greatest respect for the Prime Minister. He has virtually ripped himself into pieces trying to hold the Administration in the United States to the UN process. He is the reason why George Bush went to the United Nations: I pay the Prime Minister great credit for that. But the distinction I have just drawn between Israel and Iraq shows all too clearly that it is not the Prime Minister who is in the driving seat. It is concern about who is in the driving seat that underlies much of the scepticism.

I do not need to mention at length the possible humanitarian consequences of a war. That has been done effectively by the noble Lord, Lord Howell of Guildford. But they are extreme. One has only to consider the desperate plight with regard to food. According to a leaked UN document, 30 per cent of children under five will be at risk of death from malnutrition if the war lasts more than a week or so. There are also warnings about cholera and many other extreme diseases. The warnings come from a United Nations leaked document, called the “Humanitarian Consequences of the War”.

Before I come to my conclusion, I shall say in the words of a famous politician whom many Labour Members of this House will remember, “You don’t need to look at the crystal if you can read the book”.

What is the book? The book concerns Afghanistan. I shall quote again from two sources, the first of which is The Times of 13 February, which states that “large parts of the country are once more on the verge of anarchy”.

An article by the senior fellow at the American Council on Foreign Relations—I declare an interest as a member of its international advisory council—states: “Basic security and stability have still not been achieved”. Worst of all, when the President drew up his budget for 2004, he forgot to put even a penny for the reconstruction of Afghanistan into it. Paul Krugman, of the New York Times, states: “The Bush team forgot

about it. Embarrassed Congressional staff members had to write in \$300 million to cover the lapse”.

So much for Afghanistan, already largely forgotten, coming back to anarchy, and neglected by the international community.

I conclude with two thoughts. First, there is clear evidence that the obsession with Iraq is drawing us away from what should be our first priority, which is to attack international terrorism. For that we need the widest possible support. I shall not go on quoting, but it was President Jimmy Carter who said a few days ago that the obsession with Iraq had essentially diverted the American Administration from concern about terrorism. There is more evidence that we are beginning to neglect the remnants—not dead remnants, but live ones—of Al’Qaeda in many other parts of the world. Finally, there is a fundamental thought, to which my colleague Lord Wallace of Saltaire will address himself. There is undoubtedly among European opinion, including the United Kingdom, more than 80 per cent opposition to a war without UN support and considerable opposition to a war even with UN support. That does not reflect anti-Americanism, except perhaps among a small minority. Many of us regard America as one of the most enterprising, imaginative, democratic and open societies in the world. What it reflects is concern with an Administration propelled to some extent by what I can only describe as a fundamentalist Christian and fundamentalist Jewish drive that is almost as powerful as fundamentalist Islam itself. The Administration has set aside the structures of the multilateral community by removing themselves from treaties and conventions, by refusing to sign the Kyoto agreement or agreeing to the biological weapons convention being resumed, and now by embarking on nuclear plans that threaten even the nuclear proliferation treaty. It is who is in the driving seat that frightens many of us; certainly not that great country the United States.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PAUL D. WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ACT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Representatives PATRICK KENNEDY, JIM RAMSTAD and many others, to introduce the Paul D. Wellstone Mental Health Parity Act (MHPA) in the House. This bill, well named in memory of a dearly missed Congressional colleague and mental health advocate, ends a major barrier to mental health care by providing full parity in the health insurance coverage of mental illness with physical illness. It is time to heed the call of the 54 million Americans who suffer with the effects of mental illness every day of their lives and change this pernicious form of discrimination.

While the MHPA has received substantial bipartisan support in Congress and is supported in concept by the current administration, there remains a chorus of naysayers; primarily business lobbyists and insurance industry representatives. This chorus chants that this bill removes substantial flexibility by mandating the type of health benefits to offer. Yet examination of the facts refutes their contention. The bill does not require employers to

offer mental health coverage or cover specific mental health services, it excludes parity for substance abuse and out-of-network services, and businesses with less than 50 employees are exempt. Flexibility is not impaired.

The chorus of naysayers chants that this legislation would significantly raise health benefit costs and make these benefits too expensive for employers to offer. Again, examination of the facts refutes their contention. A recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projection estimated that passage of this bill would increase group health plan premiums by an average of 0.9 percent. Similarly, a PricewaterhouseCoopers analysis of the bill projected a 1 percent increase in costs or an average of \$1.32 per month per plan enrollee. These projections are consistent with the actual findings in states that already provide for full mental health parity by law and the experience of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program that instituted parity for both mental health and substance abuse benefits in 2001. This approximate 1 percent increase is a small price to pay to increase mental health access and end discriminatory mental health insurance coverage practices. Furthermore, this increase in costs does not take into account the experience of several large employers (e.g. Delta Airlines) that found that increased access to mental health benefits led to decreases in other areas of health care costs and decreased employee absence.

In exasperation, the naysayers then chant that this bill covers an excessively broad range of psychiatric conditions which will open the door to the dubious complaints of the "worried well" and lead to over utilization and excessive cost. These contentions deny the reality that the bill requires parity only for those services that are "medically necessary" which is defined by the plan or issuer's criteria. In fact, symptoms that do not cause "clinically significant impairment or distress" will not be covered.

Thus, in retrospect, the concerns of this chorus are not supported by the data. Then, what can be the origin of this resistance to mental health parity?

A thousand years ago, people displaying symptoms of mental illness were stoned or burned at the stakes. The stigma attached to the mentally ill continues today in a more latent, but no less malicious form. It manifests itself by the employer who finds reasons not to hire or the apartment owner who is less likely to lease to the mentally ill. And, I believe it is manifesting itself in this excessive opposition to the efforts of the mentally ill to obtain treatment.

It is time to overcome the stigma associated with mental illness and put an end to this form of discrimination. It is time for the Administration to take an active role in supporting this bill that facilitates access to mental health services for those in need. It is time for Congress to enact the Paul D. Wellstone Mental Health Parity Act. I am pleased to join with my colleagues to again support this long overdue improvement in our health care system. I urge its speedy passage.

## THE RENEWABLE FUEL EQUITY ACT

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague from Colorado, MARK UDALL, I am reintroducing the Renewable Fuel Equity Act of 2003. The energy crises that struck California in 2001 and resonated across the country taught us many lessons—one of which is the need for our country to expand and diversify the production of energy from renewable resources.

Solar, wind, hydro power, biomass, and geothermal energy are each potentially enormous energy resources and every state has renewable resource potential. Unfortunately, existing renewable energy resources are not spread uniformly across the country. The current tax law creates regional and technological inequities by failing to provide uniform benefits for all renewable energy resources. For example, the Section 45 production tax credit, enacted in 1992, has spurred significant new investment, but it only applies to wind power facilities. Since its inception, the production tax credit has added thousands of megawatts of wind power to our electricity grid. Imagine the impact on our communities if the production tax credit was available to all renewable energy technology.

Clean power production provides greater reliability for our electricity system while promoting cleaner air and water. In addition, according to the Energy Information Agency, expanding renewable power production helps reduce the risk of future price increases for electricity.

Today, renewable power sources provide consumers reliable power that is cost-effective over the long run. Unfortunately, their high, initial capital costs discourages investment in renewables. Providing tax incentives for new renewable power production can make the difference.

The federal production tax credit has demonstrated its effectiveness in spurring investment in new wind power generation. The Renewable Fuel Equity Act would expand this proven incentive to all of the renewable energy resources—wind, biomass, incremental hydro power, solar and geothermal.

For smaller power systems, particularly those not connected to the grid, the production tax credit is not an effective stimulus. Under current law, it does not apply to off-grid systems, and it is too complex for small businesses to use. To address this situation, our bill would make a 20 percent investment tax credit available to all small renewable technologies as an alternative.

Investment in new renewable power is good for the economy and the environment, and providing these tax incentives will spur new investment without cutting Treasury revenues. Studies by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others indicate that expanding tax incentives for new renewable power systems are likely to have negligible net costs for the Treasury. This is because renewable power plants are so capital intensive they already pay significantly higher federal income taxes on the power produced.

As the 108th Congress begins the debate over a national energy policy, I believe pro-

duction and investment tax credits for renewable fuel sources are an important component of any comprehensive policy. Exploiting our renewable fuels is one of our safest, cleanest and most effective ways of ensuring our nations energy independence. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting renewable fuel development by cosponsoring this important bill.

## RECOGNIZING LACEY McELROY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lacey McElroy, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1619, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1) Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3) earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4) designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Lacey organized an infant and child book drive for early reading programs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lacey McElroy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the gold award.

## TRIBUTE TO OPRAH WINFREY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Oprah Winfrey. Ms. Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi in 1954. Due to her father being in the service, Ms. Winfrey was raised by her grandmother.

Ms. Winfrey began her public career while in college, where she became a co-anchor. In the years of 1977–1984 Ms. Winfrey was the co-host of “Baltimore is Talking”. In 1984, she took over ABC’s “AM Chicago” where her ratings surpassed the top performer Phil Donahue. Ms. Winfrey then became the performer of her own show where she has become a role model for many. The Oprah Winfrey Show is different from all others because it continues to reinvent itself and continues to make a difference in people’s lives. In 1986 the show became syndicated.

Ms. Winfrey later founded Harpo which is her own production company. Her acclaimed performance in the *Color Purple* in 1985 earned Ms. Winfrey an Academy Award nomination. Ms. Winfrey continues to make endeavors that she believes in.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003”

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Black History Month, I rise today to introduce the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, a bill directing the National Park Service (NPS) to take ownership, restore and manage the historic Shaw home of Carter G. Woodson, “the father of Black History.” The bill would authorize the NPS to “preserve, protect and interpret for the benefit, education and inspiration of present and future generations,” the home where Woodson lived from 1915 to 1950. This legislation also authorizes the NPS to rehabilitate adjacent properties on either side of the home to facilitate tourism. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which Woodson founded, also would be housed on the site, as it was originally. My good friend Senator MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA) will be the sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

Congress passed my bill, H.R. 3201, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act, in 2000, to begin the process of making the property at 1538 Ninth Street, NW a national historic site within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. A NPS study, as mandated by the legislation, is required before the NPS can take control of property. The study determined that the Woodson Home is suitable and feasible for designation as a unit of the park system following the transfer of title from its current owner, the ASALH. The bill I introduce today is necessary in order for the NPS to receive the appropriation for extensive renovation of the site.

I am particularly pleased by the proposed rehabilitation of the entire block that is linked to the legislation I introduce today to rehabilitate the Woodson home. The NPS would work with Shiloh Community Development Corporation, established by Shiloh Baptist Church, which owns almost all of the property on the block of the Woodson home. The Shiloh Corporation would convert the block of homes to senior independent living housing, maintaining the historic facade of the row houses.

As Black History Month comes to a close, we open a new chapter in the story of an educator who is most responsible for the annual recognition of the contributions of black Americans in the nation’s history and culture. I have introduced this legislation to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished black American and founder of the Association of Negro Life and History, by authorizing the NPS to maintain in perpetuity his home at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., here in the District of Columbia, as a National Historic Site under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The significance of this home was recognized in 1976, when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. I introduce this bill today to assure that the nation’s pride and purpose in celebrating Black History Month are not marred by neglect of the home of the founder of the commemoration and of the study of black history itself.

Dr. Woodson was a distinguished American historian who established African-American history as a discipline and spent a lifetime uncovering the contributions of African-Americans to our nation’s history. He founded and performed his work through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which has since been renamed the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). Among its enduring accomplishments, ASNLH, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, instituted Negro History Week in 1926, to be observed in February during the week of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today, of course, Negro History Week, which was mostly celebrated in segregated schools, like my own here in the District when I was a child, and in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has gained support and participation throughout the country among people of all backgrounds as Black History Month.

Dr. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second African-American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. Woodson’s personal educational achievement was extraordinary in itself, especially for a man who had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where Woodson was born in 1875. As a result, Dr. Woodson did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old, after he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where he received his high school diploma two years later. He then entered Berea College in Kentucky, where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1897. Woodson continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees, and then he got his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

During much of Dr. Woodson’s life, there was widespread ignorance and very little information concerning African-American life and history. With his extensive studies, Woodson almost single-handedly established African-American historiography. Dr. Woodson’s research, literally uncovering black history, helped to educate the American public about the contributions of African-Americans to the nation’s history and culture. Through painstaking scholarship and historical research, his work helped reduce the stereotypes captured in pervasively negative portrayals of black people that have marred our history as a nation. To remedy these stereotypes, Dr. Wood-

son in 1915 founded ASNLH. Through ASNLH, Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to educating the American public about the contributions of black Americans to the nation’s history and culture. This work in bringing history to bear where prejudice and racism had held sway has played an indispensable role in reducing prejudice and making the need for civil rights remedies clear.

To assure publication, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, ASNLH in 1920 also founded the Associated Publishers, Inc. for the publication of research on African-American history. Dr. Woodson published his seminal work, *The Negro in Our History* (1922), and many others under Associated Publishers, and the publishing company provided an outlet for scholarly works by numerous other black scholars. ASNLH also circulated two periodicals: the *Negro History Bulletin*, designed for mass consumption, and the *Journal of Negro History*, which was primarily directed to the academic community.

Dr. Woodson directed ASNLH’s operations out of his home at 1538 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC in the historic Shaw neighborhood. From there, he trained researchers and staff and managed the organization’s budget and fundraising efforts, while at the same time pursuing his own extraordinary discoveries in African-American history. The three-story Victorian style house, built in 1890, served as the headquarters of ASNLH into the early 70’s, well after Dr. Woodson’s death in 1950. In 1976, the house was designated as a National Historic Landmark. However, it has been unoccupied since the early 80’s, and today, it stands boarded up and sorely in need of renovation. The walls inside the house are crumbling, there is termite infestation, water seeps through the roof during heavy rainstorms, and the house also constitutes a fire hazard jeopardizing adjacent buildings. This house that is a priceless American treasure must not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, passage of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, represents a concrete way for the House to commemorate Black History Month, by preserving the home and legacy of its founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month. As the month draws to a close, I urge my colleagues to join me as we commemorate and honor the achievements of African-Americans throughout our nation’s history.

Black history month, a tradition for seven decades, is celebrated each February in cities and towns across the United States. During this time, we honor and celebrate the contributions African-Americans have made to music, the arts, and academics and we recall the many important milestones in black history. In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson recognized the need for our country to gain a more complete and informed understanding of African

American history. Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February because two people he felt had dramatically affected the lives of Black Americans were born during that month: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In addition, the month of February is significant for the birthdays of W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake and the founding of the NAACP.

I am pleased to join in this celebration and I hope that every person will take a moment to reflect on the life and legacies of individuals like Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Thurgood Marshall. Their fight, and the work of so many others, helped bring social justice to communities throughout the country. As we celebrate this year's theme, "The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections," we also honor the achievements and legacy of African-Americans and are reminded that we must continue to remember the contributions and sacrifices throughout history.

I encourage all Americans to gain awareness of and appreciation for African-American history.

#### NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the citizens of this great nation that March is National Eye Donor Month.

I rise also because cornea transplantation is an issue with which I have had some personal experience. One of my sons is one of the 46,000 patients who receive cornea transplants each year. Through the altruistic act of donation, my son's quality of life was substantially improved. These transplant surgeries can relieve patients of glared or blurred vision, painful swelling, and can effectively avoid corneal blindness, something that afflicts over forty thousand Americans every year.

As you may know Mr. Speaker, the first corneal transplant was performed in 1905, and the first eye bank opened in New York in 1944. Since then, eye banks have flourished nationwide and over half a million patients have received the gift of sight. These nonprofit organizations have also been instrumental in the advancement of medical science. Their facilitation and safeguarding of these precious gifts have allowed researchers to promulgate transplant procedures that have resulted in extraordinarily high success rates.

The achievements of eye banks are self-evident. Currently, eye banks meet our nation's need for corneal and sclera tissue. In 2002, 50,857 corneal grafts, given by over 46,000 donors, were supplied by U.S. eye banks. Today, every American who needs a corneal transplant can expect to receive one due to the generous donation of another. It is also important to note that the number of eye and tissue donors is enormous when compared to donors of solid organs. Approximately 10 individuals donate eyes and tissue for every person that donates organs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that over one million Americans age 40 and over are currently blind, and that an additional 2.4 million are visually impaired.

It is speculated that over the next 30 years, with the retirement of the Baby Boom Generation, this problem will double. I would therefore ask and encourage my colleagues, as well as all Americans, to sign a donor card and to speak with their loved ones about their donation wishes. Under the auspices of the Eye Bank Association of America, the restoration of sight is a miracle that has become reality in our lifetime. I urge this Congress to celebrate their accomplishments, and to become more involved in matters relating to transplantation.

#### RECOGNITION OF AMANDA TOOMEY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Amanda Toomey, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 3083, and in earning the most prestigious honor of The Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn The Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1). earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2). earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3). earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4). designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5). spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Amanda led a Daisy Troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Amanda Toomey for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of The Gold Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAVID JORDAN

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to Senator David Jordan. Senator Jordan earned a BS degree

from Mississippi Valley State University. He went on to earn a MS degree in Chemistry from the University of Wyoming. Senator Jordan then went on to become a teacher.

Senator Jordan has also been very active in fighting for civil rights and politics. He has participated in many boycotts, marches, and class-action suits. Senator Jordan require more time and services in teaching people how to use voting machines. Senator Jordan also fought on behalf of the Second Congressional District during recent redistricting.

Senator Jordan has also served as President of the Greenwood Voter's League and President of the Greenwood City council. He was first elected to the state Senate in 1983. Senator Jordan has had a great deal of success during his time in office.

#### IMPROVE VETERANS' ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation, the Veterans Medication Accessibility Act, which would permit veterans to obtain prescription medications from Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals using prescriptions written by their family doctor. This legislation is identical to H.R. 1717, a bill I introduced in the last Congress.

Our nation's veterans are eligible to receive health care at VA facilities for illnesses and injuries that are not only service-related but also those incurred after their service. Because the VA acknowledges that some veterans have more severe ailments, a veteran is placed in one of seven priority categories when seeking care. Those with serious service-connected disabilities are placed in a high priority category while those in generally good health and with income exceeding a certain amount are placed in a lower priority group for scheduling of care.

Currently, those veterans that do not have service-connected injuries and whose income is above the level that makes them eligible for free care may fill their prescriptions at VA facilities for the low cost of \$7 per prescription per 30-day supply. However, in order to obtain these medicates from the VA, these veterans must first receive an outpatient visit with a VA physician.

While I have heard from many veterans who are eager to take advantage of reduced-cost medications, many are not disabled, poor, and do not suffer from a service-connected ailment, which means they must often wait from several months to over a year for their requisite outpatient visit. This places an unnecessary financial burden on our veterans who must pay retail prices to fill their prescriptions while they wait to see a VA primary care physician. This policy can also impose a health burden, as this long wait may discourage veterans from seeking VA medication treatment altogether.

My legislation would allow veterans immediate access to needed medications by allowing them to fill prescriptions written by their family doctor at the VA.

This change would provide our veterans with timely access to low-cost prescription

drugs while also reducing the number of outpatient visits that VA physicians must perform each year. VA facilities would then be able to devote more time and care to those veterans who require inpatient services.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to give our nation's veterans prompt access to the prescription medications that they need and have earned.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCEMENT ACT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago this month, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), legislation that allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. Because of this landmark legislation, more than 35 million Americans have been able to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

Today, I am introducing the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act. Building upon the success of the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), this legislation would allow more people to benefit from FMLA by allowing employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take Family and Medical Leave and would extend employee leave for workers to meet their family's needs. The legislation includes 24 hours of leave (during any 12-month period) for parents and grandparents to go to parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments.

Currently, the FMLA allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for newborns, seek emergency medical care for themselves, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse. My legislation would add commonsense enhancements to FMLA.

In 1997, this legislative measure was supported by President Bill Clinton. In February 1997, President Clinton said, "I call upon Congress to expand the family leave law to give parents an additional 24 hours of unpaid leave each year to take a child or an elderly relative to a regular doctor's appointment or to attend parent-teacher conferences at school. In so doing, we'll make our families stronger and our workers more productive, building the kind of country and economy we all want for our children."

On behalf of America's families, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ LANDS LEGACY STUDY ACT

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce the César Estrada Chávez Land Legacy Study

Act. This bill will look for ways to honor César Estrada Chávez, founder of the United Farm Workers and passionate champion of human and civil rights.

Specifically, the bill directs the National Park Service to look for ways to recognize Chávez's contributions to our society through historical sites and park areas. It is the first step in honoring his tremendous accomplishments and the local communities where his footprints were made.

César Chávez was a humble man. Little did anyone know the greatness that he would bestow on future generations.

In his early childhood, César Chávez was raised as a farm worker in Yuma, Arizona. Raised during the Great Depression, his family lost everything and was forced to join the thousands of farm workers that wandered the Southwest to find work. During his youth, the Chávez family migrated throughout the Southwest, working in various farms that fed our country.

The young César Chávez experienced first hand the hardships and injustices of the thousand of farm workers at that time. His home was barely livable and his school hardly fit to be called schoolhouse.

Unfair labor practices—harassment, abuse, long hours, low pay, hazardous working conditions and limited education opportunities kept farm workers from being self-sufficient and empowered citizens.

Witnessing and experiencing this lifestyle, César Chávez sought to make changes in the way farm workers were treated.

He united many others who also suffered similar atrocities with those who empathized with the struggle to become part of the union movement. In 1952, he left the fields and joined the Community Service Organization. There he conducted voter registration drives and campaigns against racial and economic discrimination.

In 1962, he took his vast experience, his compassion, and his brothers and sisters in this multi-ethnic struggle and started the National Farmworkers Association—today's United Farmworkers of America.

The UFW succeeded in organizing the oppressed. They overcame this oppression through boycotts and pickets, and when all else failed, hunger strikes.

Chávez was a student of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent philosophies. He knew that you cannot unite people through violent means, but you can connect them by joining hands in peaceful demonstration.

Since its inception, the UFW has achieved incredible results through its organization. Fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, housing, pesticide regulations, and countless other rights and protections are more a reality because of the UFW and in turn because of its founder—César E. Chávez.

In the past, we have honored other heroes, like Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, through national parks and land. The life of César Chávez and his family provides an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate and interpret the history of agricultural labor in the west through the National Parks Service.

#### RECOGNITION OF SABRINA WELLS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sabrina Wells, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 300, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Sabrina organized a golf clinic for middle and high school girls.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sabrina Wells for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY HALL NICHOLS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Shirley Hall Nichols. Mrs. Nichols is a native of Leake County in Mississippi. After earning a bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University in 1979, she began working as a paraprofessional at Carthage Elementary School. Later that year she began teaching secondary math at Velma Jackson High School.

In 1997, Mrs. Nichols was given the opportunity to earn a masters degree from Mississippi State University. Mrs. Nichols earned her masters in School Administration in 1999, where she went on to serve as principal of Amanda Elzy Elementary School and later East Elementary/Middle School.

Mrs. Nichols became the first Afro-American to hold the position of Asst. Superintendent of Education in Leake County. She is still active in many educational and community organizations. Mrs. Nichols is currently working towards a doctorate degree at Mississippi State University in school administration.

## REGARDING TITLE IX

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for Title IX. Today Secretary Paige has released a report that I believe drastically weakens the purpose of Title IX.

Mr. Speaker, changes to the Title IX standards as applied to athletics are not warranted or necessary. Modifications to the standards that would limit future opportunities for women in favor of expanded opportunities for men would violate the goal of gender equity. Using the results of an interest survey, as the commission report recommends, would limit women's participation opportunities, and be factually inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker, what we should be doing to ensure equal opportunity is enforcing Title IX and implementing its policies at every level of education. The responsibility of the federal government is to ensure equal opportunity, not to ensure that particular sports teams are added, discontinued, or maintained.

Currently, there are 2.8 million girls participating in high school sports, but there is only room for 150,000 women in college sports. This disparity is obscene. We need to do a better job at providing equal opportunities for all athletes.

Mr. Speaker, enforcing Title IX is just the right thing to do and the reality is that if our colleges and universities want to benefit from federal dollars, then they must provide gender equality at their institutions. Gender equity does not end at the admissions door either, gender equity in athletics is a must.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Congress refuses to fall into this trap of pitting sports teams against each other. We must realize it is about civil rights first and foremost.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY  
OF BUTLER, PA**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 200th anniversary of the city of Butler in western Pennsylvania. This charming city has a long and rich history and I am confident that it will enjoy a future filled with continuous growth and prosperity.

Butler, like the rest of our great country, was originally inhabited by the Native-American tribes; the land was used as a hunting ground by Indians from the Iroquois Nation during European settlement. The Venango Trail, which runs through Butler, was commonly traveled by settlers in colonial times and was famously traveled by George Washington in the mid 1700's.

Named for Richard Butler, one of Washington's generals in the Revolutionary War, the

town of Butler was officially established in 1803. Over the next two hundred years, the city of Butler flourished and became known for its steel industry. In early March, Butler will celebrate its 200th anniversary. May it celebrate for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the city of Butler, Pennsylvania on their 200th anniversary celebration.

## NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in celebrating National Peace Corps Day.

Since its founding in 1961, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our Nation's commitment to encourage progress, provide opportunities, and promote world peace and friendship at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

To date, more than 168,000 Americans responded to our Nation's call to service by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 136 countries. Volunteers serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns around the globe. Living and working within local communities, volunteers serve as teachers, farmers, foresters and small business advisors, dedicated to improving the lives of those around them. In doing so, they make significant and lasting contributions to communities and individuals around the world.

Volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, return to the United States with a commitment to service, as well as the skills and interest in world affairs needed to be leaders in the global community. I believe I would not be a Member of Congress today were it not for my experience in the Peace Corps and I believe I am a better person because of this service.

I would also like to recognize the Peace Corp Volunteers currently serving from Connecticut's Fourth District: Allison R. Ball in Micronesia; Megan Banigan in Guatemala; Dario Borghesan in Togo; Emily J. Bristle in Mali; Camilla A. Brooks in the Philippines; Nkechi N. Eneh in Mauritania; Sondra E. Ganelli in Samoa; Emily R. Hamilton in Paraguay; Timothy Mills in Senegal; Peter T. Nasuti in Uzbekistan; Lindsay B. Nemirow in the Dominican Republic; Matthew G. O'Driscoll in Nicaragua; Brooke J. Oppenheimer in Gambia; David M. Ottaviano in Panama; Aimee E. Petras in Morocco; and Deva N. Rama in Guatemala.

National Peace Corps Day honors its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DETENTION  
OF ENEMY COMBATANTS  
ACT**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, with my colleague Mr. FRANK of Mas-

sachusetts, the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act to provide authorization for the detention of "enemy combatants" in the war on terrorism while guaranteeing that they are granted timely access to legal counsel and judicial review.

In the war on terrorism, the term enemy combatant has been broadly defined. In some cases, American citizens have been deemed "enemy combatants" and incarcerated indefinitely without access to counsel or the courts. This has resulted in an unprecedented accretion of power over American citizens.

After the shameful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must be vigilant to protect against the government's decision to detain, perhaps indefinitely, any American without adequate review of the basis of its decision.

Inspired in part by the internment of Japanese Americans and by the anti-spying excesses of the Cold War, Congress in 1971 passed an Act providing that "no citizens shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except pursuant to an Act of Congress." Congress has yet to authorize the detention of citizens in the war on terrorism, yet American citizens have in fact been detained as enemy combatants.

For this reason, my colleague Mr. FRANK and I are introducing the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act, authorizing the government to detain an enemy combatant who is a United States person or resident who is a member of al Qaeda, or knowingly cooperated with a member of al Qaeda in the planning, authorizing, committing, aiding, or abetting of one or more terrorist acts against the United States. Furthermore, our bill requires that detainees be guaranteed timely access to legal counsel and meaningful judicial review to challenge the basis for a detention.

While we must grant broad latitude to our armed forces when it comes to protecting national security, American citizens should not be held indefinitely upon the sole determination of one branch of government without access to counsel or judicial review of those determinations. We must ensure that we do not sacrifice the Constitutional rights we pledged to uphold, and without which, none of us are safe from unwarranted intrusions on our liberty.

Mr. Speaker, in sum, the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act will provide for clear standards and procedures under which American citizens or lawful residents believed to be members of al Qaeda or its supporters may be detained as enemy combatants while also provided due process.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL J.  
QUIRK**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens, Michael J. Quirk. At a time when the President is encouraging all Americans to serve their country in a volunteer capacity, there is no greater example than that of Mr. Quirk. For over 30 years he fought for this nation in the United States military and for

the past 22 years, he has continued his dedication to his nation by serving as a volunteer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. On March 8th, 2003, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will honor over a half of a decade of service as Mr. Quirk begins his retirement.

During World War II, Mr. Quirk was a member of the famed 56th Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps and achieved the status of Double-Ace. Shot down on his 100th mission, he was subsequently held as a prisoner-of-war at Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany until April, 1945. For his commitment and bravery in the Second World War, he received the Silver Star and was additionally awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered when his plane was shot down.

Mr. Quirk returned to the U.S. in 1945 where he entered Catholic University and pursued his degree. In 1947 though, the call to serve his nation yearned in his heart and he returned to military, joining the U.S. Air Force where he would remain for the next 30 years. Over the course of his career in the U.S. Air Force, he flew with the 4th Fighter Group flying F-80 Shooting Stars, at Langley Air Force Base flying F-86 Sabre jets, in La Paz, Bolivia training Bolivian pilots to fly the P-47, and served at the Central Air Defense Force from 1951-52. In addition, he was the Commander of the 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and flew with the 453rd Tactical Fighter Training Wing. After over 30 years of military service, Mr. Quirk retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1977.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Quirk and his wife Kit joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as members of the voluntary division of the U.S. Coast Guard. Rising through the ranks, he was named Commodore of the 8th Coastal Region in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Michael J. Quirk on his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. His contributions to the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider him a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens; a committed soldier and dedicated volunteer.

H.J. RES. 4

### HON. TIMOTHY J. RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with certain provisions in H.J. Res. 4, specifically the provisions that expand logging in federal forests and prevent any administrative or judicial review of the Tongass Land Management Plan. These changes are detrimental to our environment and our country.

When faced with a decision that may potentially damage our environment, I try to follow the lead of President Theodore Roosevelt, who founded the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903. I share his philosophy that our environment is essential to our lives and is of the greatest importance. As President Roosevelt said, ". . . the conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others." And here we are now, 100

years later; I would like to think that we will continue to be a part of the vision that began a century ago.

I am also concerned with the provision that allows FY 2003 Bureau of Land Management funding for exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is one of our country's largest refuges and is among the most pristine and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth. The Refuge belongs to the people of the United States, not to a select few. President Roosevelt's National Wildlife Refuge System created ANWR, "For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values . . ." Let us render to our future generations a world more enriched than we have found it.

DAVID P. HANLON

### HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, beloved principal of McDowell Intermediate High School in Erie, Pennsylvania, who passed away tragically at the age of 46 on January 10, 2003.

Dave Hanlon will be remembered by the Millcreek community as a dedicated and loving husband, father, teacher, coach, and friend.

As Millcreek Township's athletic director and later MIHS Principal, Hanlon was known for his reassuring presence and ability to inspire students.

He would spend little time in his office during the day, preferring instead to walk the halls of McDowell reaching out to students and teachers. But he spent many late nights at his desk implementing his ambitious plans for the school's future. Dave Hanlon was a fixture at McDowell arts and sporting events, and led many school trips including a government class trip that visited the Capitol two years ago.

Because of his contagious enthusiasm for McDowell, it was often said that he bled blue and white, the McDowell Trojans' school colors.

Mike Gallagher, a close friend, once observed that Hanlon's ability to connect with students "changed the way kids view adults in their lives."

The Reverend John Detisch eulogized that "David was a teacher. And what he taught came not so much from the classroom; what he taught came from the heart."

McDowell sophomore Hubbell McGeorge wrote the following about Dave Hanlon's immeasurable impact on students lives:

"The first day back to school after such a tragedy is very hard. It feels like a piece of all of us is missing and can't be fixed. There is, and will be, a hole in the school, the district, and the community for years to come."

Dave Hanlon's dedication to his students was surpassed only by his devotion to his wife Paige and three children, Collin, Peyton, and Braden. On the last day of his life, Dave Hanlon confided to a student about the "perfect life" he had found with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, a devoted family man and model edu-

cator who will be deeply missed by an entire community.

## INTRODUCTION OF FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, along with my cousin and colleague, Representative Tom Udall of New Mexico, I am today introducing the Forest Restoration and Fire Reduction Act.

This bill is designed to accelerate efforts to reduce the risks from wildfires to communities—including their water supplies—and to promote locally-based efforts to restore the conditions of our forest lands. It is the result of over four years of involvement with questions of forest management and particularly the dangers of unusually severe wildfires.

Since my election to Congress, I have visited forest lands in Colorado and elsewhere to see first hand the result of over 100 years of national policies emphasizing fire suppression—the accumulation of small diameter trees and thick underbrush. I have also examined areas where work has been done to reduce the likelihood of such fires and to move toward forest conditions that will make it possible for fire to play its historic role as a natural and valuable part of forest ecosystems. And I have studied areas like the lands affected by last year's Hayman Fire—which burned over 130,000 acres near Denver—to learn about the harm to lands, communities, and water supplies that can come from unnaturally hot fires resulting from drought and high winds combined with the build-up of vegetative fuels.

I have also been listening to many Coloradans, other Westerners, scientists, and others with expertise in forest management to learn their views on the conditions of our forests and what if anything they think should be done to improve those conditions.

From what I have learned, I have long been convinced that in some forest regimes, such as the ponderosa forests along Colorado's Front Range, reducing fuel loads through thinning—by controlled burns or mechanical means—can lessen the likelihood of unusually severe fires.

I am also convinced that our limited resources—both of time, people, and money—should be expended on doing that kind of work in the areas where the likelihood of unusually severe wildfires presents the most urgent risk to homes, people and water supplies. Those areas are the lands where homes and municipal water facilities adjoin or intermingle with forest lands. These areas are often called the "wildland/urban interface, but Coloradans usually call them the "red zones." They extend across ownership boundaries, including not only federal lands but lands owned by others as well. In Colorado, the "red zones" encompass over 6 million acres—and there are additional millions of acres of such high priority lands throughout the country.

I have long worked to accelerate thinning projects in Colorado's "red zones." In July of 2000, I introduced a bill—cosponsored by my

colleague from Colorado Springs, Representative JOEL HEFLEY—to help get that work underway. It was not enacted, but many of its provisions were incorporated into the National Fire Plan put into place by Congress and the Clinton Administration after that fiery summer. Since then, I have strongly supported the National Fire Plan, but I have been concerned about the way it has been implemented—and particularly about the fact that there has been a continuing failure to put proper emphasis on urgently-needed work in the interface areas—the “red zones.” I joined others in asking the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the implementation of the National Fire Plan, to see what improvements were needed. Based on GAO’s report, I again joined with Representative HEFLEY to introduce legislation to make needed changes.

Since then, the Bush Administration has made some of the changes that were needed, but it still is expending too much time and money on thinning projects in low-priority areas. At the outset, only about 25 percent of the lands where thinning was done were in the “red zones.” Since then, there has been some improvement, but only a little. And unless there is a dramatic change, the prospect is not good—the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2004 actually calls for treating fewer “red zone” acres than was done in fiscal 2002!

The bill my cousin and I are introducing today would make the kind of dramatic change in this part of the National Fire Plan that is so badly needed. It would require that in the future all thinning projects funded as part of the National Fire Plan involve lands in the “red zones,” and it would enable funds for those projects to be used not only on Federal lands but on any other lands in those interface areas where such treatments are needed.

Some who share my desire to accelerate needed thinning projects say that the environmental laws and procedures for public involvement are obstacles that must be removed. I disagree. And some claim many projects have been delayed or halted because of opposition, appeals, and litigation instigated by some environmental groups. However, the facts show otherwise. Some groups or individuals indeed have appealed some thinning projects, but that has been more the exception than the rule—and even when there have been appeals, often they have not challenged entire project, but just portions involving cutting trees or building roads in roadless areas or other sensitive areas—areas that for the most part are not located in the high risk red zones.

I do not think it is necessary—let alone desirable—to exempt fire-risk reduction projects from environmental review, public comments and administrative appeals. While some say this would reduce delays, it could have just the opposite result, by inviting more litigation—the slowest process of all. It would run counter to the sound policy of enabling the public to be involved on decisions about their public lands and would not assist in developing sound forest management.

Instead, the bill we are introducing today builds on the consensus that has developed about the need to thin in the “red zones,” while making some procedural adjustments that can expedite the process of resolving appeals.

It would develop support at the front end for projects that are urgently needed, narrowly tai-

lored and scientifically sound. It would do this through the creation of a cooperative program for hazardous fuels reduction projects with both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The centerpiece of this program is the creation of statewide advisory councils to work with these agencies in each state on the selection of specific projects. These councils would include broad representation of interests and would include scientific participation. The councils would develop projects in a collaborative fashion so as to avoid opposition, delays and appeals at the back-end when projects are being implemented.

To be eligible under this program, the projects considered by the councils would have to meet certain criteria: they would have to be exclusively located in “red zone” areas and be outside of wilderness areas, roadless areas and other sensitive areas (lands that are typically not in the red zones and that in any event do not present as urgent a risk of unusually severe wildfires). The projects would have to be designed so as to minimize the cutting of large or old growth trees, which have proven to be resilient to fire events and are important to the ecology and diversity of our forested lands.

The bill also would promote appropriate economic reuse of the brush, small trees, and similar material removed from the forests in connection with fuel-reduction projects. It would authorize federal assistance to homeowners seeking to reduce the risk to their “red zone” homes through the use of “defensible space” techniques or similar steps. And it includes provisions to establish collaborative, community-based restoration projects that would work on important tasks such as controlling erosion, implementing recovery plans for threatened or endangered species, restoration of native species of fish and wildlife, road and trail upkeep or obliteration.

I believe that this bill would help us address the urgent fire risk situation on our forests. It keeps faith with the need to involve the public in the management of our precious public lands while also bringing important scientific principles to the table. It focuses scarce resources on the highest priority areas while maintaining opportunities to consider environmental and other potential impacts. In short, I believe that the program developed in this bill, along with the assistance it provides and the oversight it allows, appropriately address some of the most important aspects of current forest management—and I think the bill deserve wide support.

For the information of our colleague, I am attaching a short outline of the bill’s main provisions.

#### OUTLINE OF MAJOR PROVISIONS OF DRAFT FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

**FINDINGS.**—Includes findings concerning results of past fire-suppression policies, need for actions to reduce the risks to communities and municipal water supplies and to restore ecological health of forests through cooperative efforts.

**PURPOSES.**—Identifies 5 purposes of the bill:

- (1) Reduction of wildfire risks to communities and water supplies;
- (2) Refocusing of National Fire Plan fuel-reduction spending to highest-priority areas;
- (3) Improving communication and joint problem-solving;

(4) Encouraging sustainable communities and forests through collaborative partnerships focused on forest restoration and fire-risk reduction;

(5) Developing, demonstrating, and evaluating forest restoration techniques and projects.

**FOCUS ON “RED ZONES”.**—Requires all future National Fire plan funds for fuel-reduction projects go for work in wildland-urban interface or to protect municipal water supplies.

**PROGRAM FOR HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS.**—Establishes cooperative community program to enable stakeholders to participate with Forest Service and BLM in planning and carrying out projects to reduce build up of hazardous fuels on forested lands in order to lessen risks to communities and municipal water supplies; establishes eligibility criteria for projects and limits federal share of costs to 80 percent; specifies that no projects can be done in wilderness or wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless areas, or other parts of the Federal lands where removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted, and requires that limits be set on number and size of trees that can be removed in a project area; sets eligibility requirements and deadlines for any appeals of Forest Service fuel-reduction projects covered by the bill, while allowing waiver of deadlines to promote negotiations.

**SELECTION PROCESS FOR FUEL-REDUCTION PROJECTS.**—Requires consultation with State Foresters and technical advisory panels to determine priorities for fuel-reduction projects. Specifies panel membership.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**—Requires project monitoring and evaluation.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.**—Provides for public participation and set procedures related to development and review of fuel-reduction projects

**FOREST RESTORATION AND HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.**—Establishes cooperative program for projects to—Help owners reduce risks of damage from wildfire to homes in wildland-urban interface; protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and promote recovery of threatened and endangered species; control and remove noxious and invasive species; control erosion and maintain or close roads and trails; provide job training and promote creation of new small businesses focused on forest restoration and use of by-products from other projects

**FOREST RESTORATION AND VALUE-ADDED CENTERS.**—Provides for establishment of at least one center in each Forest Service region, to provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations, small businesses, and others interested in undertaking forest restoration activities, including environmental assessments and monitoring. Provides for advisory committees to help determine location of centers. Directs Forest Service to provide 75 percent of initial operating costs of centers, up to \$1 million annually. Provides for demonstration project of one similar center related to BLM lands and report on whether this should be expanded.

**COMPETITIVE SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCES.**—Allows Forest Service and BLM to give preference in hiring to people aged 21 or above who have completed at least one year’s satisfactory service in a certified youth service or conservation corps.

**RESEARCH AND TRAINING.**—Provides for Forest Service applied research program to identify ways to minimize adverse effects of restoration methods and treatments and to test and develop value-added products from restoration byproducts.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of Roosevelt County, New Mexico, which was formed on February 28, 1903. The citizens of Roosevelt County this year are celebrating the many virtues of their wonderful community. Roosevelt County is a good place to call home. It has outstanding schools, safe streets, family oriented neighborhoods, civic volunteerism and community values that make it an exceptional place to live and raise a family. We have much to celebrate on this centennial.

Roosevelt County was named for the twenty-sixth President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, who enlisted New Mexican Rough Riders when he climbed San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. The city of Portales is the county seat. Other communities in the county include: Elida, Floyd, Dora, Causey, Arch, Kenna, Lingo, Milnesand, Pep, and Rogers. Roosevelt County is located on the high plains of eastern New Mexico in the heart of cattle country, with ranching, farming, the dairy industry, and the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway comprising important components of the community's economic base. Located 11 miles to the northeast of Portales is Cannon Air Force Base, which adds a very important dimension to the character of the area.

Roosevelt County was cultivated by ranching, farming, the railroad and related businesses over a hundred years ago. In 1902 a few homesteaders settled in; a year later, the homesteaders were arriving more increasingly in the area around Portales. Settlers were drawn to Roosevelt County due to the access of the railroad and the availability of shallow water. A homesteader could take a pick and shovel and dig a well of about 15 feet deep and would have plenty of water for domestic use. Most other settlers outside the Portales Valley had to haul drinking water from a few wells made by ranchers, until they could afford to drill their own. It is hard to imagine the availability of that much water now, which Roosevelt County considers its most precious natural resource.

The name "Portales" fits this charming university town even more today than when it was coined in the 1800s. Named for a nearby campsite where spring waters gushed from a series of cave-like porches across pueblo-style houses, Portales, or "Porches" in Spanish, is an entryway into New Mexico on the eastern border. Portales Springs is the most famous watering hole on the Old Fort Sumner Trail and often welcomed Billy the Kid and his partners during the infamous Lincoln County War.

Agriculture is the major industry of Roosevelt County. The leading crops are Valencia peanuts, alfalfa, cotton, wheat, corn, milo, hay, and potatoes. Valencia peanuts, noted for their sweet taste, are exported all across the United States as well as to several countries around the world. Roosevelt County is home to the only peanut butter manufacturing facility in New Mexico. Additionally, its peanut butter is currently ranked the fifth highest quality

peanut butter on the market today by Consumer Reports.

Livestock feeding and dairy farming are also important to the local economy. Other industries include soft drink canners, an ethanol production facility, grain storage and shipping, trucking and milk processing. The dairy industry is the second largest agricultural industry in New Mexico, and our state is the nation's seventh largest producer of milk.

Portales is the proud home to Eastern New Mexico University, the third largest university in the Land of Enchantment, offering over 50 undergraduate and 15 graduate majors. The university offers a broad curriculum of vocational, technical and academic disciplines and is the center of the region's cultural life. The school has brought many opportunities to graduates since 1934. In conjunction with the city, the university sponsors an annual Peanut Valley Festival that provides excitement and entertainment for the community and attracts hundreds of visitors each year. I had the opportunity earlier this week to meet with the president of the university, Dr. Steven Gamble, to receive an update on the progress the institution is making. The residents of eastern New Mexico are fortunate to have such a fine place of higher learning in their midst.

On this grand occasion, I want to express my best wishes to Portales Mayor Orlando Ortega and all the local elected officials throughout Roosevelt County that are determined to make this area an even better place to live and raise families. The elected county officials are as follows: Dennis Lopez, District 1 Commissioner; Charles Davis, District 2 Commissioner; Thomas Clark, District 3 Commissioner; Gene Creighton, District 4 Commissioner; Paul Grider, District 5 Commissioner; Nancy Gentry, Probate Judge; Tom Gossett, County Sheriff; Nancy Belcher, Treasurer; Royene Tivis, Assessor; and Joyce Lee Frazee, County Clerk. I pledge to continue to work with these leaders to promote an atmosphere in which economic development can flourish.

The signs of Roosevelt County's progress are evident. President Bush recently approved the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill containing \$250,000 to continue the development of the Ute Reservoir Pipeline, which is critical for the sustained growth and water needs of this area. We have a long way to go on this project, but this funding is a crucial step forward.

Citizens have also seen fit to finance the construction of the Roosevelt General Hospital. Costing nearly nine million dollars, this facility is serving the health needs of local residents. The new Portales Junior High School was recently built to replace a decaying 75th year-old facility. A new Communications Center is being built at Eastern New Mexico University, and the local library in Portales has recently been upgraded with new technology and a more modern, usable facility. Finally, there is the new Portales Recreation Center, which will serve scores of local youth and give them a safe environment to have fun and learn. All of these improvements were financed by voters through local elections and other contributions from local neighbors.

The people of Roosevelt County have a past to be proud of, and a future that continues to unveil promising opportunities. The pull of the future is only as good as the past that empowers it, and in Roosevelt County a fine and solid history lays a well-lit path for the future.

Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt County is one of the finest regions in the State of New Mexico. This area is symbolic of traditional American values. The residents work hard, are dedicated to their families, support their schools and volunteer to help their neighbors. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all its residents continued success as their community enters its second century.

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate a month-long learning experience that all of us as Americans should join in celebrating. This month we focus on recalling and embracing a unique part of our American History and the roles of African Americans in shaping what our country is today. History teaches us that every culture and every society endures good and bad, and it is essential that we continue to learn from our past.

From slavery abolitionists like Harriett Tubman to civil rights activists like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—even students like the Little Rock Nine who showed unimaginable courage—we have much to learn from the lives of these past and present leaders. They leave quite a mark on the pages of our history books and in the fabric of our country.

During this month, it is important that we seek to learn more about historical Black figures; it is important because it shows us what great contributions they made even during an era when many people thought Blacks had nothing to offer. Quite to the contrary—the African American community has given us some of our greatest writers, inventors, athletes, philosophers, musicians, and spiritual and community leaders during dark times in our history.

It is during this month that Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass, Toni Morrison, and baseball great Hank Aaron celebrated their birthdays. It was during this month in 1870 that the 15th Amendment was passed, granting Blacks the right to vote. And this year, during this month, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, who was lost on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, died as a pioneer and a living symbol of the progress African Americans have made and the successes yet to come.

Black History Month celebrates people and events that were disregarded for long periods of time. It's time we remember. It's time we make Black history our history.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2003

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Day and recognize the Peace Corps for its stellar record of achievement throughout the past five decades. The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity and expand

development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans responded to our nation's call to serve by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 136 countries. There are currently 29 volunteers from my district alone who are deployed all over the world, from Kyrgystan to Guatemala.

Mr. Speaker, Peace Corps Volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education, health and the environment, and have dramatically improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world.

Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries for 42 years.

President George W. Bush has issued a call to service for all Americans—both at home and abroad. The President seeks to double the number of Peace Corps Volunteers throughout the world, from the current level of 7,000 to 14,000 volunteers in FY07.

Mr. Speaker, Peace Corps Volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions, thereby bringing a domestic dividend to our nation.

National Peace Corps Day recognizes the work of returned Peace Corps Volunteers as they bring their experiences to work, school, places of worship and recreation, sharing with colleagues, friends and community members how their volunteer service changed and shaped their lives.

Mr. Speaker, National Peace Corps Day honors its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world. I would like to congratulate them for the tremendous, and far too often thankless, work they do to improve the human condition.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION MAKING AERIAL FIREFIGHTERS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DEATH BENEFITS

#### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in April 1997, John Hirth of Buffalo, Wyoming, and his copilot lost their lives when their air tanker crashed near Blandburg, Pennsylvania. They were on a firefighting mission for a government agency, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

At the time, John was making an aerial scouting of the fire, referred to as a dry run. Fire conditions were gusty, and turbulent wind patterns resulted from the fire itself.

Immediately after dropping the fire retardant, their tanker encountered smoke which affected visibility.

Just as the air tanker flew out of the smoke, its right wing hit an oak tree which stood above the tree line. The aircraft rolled 90 degrees left and flew into the mountainside a quarter mile from the initial tree strike, exploding on impact and instantly killing John and his copilot.

In the mid-1990s, John tried to obtain life insurance through various agencies. He was turned down due to his occupation as an aerial firefighter.

At the time of his death, the business still had to meet payments on the 1997 fire contract operation (which included liability insurance, contract-paid pilots, fuel, oil, parts, etc.), as well as on a second tanker and one sprayer aircraft.

The financial loss from this crash was so devastating that his wife, Connie, did not have the money to pay for her husband's funeral.

While this is heartbreaking to us, it is a very stark reality that many families face when aerial firefighters are lost in the line of duty. There were seven fatalities last year alone involving air tankers and fire suppression helicopters.

The fact is that the vast majority of those pilots lost were serving under a government contract at the time. They were providing aerial fire suppression services for the government when they lost their lives.

My reason for being here today is to correct a provision in law that is blatantly unfair.

I am introducing legislation that will provide some financial security to aerial firefighters and their families.

This legislation recognizes all pilots and crew involved in aerial fire suppression as public safety officers. In doing so, the bill makes these deserving individuals eligible for death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, also known as PSOB.

Under current law, aerial firefighters who are under contract with the government are not afforded these benefits simply because they work for private companies that contract with the government.

However, without these contract pilots and crew, the federal government would not have the capabilities to deal with wild land fires.

This legislation is a matter of common sense. Aerial firefighters are public safety officers in every sense of the word. With dedication and enthusiasm, they protect our natural resources, our communities, and often our very lives.

Every day, when our men and women in the Armed Forces go out to do their job, they say to us, "I am willing to risk my life for you today." Our local police officers say it as well and, yes my friends, so too do aerial firefighters.

John Hirth was the primary wage earner in his air tanker business and his family. If PSOB had been available to them at the time of John's death, the financial hardships endured by his wife could have been minimized.

It is time we start giving back to aerial firefighters because, if we don't, we will be losing a valuable resource. With no aerial firefighters to protect our natural resources, where will we turn?

I don't think any of us want to face that question, so let's make sure we don't. Please support this legislation. It is the right thing to do.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

#### HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduced the bill that I introduced

last Congress in response to the absurd ruling made by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals which declared school recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. Immediately upon hearing of this atrocious decision in June of last year, I began drafting my bill, the "Pledge of Allegiance Protection Amendment," which would amend the U.S. Constitution to protect the right of schools to lead willing students in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Speaker, I believe children in schools across America should start their day the same way we do here in Congress, by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The court decision has set a dangerous precedent that we cannot allow to continue nationwide. I know of no better way to educate our children about the beliefs we stand for in this great country of ours than with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is an important way of educating our children about the value of patriotism and democracy and a reminder that we are one nation, under God. That is why I believe we need to keep the Pledge in our schools and keep judges who don't value the Pledge out of our courts.

As it stands now, a temporary stay has been placed on the effect of the ruling until the full panel of the Ninth Circuit reviews the case. I would prefer not to have to amend the Constitution unless it is absolutely necessary to do so, and it is my hope that the courts will overturn this ridiculous ruling. However, if they do not, then I have my bill ready to go to protect the Pledge of Allegiance in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I urge your support of this bill and yield back the remainder of my time.

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MOORE ON THE OCCASION OF HER 35TH ANNIVERSARY AS OHIO REPUBLICAN PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN AND OHIO COM- MITTEEWOMAN TO THE REPUB- LICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

#### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding lady from Ohio. Martha Moore was born in Cambridge, Ohio, located in Guernsey County. The daughter of former 15 District Congressman C. Ellis Moore, she was raised in the tradition of commitment to one's family, faith in God, and responsible public service.

Miss Moore attended Wellesley College and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Muskingum College. She earned her Master of Arts from The Ohio State University. While serving as a professor in the Department of Communications at Muskingum College, she helped to shape the lives of generations of students through her thoughtful tutelage. In 1986, Miss Moore was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Muskingum College and was also inducted into the Guernsey County Hall of Fame.

Miss Moore was first elected to the Ohio Republican State Central and Executive Committee in 1950, and currently serves as committeewoman from the 30th Senate District in

Ohio. She previously served as committee-woman from the 15th, 17th, and 18th Congressional Districts. In 1968, Miss Moore was elected Vice Chairman of the Ohio Republican Party (ORP) and Ohio Committeewoman to the Republican National Committee. This year marks the 35th anniversary of her election to both posts. She has been re-elected to both positions at each succeeding organizational meeting of the State Committee.

Miss Moore has been a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to every Republican National Convention since 1972. In 1972, 1976, and 1984, she was selected by the State Committee as Ohio's second choice for President.

As Ohio's National Committeewoman, Miss Moore has served on the Committee on Arrangements since 1984. She has been a member of the Convention's Committee on Call (1972), the Committee on Contests (1976), and the Rules Committee (1980). She was also Chairman of the Subcommittee for Tickets and Badges for the 1992 and 1996 Republican National Conventions.

Ohio is certainly blessed by Martha Moore's continuing service to the American political process. Her wisdom, honesty, and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. She has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before her own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Martha Moore. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Martha, who care about their well being and stability. On the 35th anniversary of her election to these two preeminent posts, we wish her all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest citizens.

#### DISTRIBUTED POWER HYBRID ENERGY ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Distributed Power Hybrid Energy Act. This bill would direct the Secretary of Energy to develop and implement a strategy for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of distributed power hybrid energy systems.

Distributed power is modular electric generation or storage located close to the point of use, well suited for the use of renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines and photovoltaics, and also of clean, efficient, fossil-fuel technologies such as gas turbines and fuel cells.

Distributed power can avoid the need for and cost of additional transmission lines and pipelines, reduce associated delivery losses, and increase energy efficiency. In addition, distributed power can provide insurance against energy disruptions and expand the available energy service choices for consumers.

By their very nature, renewable resources are distributed. Our ability to cost-effectively take advantage of our renewable, indigenous resources can be greatly advanced through systems that minimize the intermittency of

these resources. Distributed power hybrid systems can help accomplish this.

"Hybridizing" distributed power systems—combining two or more renewable sources or a renewable and a fossil source—enables us to offset the weaknesses of one technology with the strengths of another. For example, in a hybrid system, the intermittency of wind power can be offset by the reliability and affordability of power generated by a microturbine.

My bill would direct the Secretary of Energy to develop a distributed power hybrid systems strategy identifying opportunities for and barriers to such systems, technology gaps that need to be closed, and system integration tools that are necessary to plan, design, build and operate such systems.

Mr. Speaker, distributed generation represents the most significant technological change in the electric industry in decades. Knowing this, it makes sense to focus our R&D priorities on distributed power hybrid systems that can both help improve power reliability and affordability and bring more efficiency and cleaner energy resources into the mix. My bill would help us do this. I look forward to working with Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I've attached a fact sheet that explains the bill in more detail.

#### THE DISTRIBUTED POWER HYBRID ENERGY ACT FACT SHEET

The Distributed Power Hybrid Energy Act would direct the Secretary of Energy to develop and implement a strategy for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of distributed power hybrid energy systems.

#### BACKGROUND

Distributed power is modular electric generation or storage located close to the point of use. Distributed systems include biomass-based generators, combustion turbines, concentrating solar power and photovoltaic systems, fuel cells, wind turbines, microturbines, engines/generator sets, and storage and control technologies. Distributed resources can either be grid connected or operate independently of the grid. In contrast to large, central-station power plants, distributed power systems typically range from less than a kilowatt (kW) to tens of megawatts (MW) in size.

Distributed power is well suited for the use of renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines and photovoltaics, and also of clean, efficient, fossil-fuel technologies such as gas turbines and fuel cells.

Many benefits can be realized by producing electricity and heat closer to the customer and integrating these distributed energy resources with our traditional central-station generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. Combined heat and power systems at industrial plants or commercial buildings can be three times more efficient than conventional central generating stations. When facilities such as hospitals and businesses with computers or other critical electronic technology can get power from either the grid or their own generating equipment, energy reliability and security are greatly improved.

Distributed power can avoid the need for and cost of additional transmission lines and pipelines, reduce associated delivery losses, and increase energy efficiency. In addition, distributed power can provide insurance against energy disruptions and expand the available energy service choices for consumers.

Since 1998, the Department of Energy's Distributed Power Program has been working to reduce barriers to the widespread adoption of distributed energy resources. One area of research that has so far not received the attention it deserves, however, is distributed power hybrid systems.

By their very nature, renewable resources are distributed. Our ability to cost-effectively take advantage of our renewable, indigenous resources can be greatly advanced through systems that minimize the intermittency of these resources. Distributed power hybrid systems can help accomplish this.

"Hybridizing" distributed power systems—combining two or more renewable sources or a renewable and a fossil source—enables us to offset the weaknesses of one technology with the strengths of another. For example, in a hybrid system, the intermittency of wind power can be offset by the reliability and affordability of power generated by a microturbine. Distributed power hybrid systems also have the potential for fuel flexibility—for instance, using biofuels for distributed power systems such as gas turbines and fuel cells. In addition, hybrid systems can be developed to serve multiple uses, such as combined heat and power, offering the opportunity to provide reliable energy services at lower cost.

#### LEGISLATION

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Energy to develop a distributed power hybrid systems strategy identifying opportunities for and barriers to such systems, technology gaps that need to be closed, and system integration tools that are necessary to plan, design, build and operate such systems. This strategy might provide for the development of system integration tools for developing such systems; tests of distributed power hybrid systems, including field tests with industry and cost-shared demonstrations of such systems to validate performance; data to characterize grid operations, including interconnection requirements; and precise resource assessment tools to map local resources for distributed power hybrid systems.

The legislation calls for the implementation of the plan over five years, along with its integration into the Department of Energy's Office of Distributed Energy Resources. The bill would also require an annual report on the use of and experience with distributed power hybrid systems, in addition to identifying the remaining R&D issues to ensure the successful application of these systems.

To carry out the bill's requirements, the bill would authorize \$60 million over fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

#### IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mr. CUMMINGS for reserving this special order to celebrate Black History Month, a commemoration that dates back to 1926 when Black Americans celebrated Negro History Week.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the citizens of the United States, especially young African-Americans, recognize how we've grown and developed since then. And also realize and

appreciate the important contributions of their forebears and contemporaries to the development of this nation and American society.

I am proud to stand before you today to salute two outstanding citizens from my childhood home of Waco and congressional district of Dallas. James Andrew Harris was born on March 26, 1932 in Waco, Texas. As a graduate of Houston-Tillotson College in Austin with a chemistry degree, Mr. Harris worked in the Nuclear Chemistry Division of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California. There he was part of the team that discovered and identified elements 104-Rutherfordium and 105-Dubnium on the Periodic Table of Elements.

Dr. Otis Boykin was born in 1920 and raised in Dallas. His mother was a homemaker and his father a carpenter. Dr. Otis attended Fisk University and the Illinois Institute of Technology. Unfortunately, his parents could not afford his tuition and he dropped out of college after two years. Thereafter, Dr. Boykin built electrical devices used today in all guided missiles and IBM computers. He also developed a control unit for an artificial heart simulator (pacemaker) that helps millions of cardiovascular patients. Otis Boykin will be remembered as one of the greatest inventors of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, today I am worried that given the current educational settings of our country, future Otis Boykins and James Andrew HARRISES will not have the opportunity to pursue their dreams or realize their talents.

I want to focus briefly on what is going to happen in my State of Texas. It is reported that at least \$2.7 billion must be cut from Texas public education over the next two years to balance the state budget without a major increase in taxes or fees. The University of Texas at Austin will hire fewer professors, forcing students to scramble for the classes they want. At Texas Women's University, fewer police officers may patrol the campus. Some intercollegiate sports may disappear from Collin County Community College. Tuition will probably rise at Dallas County Community Colleges. Universities, medical schools, community colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board collectively must slash \$343.8 million in the middle of the school year.

Mr. Speaker, one University of North Texas official summarized the current situation very clearly: "The monster came through our door, and now he's sitting on our lap."

I am further concerned as I read news stories, such as a Washington Post article which recently indicated that Oregon is on the verge of cutting as many as 24 days from its school year. The United States ranks 18th among the industrial nations in school year length. How can we expect American schoolchildren to learn in 180 days as much as Korean children learn in 220? They cannot!

Just a couple of weeks ago we listened to President Bush's well-written, well-delivered State of the Union address. Yes, it was nice to hear words about diversity, higher education, making college more affordable, and leaving no child behind. But words are cheap! What has been done to increase the diversity of our populations in higher education? What is being done to make higher education more affordable? And how will we ensure that no child is really left behind in our elementary and secondary public school education system?

Mr. Speaker we should invest in the education of under-privileged young people here at home. It will improve not only our educational system, but our society as a whole. So many Otis Boykins and James Andrew HARRISES will have the opportunity to revolutionize technology that affects people's everyday lives.

Again, thank you to Congressman CUMMINGS for organizing tonight's special orders.

CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND COMMENDING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S EFFORTS TO END SLAVERY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 36—Encouraging the people of the United States to honor and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commending Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery. To this end, this legislation serves both to remind us of the tremendous strides this nation has made toward ensuring life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens and to recognize Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, for his commitment to these ideals.

On September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln took a bold step towards eradicating the horrible institution of slavery in this country by issuing a preliminary proclamation, which declared "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Perhaps the three most significant documents in U.S. history that exemplify America's passion for freedom are the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Although each has maintained its rightful place in the annals of American history, only the Bill of Rights and the Constitution have identifiable dates and cultural festivities. Each year, the United States celebrates the Fourth of July, Constitution Day, and Flag Day, all of which have developed into an expression and ceremony of appreciation by the American People with special events emphasizing the historical importance of these significant documents.

However, the Emancipation Proclamation, which is particularly significant to African Americans, has not until recently received its rightful day of national appreciation. With the resurgence of the African American community's celebration of Juneteenth, America is growing in its awareness and appreciation of this highly meaningful document.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, is the name given to emancipation day by African-Americans in Texas. On that day in 1865, six months after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston. General Order #3 stated "The

people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Large celebrations on June 19 began in 1866 and continued regularly into the early 20th century. In many parts of Texas, ex-slaves purchased land, or "emancipation grounds," for the Juneteenth gathering. One example of this is Emancipation Park in Houston, which was purchased in 1872.

Since this moment in our nation's history, the Juneteenth celebration has spread to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. It has also appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African-American Texans migrated.

Frederick Douglass once noted, "A [person] who will not labor to gain his [or her] rights, is a [person] who would not, if he [or she] had them, prize and defend them." With this in mind, I want to remind Congress of the labor of individuals of African descent who have devoted their lives to securing a just and prosperous future for all Americans and the duty we have as citizens to make sure their blood, sweat, and tears are never forgotten and our rights are preserved. This legislation helps to further this sense of obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Through your support for this legislation, we are certain to sustain this great legacy of justice and equality upon which this great nation was founded.

HONORING BILLY LEE

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a longtime friend of mine, Mr. William R "Billy" Lee, passed away on Friday, January 3rd, 2003, at his residence in Green Cove Springs, Florida. Billy was born in Russell, Florida, on October 28th, 1934, and lived his entire life in Green Cove Springs, Florida, located in my congressional district, Florida's third. A religious man, Mr. Lee was a Baptist by faith, and was a dedicated member of Russell Baptist Church. In fact, Mr. Lee was a former Deacon of the church.

Billy joined the International Association of Machinists in July 27th, 1956, in Local Lodge 1098, in Palatka, Florida. A dedicated union activist, Billy served as the Florida State Council of Machinists Vice President for 10 years before he was elected President in 1998. He served in this capacity until retiring in 1998.

I have always been a devoted friend of the organized labor movement. I have spent a great deal of time here in my 10 years in Washington advocating on behalf of America's working men and women. It has been a privilege for me to be able to work with brave local

labor leaders like Billy Lee, in the pursuit of defending the interests of working Americans. In my 20 years as an elected official—I have never voted against the working men and women in this room. I stand as a proud friend of labor and always will be.

In Billy Lee's time as International Association of Machinists President, he served among those brave leaders on the front lines of the fight to achieve greater worker compensation, improved employee health benefits, social security and pension benefits, and better worker rights. The International Association of Machinists, a large and diverse organization, represents 730,000 members across North America. The Northeast Florida branch, with dedicated Members like Billy, fights to carry out the IAM's union's righteous cause, to stand up against big business and fight to protect the workers of America.

Billy was survived by his wife Joyce, his son Michael Ray Lee, daughter Marilyn Lee, and eight grandchildren. A family oriented man, Billy enjoyed fishing, gardening and particularly loved cookouts. Billy Lee was loved and well respected by everyone that knew him. He will be dearly missed by his family, the community, and by those who fought alongside him in the labor movement.

#### FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Forest Restoration and Fire Risk Reduction Act, a bill based upon the collaboration with my colleague and cousin, Representative MARK UDALL of Colorado.

In the 134 million-acre interior West, scientific assessments indicate that in pre-industrial times, 50 to 80 million acres burned per year. In the 1900's, however, fire suppression became federal policy. A century of fire suppression, excessive logging and overgrazing of livestock has led, in many areas, to overstocked forests of second-growth trees. These forests are extremely susceptible to the damaging effects of high-intensity fire.

In terms of resource damage, catastrophic wildfire affects our forest's ecosystems by destroying critical habitat, eroding soil, changing air temperature, moisture content and productivity, while at the same time, facilitating the spread of invasive weeds and non-native plants, and generating air pollution. This matter is complicated further by rising fiscal costs that force the increased population and development of "wildland/urban" interface areas. In recent years, the Forest Service generally has expended \$500–600 million annually in fire preparedness, suppression, and rehabilitation. Within the past last three years, however, over a billion dollars have been spent.

Inseparably related to current forest management practices is the issue of pervasive drought. As we all know, our nation has been suffering from severe drought conditions for several years now, and so far this year proves to be no different. Rain and snowfall in New Mexico and many of our western states is to date far below averages. As a result of the continuing drought in the west, we have also

experienced some of the worst wildfire seasons in modern history. The relatively recent Cerro Grande fire in New Mexico, the Hayman fire in Colorado, and the Rodeo-Chediski fires in Arizona illustrate the severity of the situation. These fires were catastrophic in proportion and inflicted grave environmental, social, and economic impacts on the affected local communities. Consequently, these, and other areas affected by the devastating affects of raging wildfires, face years of restorative efforts and depend upon the development and implementation of a viable fire hazard mitigation program on National Forest System lands to avert such disasters in the future.

In response to these concerns and those I heard from constituents, I have worked closely with Representative MARK UDALL to devise a bill that takes these issues to task. Our "Forest Restoration and Fire Risk Reduction Act" refocuses the implementation of the National Fire Plan (NFP) to areas designated as "wildland/urban interface," the critical zones that are of the highest risk to people, property and water supplies, by redirecting NFP funding and hazardous fuels reduction projects through state selection panels.

A general consensus exists today that thinning our forests—by controlled burns or mechanical means—will lessen the likelihood of unusually severe fires. However, the Bush Administration contends that to facilitate such thinning projects, the environmental laws and procedures for public comment and participation are obstacles that must be removed. I believe that this contention is incomprehensible and conceptually flawed.

The exemption of fire-risk reduction projects from environmental review, public comments and administrative appeals, circumvents established policy of public participation, an important aspect of our democratic process for making decisions affecting public lands. Furthermore, excluding public comment would not assist in developing sound forest management. The bill we are introducing today maintains these sound principles of law and public policy, and makes some relatively innocuous procedural concessions that can expedite the process of resolving appeals.

I anticipate that collaboration between state and federal land managers, and local and tribal communities in both decision and implementation activities may contribute to the development of cost-effective restoration activities, empower diverse organizations to implement activities that value local and traditional knowledge, build ownership and civic pride, and ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds. Such collaboration would result in the efficient restoration of areas distressed by wildfires and help protect our homeowners and businesses from future losses.

I believe, as all of us from the western United States would likely agree, that it is much better to support proactive preventative maintenance programs to reduce fire risks than it is to wait to do something once a fire occurs. We need legislation that will reduce the potential for catastrophic fires and protect our communities, and aid in the restoration of lands that may meet the same unfortunate fate as did those in the Cerro Grande blaze. The "Forest Restoration and Fire Risk Reduction Act" will accomplish these common goals.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LOUIS L. RAMSAY, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent and leader in my district, whose professional and civic contributions have helped to shape the business climate in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and throughout the state.

Louis Ramsay, Jr. was born in 1918 in Fordyce, Arkansas, in rural Dallas County. He grew up attending the Fordyce public schools, and went on to earn pre-law and law degrees from the University of Arkansas. After law school, he joined the Law Firm of Coleman and Gantt, where he became a Partner in 1948. For the past 54 years he has been with the firm now known as Ramsay, Bridgeforth, Harrelson & Starling, where he continues to serve as "Of Counsel." He was elected President of Simmons First National Bank in 1970 and served as Chairman and CEO from 1973–1983. He currently serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Simmons First National Corporation. He is the only person in the state's history to have served as President of the Arkansas Bar Association and the Arkansas Bankers Association.

Louis Ramsay was recently honored with an induction into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, and I cannot think of a more worthy businessman for this distinction. Ramsay has made it a personal mission to use his standing in the business community to better the entire community. He has worked to improve the state's higher education system through service to the University of Arkansas's campuses, including Pine Bluff. He has served as President of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce, the Pine Bluff Rotary Club, Fifty for the Future of Pine Bluff, and countless other organizations aimed at improving the quality of life in the area.

If we can learn one lesson from the exemplary life and career of Louis Ramsay, it is the value of service. He has served the community of Pine Bluff and the state of Arkansas, he has served our country with distinction in World War II as a pilot in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, and he has served his family and his neighbors as well. I thank Mr. Ramsay for his commitment to improving our state, and I congratulate him on this prestigious distinction.

#### A SALUTE TO THE GREAT LAKES NAVY BANDSMEN

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House Chamber this evening pleased and honored to salute the over five thousand African American musicians who, during World War II, played in the band of the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. These highly talented musicians played an important part in our nation's history and this weekend, many of them

will be reuniting for the first time in over fifty years.

If you were black and in the Navy before 1942, the only service you could render is that of mess attendant or steward. These positions were lowly and limited. So, in an effort to elevate their position and further integrate America's armed forces, then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recruited and trained black musicians for service in a Naval band. These men became the members of the Great Lakes Band.

During the war, these extraordinary musicians traveled around the country lifting the spirits of servicemen and civilians with their melodies. In fact, it has been said that there has never been so many good musicians at any one place, at any one time, as there were at Great Lakes.

In spite of their committed and unprecedented service to our country, there is little awareness of their contributions and acknowledgments have been few. Mr. Speaker, that is why, especially as we come to the end of Black History Month, I believe it is highly appropriate, to ask my colleagues to join me in a salute to these extraordinary veterans. Their contributions are far-reaching, long-lasting, and worthy of our praise.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MEMORIAL

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor a bill I have introduced today, which will extend the authority to construct a memorial to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. here in our nation's capital.

I must commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, of which Dr. King was a member, for their tireless efforts in bringing this project to fruition. In 1996, Congress authorized the fraternity to establish a foundation to manage the fundraising and design of a memorial to Dr. King. Alpha Phi Alpha accomplished both tasks by launching the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation Fund, Incorporated and developing and appropriate design.

The site for the monument covers four acres on the Tidal Basin between the Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be the first African American honored as such on the Mall of the nation's capital. Similar to the everlasting work and message of Dr. King, the memorial will last in perpetuity.

Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue that a monument is raised to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. He made an enormous impact on America's collective moral fiber like no other human being. His principles of non-violence are universal and helped millions of people to overcome what seemed like insurmountable obstacles. It is fitting that his image be placed in the nation's capitol and enjoy the same status and significance as others who have left an indelible imprint on our nation and the world.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN  
WATER AUTHORITY RESTORA-  
TION ACT OF 2003

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore protection from destruction and pollution to all of the Nation's waters, including wetlands. This bill will amend the Clean Water Act to reestablish the original intent of Congress in that 1972 law to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

In January 2001, the Supreme Court issued an opinion that denies federal Clean Water Act protection for thousands of acres of waters that serve as habitat for migratory birds. Congress must approve this bill to overturn that decision—the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. Army Corps of Engineers (The SWANCC case). This case was decided 5–4 contrary to the intent of Congress and against the grain of nearly 30 years of judicial and administrative precedent.

Unfortunately, since the Court's decision, the Administration has done nothing to rectify this misguided and misinformed undermining of Federal protections over waters of the United States, including wetlands. Where the environmentally responsible position to limit the impact on our nation's environment would have been to narrowly interpret the SWANCC decision and to support Congressional action to overturn this decision, the Administration has, instead, proposed to explore amending its rules and regulations to expand the list of waters not covered by the Clean Water Act. Instead of supporting efforts to correct the damage, the Administration's action continues the abandonment of at least one-fifth of the nation's waters. This is unconscionable.

Until the Supreme Court's decision in the SWANCC case, section 404 of the Clean Water Act served as the primary federal protection for wetlands that serve important habitat, flood control and water quality improvement functions. In the absence of section 404 protection, small, isolated waters, including wetlands, could be filled or drained without regard to the impact on the environment or human needs.

The Supreme Court has adopted a very narrow reading of the intent of Congress in drafting the Clean Water Act and has determined that protection of small water bodies is beyond the reach of the Act. As is stated in the dissenting opinion, "the Court takes an unfortunate step that needlessly weakens our principal safeguard against toxic water." I agree and would further observe that the Court's decision opens an opportunity for waters across the Nation to be destroyed and degraded—and one which this Administration is all too willing to exploit.

A bedrock objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 was to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. The legislative history and the statutory language of the Clean Water Act make it abundantly clear that Congress intended the broadest possible constitutional interpretation for the provisions of this precedent-setting law.

The essence of the Supreme Court's opinion is that when Congress used the term "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act, Congress intended that there be some nexus to actual navigation and commerce. Congress, in the Clean Water Act, was very deliberate and careful to define "navigable waters" as, "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas." Likewise, the legislative history and court decisions prior to SWANCC have given the term "navigable waters" the broadest possible interpretation.

The proposed legislation will eliminate the use of the term "navigable waters" throughout the Clean Water Act and replace it with "waters of the United States." A definition of waters of the United States also would be added to mean coastal waters, territorial seas, all interstate and intrastate bodies of water (including tributaries) to the full extent that they are subject to the power of Congress under the Constitution; specifically including a river, stream, lake, natural pond, mudflat, sandflat, wetland, slough, prairie pothole, wet meadow, playa lake, natural pond, and an impoundment to any of these waters. The proposed definition is a combination of long-standing interpretations of jurisdiction by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers prior to the January 2001 decision. The bill restores Clean Water Act authority; the bill does not expand that authority.

Trout Unlimited, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, American Rivers, Clean Water Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, Defenders of Wildlife, U.S. Public Interest Group, Association of State Floodplain Managers, The Ocean Conservancy, the Izaak Walton League of America, and Clean Water Network support this legislation.

MILITARY RETIREE DISLOCATION  
ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a common sense piece of legislation to help our military personnel preparing to retire. As my colleagues know, service members and their families will move many times in a typical military career. These permanent changes of station or PCS often involve considerable additional expense, including the loss of rental deposits, connecting and disconnecting utilities, and wear and tear on household goods.

To help defray these additional costs, Congress in 1955 adopted the payment of a special allowance—a dislocation allowance. This was done to recognize that duty station changes and resultant household relocations are due to the personnel management decisions of the armed forces and not the individual service members. This amount was increased in 1986 and again in recent years. This is an important benefit for our military members.

However, as important as this benefit is, there is a category of service members who are not eligible to receive the dislocation allowance—the military retiree. This is despite the fact a vast number are subject to the

same expenses as their active duty counterpart. In August 2000, the Marine Corps Sergeant Major Symposium recommended the payment of dislocation allowances to retiring members, who in the opinion of the Sergeants Major, bear the same financial consequences on relocating as those still on active service.

When active duty military members retire they must often seek employment not knowing what opportunities exist in the civilian world, where those opportunities are located, what the pay will be, or what possibilities are available for spousal employment. They are sometimes faced with the prospective employers who offer less wages knowing they are in receipt of retirement pay, and falsely believing that retirees don't need the same salary as civilians for the same position. Additionally, the new retiree will have to meet the same financial demands for mortgages, insurance, taxes, and food but on a smaller income.

For those reasons, I am reintroducing the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act. This legislation would help ease the transition into retirement by amending 37 USC 407 to authorize the payment of a dislocation allowance to all members of the armed forces retiring or transferring to an inactive duty status such as the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve. The vast majority of these new retirees have given our Nation over 20 years of dedicated service. They have helped protect the very freedoms we all hold dear. Rather than simply pushing them out the door upon retirement, we should reward their service by providing modest assistance for their final change of station move. That is exactly what Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act does.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the Fleet Reserve Association for their outstanding work on this initiative. I am an honorary shipmate of the FRA and proud to be so because of their steadfast commitment to the men and women of the military services, in particular the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard family. FRA spent considerable time and effort towards the introduction and reintroduction of the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act and I look forward to continuing our work together to see this important legislation enacted.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF THE REV. WOODROW MEDLOCK

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of the Rev. Woodrow Medlock. He has preached the gospel for nearly seven decades and continues to spread God's word with tireless dedication.

Rev. Medlock is an inspiration in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. His ministry has touched many lives and spanned many communities. He has founded several local churches and has pastored at many others across the Middle Tennessee region. He has also been involved in the founding of a school and a children's home, as well as other worthy organizations.

Rev. Medlock shows no signs of slowing down, either, as he will turn 90 years young

on Friday, February 28. A prime example of Rev. Medlock's untiring service to the Lord is his upcoming trip to Jamaica in April. Once there, he plans to take the good Lord's message to the Caribbean island's prisons, nursing homes and orphanages.

The world is a much better place because of Rev. Medlock. His faith and humanity have influenced all who know him. I congratulate Rev. Medlock for all the good he has done and wish him the best in the years to come.

HONOR CESAR CHAVEZ: A FIGHTER FOR ALL AMERICANS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 963, legislation to rename the Southeastern Post Office, in San Diego, California, the "Cesar E. Chavez Post Office."

In San Diego, as well as across the Nation, the name Cesar Chavez symbolizes dignity, admiration, and devotion to equality and human rights. This man dedicated his life to ameliorating human rights in our country. In the 1950s and 60s, when minorities were given little or no respect or rights, Cesar Chavez cleared the path for equality.

In the early 1950s, after fighting in World War II, Chavez began his involvement in battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicanos. As his attention and personal interest focused on the poor working conditions of farm workers, he realized that his dream was to start an organization to aid these workers.

Having been a farm worker himself, he was far too familiar with the inhumane working conditions farm workers were forced to endure. In 1962, he founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), and in 1965, the NFWA joined an AFL-CIO sponsored union boycott against major table and wine grape growers. Through this five year long, successful boycott that rallied millions of supporters, the NFWA merged with the AFL-CIO union and formed the United Farm Workers (UFW).<sup>2</sup>

From the beginning, the UFW followed the principals of nonviolence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He organized peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to the farm worker's conditions. His slogan, Si se puede!, Yes, we can!, became known worldwide.

National attention to the farm workers came in 1968 when Senator Robert Kennedy visited Cesar Chavez in California after Chavez led a 25 day fast. Kennedy was right when he called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time."

Cesar continued to organize boycotts and strikes around the world against table grape growers in California. His efforts paid off when, in 1975, growers supported then California Governor Jerry Brown's collective bargaining law for farm workers, the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

Cesar Chavez is remembered today for his continual efforts and dedication to justice and equality. As Cesar said, "There are many reasons why a man does what he does. To be himself he must be able to give it all. If a lead-

er cannot give it all, he cannot expect his people to give anything." The people of San Diego thank Cesar Chavez for always giving his all.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that recognizes such an honorable man by naming a San Diego Post Office in his honor.

NO SUPPORT FOR MIGUEL ESTRADA NOMINATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM RYUN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that the other body has not acted on the judicial nomination of Mr. Miguel Estrada.

The constitution provides that the other body has the power to approve the President's choice of judges. This system has worked since the inception of our nation. But now the other body is being stopped from exercising its power to confirm or not confirm Mr. Estrada. In fact, they are conducting a filibuster to keep a confirmation vote from taking place.

To have a legislative body that is simply afraid to vote is not good for democracy. What do they fear? Is Mr. Estrada unfit? If so, they should simply vote "no."

In America, even our suspected criminals are guaranteed due process under law and a speedy trial. But Mr. Estrada, who the American Bar Association gave its highest rating and who has a top-notch record of fairness and respect for the law, is left to languish without even a hearing.

I urge the American people to call their Senators and tell them to give Estrada an up-or-down vote. They deserve nothing less than open and fair action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to be joined by 73 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage. The legislation that we are introducing today provides for a \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage, in two steps. Our bill raises the minimum wage from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$5.90 sixty days after enactment and raises it again to \$6.65 one year thereafter. In addition, the legislation extends the applicability of the minimum wage to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our bill is identical to legislation introduced in the other body by the Democratic Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, and 34 of his colleagues.

The minimum wage has not increased from its present level of \$5.15 since 1997. A minimum wage worker who works 40 hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year earns \$10,712—almost \$7,500 below the poverty level for a family of four, more than \$4,300 less than the poverty level for a family of three, and \$1,200

less than the poverty level for a family of two. The real value of the minimum wage today is 30 percent below its peak in 1968 and 19 percent below where it stood in 1981 at the start of the Reagan Administration. Even if the minimum wage is increased to \$6.65 by 2004, the real value of the minimum wage will still be below its 1981 level. However, by enacting this legislation we will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers, better enabling them to support themselves and their families and to more fully participate in our economy.

Raising the minimum wage to \$6.65 will lift the wages of seven million low-wage workers. While women makeup less than half of the workforce, sixty-one percent of the workers who will benefit from a minimum wage increase are women. One-third of the affected workers who benefit from a minimum wage increase are African American or Hispanic, though those groups together make up less than a quarter of the workforce. A minimum wage increase is especially beneficial to workers in low-wage industries and occupations, including those employed in sales, service, and food preparation, and especially those in retail trade.

A \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage will add \$3,000 to the annual income of full-time minimum wage workers. For a low-income family of three, \$3000 means 15 months of groceries, 7 months of utilities, or tuition for a community college degree. Enacting this legislation will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers and better enable them to support themselves, their families and the economy. Work should pay. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, a fair increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. The failure of Congress to increase the minimum wage is driving more and more working families into poverty. We owe it to them and to the Nation to act quickly on this legislation.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR  
H.R. 966, DISABLED VETERANS'  
RETURN-TO-WORK ACT OF 2003

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. EVANS, I am introducing H.R. 966, the Disabled Veterans' Return-to-Work Act of 2003. This bill reinstates a VA pilot program which expired on December 31, 1995.

H.R. 966 would ensure the availability of vocational training to newly eligible VA non-service-connected pension recipients. The program, open to those veterans age 45 years or younger, would provide disabled pension recipients the opportunity to receive training in order to return to the job market. There are many ways our veterans can and do contribute to the economy. Those veterans receiving non-service-connected pension are in effect discouraged from seeking employment because of the needs-based structure of VA's Pension Program, whereby every dollar they earn is offset from the amount of monthly pension they receive.

Mr. Speaker, I expect the Veterans' Affairs Committee to consider this bill during the 1st

Session of the 108th Congress. It is time to reinstate the pilot providing vocational training to certain pension recipients rather than requiring these veterans to rely solely on the VA pension program and health care system for the remainder of their lives. I believe the pilot program indeed will furnish data showing that many of these veterans desire independence from, not dependence on, the current non-service-connected pension program.

CANADIAN PLEA IN AIR INDIA  
CASE COVERS UP GOVERNMENT  
INVOLVEMENT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Canadian courts accepted a plea bargain from Inderjit Singh Reyat in a case related to the bombing of an Air India jet in 1985 that killed 329 people. The plea covers up the clear and strong evidence that the Indian government itself blew up the airplane.

The book *Soft Target*, written by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, shows that the story agreed to by Mr. Reyat matches a story first suggested in 1985 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). A Sikh named Lal Singh reported that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" for false testimony in the case. He turned down that offer. There are some questions about whether the evidence in Reyat's first trial was valid, according to the *National Post*.

Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote a book called *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned* about a Polish-Canadian double agent who was approached by the Indian government to carry out a second bombing. *Soft Target* shows that the Indian Consul General in Toronto knew more than the RCMP and the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) in the early hours of the investigation. Why did his daughter and wife, a friend of his who was an auto dealer, and the director of North American operations for the Indian government all cancel their reservations on the doomed flight at the last minute, Mr. Speaker?

Even if the Indian government's story that a Sikh carried the bomb onto the plane is true, it implicates them. The person they have identified is associated with a Sikh activist named Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, who was identified in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* as someone who has been supported by the Indian government and has worked at its behest, including cooperating with them on the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Thus, even the Indian government's own version of the story places the blame squarely on the Indian government.

Back on July 26, 1992, the *India Monitor* reported the arrest in Bombay of a Sikh named Manjit Singh in connection with the Air India case. The RCMP, however, said it knew of no Manjit Singh and he was not a suspect. The Indian government has been desperately trying to pin its crime on the Sikhs for years.

The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on the Reyat case. I

would like to place it in the RECORD at this time, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN COURTS COVER UP INDIAN  
COMPLICITY IN BOMBING

REYAT PLEA MATCHES RCMP STORY SUGGESTED  
IN 1985 QUESTIONING

WASHINGTON, DC., Feb. 12, 2003.—The recent plea bargain by Inderjit Singh Reyat in the 1985 Air India crash is the result of a concerted Indo-Canadian effort to cover up the Indian government's own responsibility for this atrocity that killed 329 innocent people, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence.

The book *Soft Target*, written by respected Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, clearly established that the Indian government is responsible for the bombing. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) who said, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

Mere hours after the incident, while the CSIS and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were still retrieving the passenger list stored in the Air India computer, Indian Consul General Surinder Malik called the *Globe and Mail* to tell them to look for an "L. Singh" on the passenger manifest. How could Malik have known this? "L. Singh" turned out to be a Sikh named Lal Singh. Lal Singh told an Indian newspaper that he was offered "\$2 million and settlement in a nice country" to testify falsely against the three individuals that Canada has charged with the bombing, an offer he refused. Curiously, Consul General Malik knew more details about the case than the police did.

Malik had pulled his wife and daughter off the flight suddenly, claiming that his daughter had a paper to write for school. A Canadian auto dealer who was a friend of Malik's cancelled his reservation on the flight at the last minute, as well. So did Siddhartha Singh, head of North American Affairs for external relations in New Delhi. In addition the sister-in-law of the head of the Canadian wing of Dal Khalsa cancelled her reservations. Dal Khalsa is a political party formed by Zail Singh, who was President of India when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. How did all these people affiliated with the Indian government come to cancel their reservations at the last minute?

The story told in court in connection with Inderjit Singh Reyat's plea bargain matches in significant detail the story pressed upon him at the time of his initial arrest in November 1985, which he denied. An RCMP agent named Glen Rockwell told Reyat that he could get off the hook if he said that others hatched the bombing plot and sought his assistance and that he didn't know what he was doing. Reyat replied "I didn't help killing those people. No way." He said that Talwinder Singh Parmar, who has since been murdered by the Indian police, wanted to send some kind of explosive device to India. These details match the "statement of facts" at Reyat's trial.

The Indian Consul General planted a story in the *Globe and Mail* claiming that Reyat was given a parcel to carry onto the flight by Jagdev Nijjar, whose brother was in the inner circle of Jagjit Singh Chohan, who claims to be a Khalistani leader, but who was exposed in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* by Professor Gurtej Singh IAS in letters showing that he conspired with the Indian government in planning the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Chohan is also tied to Dal Khalsa. If the Indian government really believes that Chohan's followers were involved in the incident, then why wasn't Chohan arrested when he returned to India last year?

A Member of the Canadian Parliament, David Kilgour, confirms the Indian government's involvement. In his book *Betrayal: The Spy That Canada Forgot*, he writes about a Canadian-Polish double agent who was introduced to Indian government agents. They asked him to join in their plot to carry out a second bombing of an Air India jet, telling him that "the first one worked so well."

The evidence clearly continues to show that the Indian regime blew up its own airliner to damage the Sikh freedom movement," said Dr. Aulakh. "This is consistent with the pattern of Indian government efforts to protect its tyrannical rule over the minorities of South Asia"

The government of India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. Last March, the Indian government murdered 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, according to the newspaper *The Hindu*. Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

"Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

## RENEWABLE FUEL EQUITY ACT

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague Mr. HUNTER of California in introducing the Renewable Fuel Equity Act. I'm grateful to my colleague for his leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with him to build bipartisan support for this important legislation.

We all know we need to expand and diversify our production of energy from renewable resources. The legislation we have introduced today would help us do this by providing tax incentives for new renewable energy development.

Solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and geothermal energy are each potentially enormous energy resources. Every state has renewable energy potential. But the various kinds of renewable resources are not spread uniformly across the country. Current tax law creates regional and technological inequities by failing to provide uniform benefits for all renewable energy resources. For example, the Section 45 production tax credit enacted in 1992 has spurred significant new investment, but it only applies to power plants using wind power.

That's why we need to expand this proven incentive to all renewable energy sources.

Clean power production provides greater reliability for our electricity system while promoting cleaner air and water. Renewable energy sources provide reliable power that is cost-effective over the long run, but their high initial capital cost discourages investment. Providing tax incentives for new renewable power production can make the difference.

The Hunter-Udall bill also offers incentives for smaller power systems, particularly those not connected to the grid, as these systems are unlikely to get an effective stimulus from the production tax credit. Under current law, the production tax credit does not apply to off-grid systems, and it is complex for a small farm or business to use. To address such situations, our legislation would make a 20 percent investment tax credit available to all small renewable technologies as an alternative.

Investment in new renewable power is good for the economy and the environment, and studies show that providing these tax incentives will spur new investment without cutting Treasury revenues. The Hunter-Udall bill makes good sense.

I look forward to working with my colleague and with Congress to get this sensible legislation passed.

## HONORING THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC AND THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of introducing a resolution on behalf of the North Carolina's unanimous, bipartisan delegation honoring the City of Fayetteville and its Festival of Flight Celebration. We are introducing this resolution so that all in Congress and the entire nation can pay tribute to this city and its accomplishments.

Fayetteville's Festival of Flight will be the largest public event in the state marking the Wright Brothers' historic first flight, and it is one of only four events nationwide endorsed as a full partner by the United States Centennial of Flight Commission. The Festival of Flight will take place May 16–26, 2003, and it will feature a weekend arts festival, a military air show at Pope Air Force Base, a general aviation show at Grannis Field and an exposition with aviation displays and interactive exhibits depicting the past, present and future of flight.

Education is a focus of the Festival of Flight, and the State of North Carolina has developed a year-long curriculum to encourage students' interest in aviation and flight technology. This educational focus will culminate with 1,000 students and teachers being sponsored each day for exclusive access to the Festival's Aviation Exposition.

Mr. Speaker, the Fayetteville Festival of Flight is about dreaming big and reaching for the stars. It is a celebration of 12 historic seconds in 1903 that ushered in the era of modern aviation. Furthermore, it is a testament to the strength of this city, the power of innovation and the hope for the future.

I encourage my colleagues to sign on as co-sponsors of this important resolution, and I urge this House to pass it soon.

## RECOGNIZING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EVENTS SURROUNDING INTERNMENTS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of the Japanese, German, and Italian American communities in educating the public about their experiences during World War II. I also commend my colleague, Rep. MICHAEL HONDA, for his efforts in redressing the mistreatment of many American ethnic groups during this period and specifically for sponsoring H. Res. 56, the Day of Remembrance Resolution.

Today we reflect upon the forced internment of thousands of American citizens during World War II. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Secretary of War to incarcerate Japanese Americans in designated areas controlled by the military.

Executive Order 9066 was decreed without the issue of formal charges, warrants or trials; this presidential decree denied thousands of citizens the due process of law that is guaranteed by the Constitution. Executive Order 9066 was born out of the misguided fear that some Japanese Americans might harbor anti-American sentiment and could possibly threaten the nation's security during a time of war.

The execution of this law devastated the lives of many Japanese Americans. More than 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were given one week's notice and told to bring only what they could carry before being forcibly removed from their homes. They were then relocated to internment camps where they lived behind barbed wire and endured such hardships as inadequate medical supplies and insufficient food and water.

Japanese Americans were not the only ethnic group faced with internal prejudice during this period. German and Italian Americans also faced significant intolerance from other Americans during World War II.

Prejudice against ethnic Americans still resonates today. The events of September 11 proved that terrorists threaten our country and our very way of life. Although some terrorists may still inhabit our homeland, we cannot threaten the liberty of every Arab-American in order to get to those that would threaten the United States. In this way, the events of November 19, 1941 are with us as much today as ever.

Today is a day of remembrance and a day of reflection. We must reflect upon the atrocities committed during World War II, upon the internment of Japanese-Americans and upon the prejudice many Americans faced during this time. And we must remember and learn from the mistakes of our past, so that we do not repeat them in the future.

NASA

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, after the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, it is clear that we are now very dependent on the Russian space program as the sole means of support for the Space Station until the Shuttle fleet returns to service.

It is certainly conceivable that the Shuttle fleet could be grounded for some time—after the *Challenger* accident in 1986, the Space Shuttle fleet was grounded for 32 months.

While the *Columbia* investigation is moving forward, there is always a possibility that the root cause of the accident may never be determined with absolute certainty.

In the aftermath of the *Columbia* accident, it may be impossible to maintain the Space Shuttle's viability without help from the Russians.

Payments by NASA to Russia to cover the costs of purchasing additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles appear to be prohibited under the terms of the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000.

The Iran Nonproliferation Act provides a narrow exception, allowing the President to request a waiver from Congress only to prevent the imminent loss of life or grievous injury to individuals aboard the International Space Station.

But I believe the Administration needs even more flexibility under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 to cover the costs of additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles at this time.

Therefore, I am introducing legislation today that amends the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 to allow NASA to purchase additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles if the President notifies Congress they are needed to ensure the safety of the crew aboard the International Space Station and to maintain its operational viability while the Space Shuttle fleet is grounded.

The safety of our astronauts should be paramount. NASA should not be prevented from doing whatever is necessary to ensure that safety is maintained.

DR. ALLAN H. MELTZER HONORED BY RECEPTION OF THE FIRST IRVING KRISTOL AWARD

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Allan H. Meltzer upon receiving the first Irving Kristol Award at the annual dinner of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) last night. Dr. Meltzer's insightful lecture on international economics and the role of the United States in world affairs immediately followed an historic address by President George W. Bush.

Dr. Meltzer was recognized for his important contributions to monetary economics, economic history, and political theory. He has recently written a well-received and definitive history of the first several decades of the Federal Reserve System.

Dr. Meltzer also served as chairman of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission, which made a series of recommendations for reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other development banks.

He also has testified before Congress many times, including before the Joint Economic Committee on several occasions. The members of the Joint Economic Committee have benefited from Dr. Meltzer's expertise over the years, and I also appreciate his serving as a consultant to our committee. This award from the American Enterprise Institute to this distinguished scholar is well deserved.

## NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, National Peace Corps Day, on February 28, recognizes the important role the Peace Corps has played over the last 42 years and reaffirms our country's commitment to the mission of the Peace Corps, as vital today as it was over 40 years ago.

The first Peace Corps volunteers were sent to Ghana in 1961. When the Peace Corps celebrated its 40th anniversary 2 years ago, the United States also celebrated an important 40-year relationship with Ghana. Today, Ghana is the leading developing nation in west Africa, and thousands of Ghanians now have personal relationships with Americans which they would not have had without the Peace Corps.

Loret Miller Ruppe, the Director of the Peace Corps under President Ronald Reagan, was an impressive visionary and leader. She had the first vision of doubling the number of Peace Corps volunteers. In the army, a division consists of 10,000 soldiers. We now have 12 divisions in the U.S. Army. Loret Ruppe believed we should have at least one division in the Peace Corps. This vision of expanding the Peace Corps was renewed by President Clinton and reaffirmed by President Bush.

I want to commend the new direction of the Peace Corps for working to recruit not just the 22-year-old volunteers, but increasing the number of volunteers who are in their forties or fifties and choosing the Peace Corps as their second or third career. This new type of volunteer brings years of his or her technical expertise to places around the globe which need it most.

The Peace Corps has successfully altered its programs and the countries in which it operates to adapt to our changing times. Most recently the Peace Corps has expanded into Central Asia and the Balkans continuously working to improve the lives of countless people, while also working to improve U.S. relations with these emerging democracies.

National Peace Corps Day recognizes all Peace Corps volunteers, past and present. I would like to express my gratitude to those who have served overseas, committing 2 years of their life to their country and to democracy around the world. I would specifically like to recognize the 38 current volunteers from my district who are serving in six continents around the globe.

RECOGNITION OF LATINO AND IMMIGRANT WORKERS OF THE PHOENIX PROJECT

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many Latino and immigrant workers of the Phoenix Project. This project encompassed the restoration of the west front of the Pentagon. We are all familiar with the horrific event that caused the Pentagon to require reconstruction. Perhaps less known, though, are the workers who restored the Pentagon in record time and under budget. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, they hoped to paralyze our country with fear, to break our spirit. The Phoenix Project, however, reflects the exact opposite. Three thousand workers, the majority of whom were from Latin America, descended upon the Pentagon with voracious energy and an unending willingness to help rebuild their newly adopted country.

The work they performed was back-breaking: pouring cement, installing plumbing lines, and hanging limestone slabs. Many traveled great distances to the Washington, DC area to work, living and sleeping in crowded hotel rooms. Despite these hardships, these workers labored tirelessly around the clock and throughout the weeks. It was evident to all that the Phoenix Project workers were incredibly proud to be involved in the restoration and renovation of the Pentagon. Their enthusiasm was infectious and quickly drove the project to completion. According to Walker Lee Evey, Program Manager of the Phoenix Project, "Workers came to the managers and said, 'If you'll tell us to get this building rebuilt in a year, we'll do it. We can do that!'" And do that they did, with determination and pride that is seldom seen.

I myself feel honored to stand here today and commend their actions. I am also proud to introduce a House Resolution today applauding their efforts, which, is being cosponsored by all 20 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. At a time when many Americans are suspicious of immigrants, the Phoenix Project workers put aside hard feelings to fully restore this uniquely American symbol. They serve as a symbol of humanity and hope. Their motivation, devotion, and discipline should be honored by all Americans.

## TRIBUTE TO LISA WALLACE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say goodbye to a long-term staff member and good friend, Lisa Wallace, who is moving on to work for the House Resource Committee. This is an enormous loss for me and my staff because Lisa has been with me for nine years—beginning with my congressional campaign in 1994.

Throughout my years as a member of Congress, Lisa has always gone above and beyond her job responsibilities. As my Administrative Assistant, she has not only provided

advice and kept me on schedule—she has been a confidant and a friend.

Lisa first began working with me in the San Joaquin Valley of California. She and I initially spent our time out on the campaign trail driving from meeting to meeting and event to event. I noticed right away that Lisa was intuitive and able to catch on quickly to what was going on around her. This, of course, was critical during the campaign.

Lisa was her in D.C. with me when I signed the Contract With America. During that trip, I thought at times that she was unhappy. Lisa later told me she was simply overwhelmed with D.C., but excited about the prospect of living in this city where people live and breathe politics. It was only the beginning of her Washington, D.C. journey.

During one of the most difficult times in my life, when I learned my father passed away, Lisa was there to comfort me. On a lighter note, she suffered through my single life until I met my beloved wife, Ethie. She was there when I got married and celebrated with Ethie and I when our son, King, was born. Lisa is and will continue to be an important part of my life.

In closing, I am touched to have Lisa Wallace—one of the most reliable, loyal and trustworthy people I know—be a part of my team for the past nine years. I wish Lisa all the best in her bright future.

#### HONORING SUZY MEYER

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Suzy Meyer for her leadership and service to her Southwestern Colorado community. Suzy serves as the editor and general manager of the Cortez Journal, the culmination of a long career in journalism. In addition to being a leader in the business community, Suzy also volunteers her time for numerous community activities. It is truly an honor to acknowledge her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Prior to joining the Journal, Suzy was the longtime editor of the Mancos Times. At the Cortez Journal, Suzy has been instrumental in the planning of the paper's new state-of-the-art production and office facilities. Taking on the business responsibilities of the Journal, Suzy oversaw the transition to the new facility and the expansion of the Journal's commercial printing business. The Journal now prints the Durango Herald and other area publications, and Suzy serves as an officer of the Colorado Press Association. For her efforts, she received the 2002 Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award.

As a writer, Suzy has won numerous awards and a reputation for addressing serious community issues. For the last fourteen years she has coordinated Cortez's annual Community Christmas Dinner to ensure that none of her neighbors must spend Christmas hungry or alone. She is an elder of the Montezuma Valley Presbyterian Church and has served on the board of "Meals on Wheels" for 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Suzy Meyer for her outstanding citizen-

ship. She has taken the lead on difficult issues and projects in both her professional life and her volunteer service. Her dedication is a credit to this Nation and to her community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was absent for votes on Tuesday, February 25 and Wednesday, February 26, 2003, as a result of the passing of my mother, Mrs. Eleanor Hoeffel. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall vote No. 33, "aye"; Rollcall vote No. 34, "aye"; Rollcall vote No. 35, "aye"; and Rollcall vote No. 36, "aye".

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUNSHINE CLOUD SMITH

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the memory of Sunshine Cloud Smith of Mancos, Colorado for her lifetime of dedication to the Southern Ute Tribe. Sunshine was a leader, a veteran, a tribal councilor, a spiritual mentor, and a teacher to everyone who she touched in life. It is truly an honor to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Sunshine was the granddaughter of Chief Ouray and a relative of Crazy Horse. As a leader, Sunshine was a visionary and opened many new doors and created wonderful opportunities for all women. She went to college at the University of New Mexico, and was married in 1940. Immediately thereafter, Sunshine served as a surgical technician in the United States Women's Army until 1945.

Upon her return to the reservation in 1948, Sunshine was elected to the Tribal Council and served as vice chairman for sixteen years. Her dedication to the tribal council laid the foundation for the tribe's present success. Sunshine has received several awards in recognition of her leadership contributions to Colorado and the Southern Ute Tribe. In 1989, Sunshine was recognized by the Governor of Colorado for her political and cultural contributions to the State. In 1999, Sunshine received the Western heritage Service Award from the Durango Pro Rodeo series. Moreover, she was a founding member of the Southern Ute Committee of Elders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I pay tribute to the amazing life of Sunshine Cloud Smith before this body of Congress and this great Nation. Sunshine was a loving and caring mother and grandmother. She passed down many of the traditions and customs of the Southern Utes, and was a spiritual guide for all women of the tribe. Her accomplishments and contributions have truly made a difference. She will be missed by her family, friends and community.

CELEBRATING THE PROMOTION OF MAJOR SEBASTIAN "MIKE" CONVERTINO III TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL

### HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate one of my constituents, Major Sebastian "Mike" Convertino III. Major Convertino will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on February 28 at a ceremony in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

Major Convertino, who hails from my hometown of New Hartford, NY, has enjoyed a successful and meritorious career in the United States Air Force. Currently assigned to the Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate Joint Staff at the Pentagon, he began his career in the Air Force as a ROTC cadet at Union College in Schenectady. He received his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and began an exciting and praiseworthy career in the Armed Forces.

Major Convertino has been decorated with a series of impressive awards, including: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and NATO Service Medal.

I am proud to have such a dedicated and talented individual hail from my district. Major Convertino represents the kind of outstanding individuals that man our Armed Forces. I wish Mike, his wife Kimberly, and their daughter Alexandra a great deal of success and all the best for the future.

On behalf of the 24th District of New York, as well as the entire House of Representatives, congratulations—you have made us all very proud.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACKIE SCHICK

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Jacquelyn "Jackie" Mae Schick of Pagosa Springs, Colorado for her years of dedication as a civil servant to the town of Pagosa Springs.

Jackie has given generous amounts of her time and energy over the years as a leader in her community. She has served the Town of Pagosa Springs both as Town Clerk and with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District, as well as the Colorado City Clerks Association, the International City Clerks Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Through her work as a mentor, Jackie contributes significantly to the lives of young people in Pagosa Springs. She has been a member of Eastern Star for forty years and even served as Worthy Matron in 1969. And in order to further reach out to youth, she has supported Pagosa Springs' Youth Recreation Program and sponsored the "Rockies" team for twelve years.

The Town of Pagosa Springs has been forever changed by Jackie's donation of time and leadership in these various capacities. Jackie also supported the 4-H Livestock Auction and worked for the County Extension office as a 4-H Agent from 1961–1962. In recognition of her service, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce will present her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Jackie Schick for her continuous dedication to the Pagosa Springs community before this body of Congress and this great nation. Her tireless efforts are to be commended as she sets an example for every community member to follow. Whether Jackie is mentoring youth, serving her town, or teaching Secondary School at the Methodist Church, she is making a difference for each and every citizen of Pagosa Springs.

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE  
CORPS DAY

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Peace Corps Day on February 28, 2003 and to commend the organization and its volunteers for the important work they do around the world. Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans have taken part in this important mission to volunteer in 136 countries. This mission is important on many levels.

The idea of the Peace Corps began in my home State of Michigan when John F. Kennedy, campaigning for President, proposed the concept in October of 1960 to a group of college students in Ann Arbor. He wanted to see how many of them would be interested in volunteering in developing countries to help in their progress and development. In March of 1961, the Peace Corps was established through an executive order signed by President Kennedy. Today, more than 40 years later, the Peace Corps remains a vital government program that helps to forge strong ties with other countries and to promote global peace.

Peace Corps volunteers give much of themselves during their assignment, and on a human level, there can be no greater service than helping to improve and making a positive difference in the lives of others. As a result of Peace Corps volunteer efforts, the ties between American citizens and those in host countries grow and remain strong long after the Peace Corps assignment has concluded. I know of no Peace Corps volunteer who has returned unchanged or unmoved by the positive work they have performed and the wonderful people they have met.

In my district, currently four volunteers are participating in the Peace Corps. They include: Ms. Kathryn L. Donahue placed in Lesotho; Mr. Brent J. Hayduk in the Ukraine; Ms. Maureen A. Magee in Gambia; and Mr. Seth W. Pickens in Haiti. I am so proud of them and the other volunteers across our nation. To all volunteers, past, present, and future, I say thank you for your dedication and for the honor you all bring to our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY  
NIXON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I recognize Mrs. Nancy Nixon of Ouray, Colorado. Mrs. Nixon has helped her community in many ways, and her love for children is especially evident. She has selflessly devoted her time to giving children an opportunity to learn for more than twenty years.

Mrs. Nixon grew up in Kansas City, and lived in Los Angeles, before she and her husband, John, moved to the beautiful mountain community of Ouray, Colorado in 1975. Nancy and her husband have two children, both of whom are attending college. Since she first moved to Ouray more than twenty years ago, Mrs. Nixon has not stopped helping her community. In 1976, just one year after relocating, she was the first president of the Friends of the Library. She organized and chaired various community events, most notably Ouray Days. Now, Nancy and John and are both active with Ouray's Performing Arts Guild and Arts Council. Helping in her community seems to come as second nature to Nancy, from coaching the Speech Team and working with the swimmers, to organizing the community's parades and rummage sales.

Working with children is one of the many things for which Nancy has a special gift. She has been a teacher in all three levels of Ouray's School District. She was originally hired to teach middle school, but soon after, began to teach at the elementary school level as well. Years later, Nancy taught English in the high school, and now she runs the Ouray School Library. Using her position in the library as a springboard to help children, Mrs. Nixon has created KURA, a non-profit radio station broadcast from the school and involving many students. She has given many hours of encouragement and support to the kids whom she teaches and helps.

Mr. Speaker, it is with much honor that I recognize Mrs. Nancy Nixon before this body of Congress and this nation. Her spirit of caring is one that has given many gifts to Colorado, and will continue to do so. Ouray is lucky to have such a resource among its citizens.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION  
SECURITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join Chairman JOHN BOEHNER in the reintroduction of the Pension Security Act. Last year, the House acted quickly in the face of corporate scandals to protect American workers' pensions by passing the Pension Security Act. Unfortunately, the Senate did not consider this bill in the last Congress which makes reintroduction necessary.

Pension protection remains a key priority for all of us, and with the new Congress, we have

a real opportunity to send President Bush a comprehensive pension security bill he can sign into law. We should not have to wait for another corporate scandal before we empower workers with new protections that can help them enhance and protect their retirement security. We are committed to addressing the pension security of American workers. Workers must be fully protected and fully prepared with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings.

The Pension Security Act gives millions of Americans new tools to help them better manage and expand their retirement savings. The Pension Security Act gives workers new freedom to diversify contributions of company stock three years after receiving it in their 401(k) accounts; expands worker access to high quality, professional investment advice; allows workers to purchase retirement planning services with pre-tax dollars; empowers workers to hold company insiders accountable for abuses; and gives workers better information about their pension plans. It also includes a number of provisions to make it easier for small businesses to start and maintain pension plans and would further protect rank-and-file employees by ensuring that statutory stock options will not be subject to payroll taxes.

Last year, the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations held a combined total of three hearings over four days to examine the collapse of Enron and to examine how to better protect pension participants. We heard testimony from Administration officials, pension experts, and rank-and-file employees.

One theme that emerged from the testimony was that pension plan participants need more tools to effectively manage their retirements. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao stated: "Partnered with the proposed increased ability for workers to diversify out of employer stock, investment advice services will be more critical than ever." We also heard testimony from Tom Padgett, a former Enron employee. During a hearing, Chairman BOEHNER asked Mr. Padgett: "Did you receive any information, or as I would describe it, investment education from your employers or others talking about the need to diversify your account?" Padgett responded without hesitation: "No sir."

Enron, like most U.S. companies today, did not provide its rank-and-file workers with access to investment advice. The Pension Security Act would fix outdated federal laws to allow employers to provide their workers with high-quality, professional investment advice as an employee benefit while making advice providers personally liable for any advice not provided in the employee's best interest. Millions of employees who have seen their 401(k) balances dwindle might have been able to preserve their retirement savings if they'd had access to a qualified adviser who would have warned them in advance that they needed to diversify.

I am concerned, as many of my colleagues are, about protecting workers and preparing them with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings. Congress made important steps forward last year with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act regarding corporate governance. That law incorporated two provisions from the original version of the Pension Security Act dealing with notice and trading during blackout periods.

Congress also passed the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act (P.L. 107-147) that expanded the interest rate "window" for valuation of current liabilities in defined benefit plans. Earlier in the 107th Congress, we also passed the Pension Security Act and the Retirement Security Advice Act with bipartisan support. We also passed the landmark reforms authored by my friend and colleague, ROB PORTMAN, that gave workers more pension portability, faster vesting, and a host of other needed changes. These measures were a good start, but we need to do even more for American workers.

I am proud that we are introducing the Pension Security Act as a bipartisan measure and I am hopeful that we can continue to work with our Democrat counterparts to reach consensus on the pension reforms I have just outlined. The nation's employer-based pension system is essential to the security of American workers. We should move quickly to finish the good work we began last Congress and restore confidence in our pension system. I urge my colleagues to join with me in helping America's workers by supporting the Pension Security Act.

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HONORING JOE KEESEE

**HON. SCOTT McINNS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Joe Keesee for his leadership in Cortez, Colorado's business community. In addition to building a successful small business, Joe has volunteered his time with a wide range of community organizations.

In 1970, Mr. Keesee bought the former Marsell Motors at the corner of Main and Beech streets in Cortez. Over the last thirty-two years, Mr. Keesee turned Keesee Motor Company into one of the top dealerships in the western United States. Mr. Keesee himself has received numerous Ford President's Awards, and his business was named Cortez Business of the Year for 2002.

A model small businessman, Mr. Keesee employs forty-three area residents and was one of the original founders of the Montezuma County Economic Development Council. He has been active in a wide range of civic activities, including the Montezuma County Fair, the Future Farmers of America Scholarship Fund, Partners, the Junior Rodeo, Boy Scouts, United Way, Race for the Cure, and Toys for Tots.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Joe Keesee for his service to Southwestern Colorado. His generosity with his time and talent reaches benefits the entire community. His involvement is a credit to small businesses.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by many of my colleagues in introducing

the Pension Security Act. One year ago, President Bush sent a clear message to Congress that he is committed to preserving American workers' pensions by calling for new safeguards to help workers preserve and enhance their retirement savings. The House responded to the President's call and passed the Pension Security Act on April 11, 2002 with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on the legislation before adjournment. I am pleased to reintroduce his proposal today.

One of the tragic realities of the corporate scandals of last year is that it rattled the confidence of American workers in the country's pension system—a system that by and large has served employees and their families well. A Pew Research Poll released on February 21, 2002 indicated that 77 percent of Americans believed the Enron case was an important issue, and 47 percent of them believed the worst thing about the Enron case by far was the employees had lost their retirement funds.

Even more tragic is the possibility that much of it could have been avoided. At least some of Enron's workers might have been able to preserve their nest eggs if Washington had taken some basic steps to update our nation's pension laws. We should not have to wait for another Enron or WorldCom before providing workers with new protections that can help them enhance and protect their retirement security.

As more and more employers provide 401(k) plans to their workers, rank-and-file employees are shouldering more of the risk of their investment. Unfortunately these employees rarely have the time or knowledge to actively manage these investments and most have no access to quality investment advice through their employer. Millions of employees who have seen their 401(k) balances dwindle might have been able to preserve their retirement savings if they'd had access to a qualified adviser who would have warned them in advance that they needed to diversify. The Pension Security Act would fix outdated federal laws and allow employers to provide their workers with high-quality, professional investment advice as an employee benefit, but also includes key safeguards to protect the interests of workers and investors.

That is why today, my colleague SAM JOHNSON (R-TX), chairman of the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee, and I are reintroducing the President's proposal on behalf of America's workers. Workers must be fully protected and fully prepared with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings.

Specifically, the Pension Security Act includes new measures that give employees the freedom to diversify their portfolio and would provide them better information about their pensions. Under the bill, employees may sell company stocks and diversify into other investment options after they have worked for their employer for three years. In addition, it requires companies to give workers quarterly benefit statements that include information about accounts, including the value of their assets, their right to diversify, and the importance of maintaining a diverse portfolio.

In addition, the Pension Security Act includes the provisions of the Retirement Security Advice Act (H.R. 2269), which passed the House in November 2001 with a large bipar-

tisan vote. Current law continues to needlessly deny rank-and-file workers access to quality investment advisers to help them make sound investment decisions. The Pension Security Act encourages employers to make investment advice available to their employees and allows qualified financial advisors to offer investment advice only if they agree to act solely in the interests of the workers they advise. The Senate failed to act on this legislation prior to adjournment, though it passed the House with the support of 64 Democrats.

Lastly, the bill clarifies that companies have a fiduciary responsibility for workers' investments during a blackout period. Under current law, employers are not responsible for the results of workers' investment decisions. This "safe harbor" from liability does not apply during a blackout period. Under the Pension Security Act, employers will be responsible for the consequences of the workers' inability to control their investments if they violate their fiduciary in implementing or administering blackout periods.

Congress has taken some positive steps in the recent past to update our nation's pension laws, and this committee has been central to those efforts. Last year, Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley bill regarding corporate accountability, which incorporated two of the provisions in the Pension Security Act dealing with notice and trading during blackout periods. The House also passed the Pension Security Act last year by a margin of 255-163, with the strong bipartisan support of 46 Democrats. We also passed the landmark reforms authored by my friend and colleague, Representative ROB PORTMAN (R-OH), that gave workers more pension portability, faster vesting, and a host of other needed changes. We passed the Retirement Security Advice Act to give rank-and-file workers the same access to professional investment advice that wealthy executives have. But in spite of these efforts, a lot of work still lies ahead. We need to pass the remainder of the President's plan this year.

I am optimistic that common ground can be reached with Democrats because there is bipartisan support in Congress for the reforms I have just outlined. The nation's private pension system is essential to the security of American workers, retirees, and their families. Congress should move decisively to restore worker confidence in the nation's retirement security and pension system, and this reform proposal will do just that. I urge my colleagues to respond to the needs of America's workers by supporting the Pension Security Act.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEITH PROBST

**HON. SCOTT McINNS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today and pay tribute to the passing of a Colorado leader by the name, Keith Propst of Merino, Colorado. Keith dedicated his life to championing the causes of America's farmers and ranchers as the President of the Colorado Farm Bureau and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his life's accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Keith began life on the family ranch, the Bar Three, which his family started in 1876. Eventually, he took over the ranch where he raised Simmental cows and grew various crops and later began serving his fellow farmers and ranchers in 1950 when he joined the Farm Bureau. The respect he developed among his peers led to his election to the Colorado Farm Bureau Board of Directors and eventually to Bureau's presidency where Keith made positive and significant contributions to agriculture, water, and property rights. Guided by his character and common sense, he fought hard for what he believed in and also generously donated his time to the community through his role as a 4-H leader, Sunday school teacher, and youth group leader. I truly admired Keith for his willingness to stand up for the West, stand up for Colorado, and defend the Nation's farmers and ranchers, the stewards of America's bounty.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Keith pursued a course of honor and distinction and I am truly honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize Keith's life and achievements. His dedication to family, friends, and the causes he championed deserves more than our recognition; it deserves our admiration. At this time of great loss, my thoughts and prayers are with Keith's family and friends. We will miss you Keith.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY T.  
WIESE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to honor Larry Wiese of Mesa Verde, Colorado. Larry is the Superintendent of Mesa Verde National Park and I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to his leadership, dedication and service to the community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Larry's leadership abilities allowed him to make many key fire management decisions which contributed to the timely and proactive measures that saved our forests. In 2001, Larry approved an emergency aspect for the Chapin Boundary Fuel Break due to seasonal severity, and prevented the fire from spreading to the headquarters area of Mesa Verde National Park. Additionally, he directed fire operations to develop Park Evacuation Plan and performed monthly drills in 2002 before Long Mesa Fire, while insisting that division chiefs provide input to this plan to enable it to be more successful.

Larry also reviewed and created weekly business oversight review for Fire Program Severity expenditures in 2002 season. He approved partial park closure, restricting public access to lower Chapin Mesa due to extreme fire danger and public safety considerations. In order to provide more safety for park visitors, Larry approved construction of a 12-acre safety zone near headquarters for fire fighter and public safety.

During many fire suppression operations, Larry was an active participant. He attended briefings and communicated park priorities such as public and fire fighter safety and the protection of cultural and historical resources.

Larry has proven instrumental in the efforts to protect Mesa Verde National Park. While on the job, he has responded proactively to severe environmental threats. He also has provided leadership and direction to park staff and fire operations throughout the most severe fire season in recorded history.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the honorable leadership of Larry Wiese. His proactive steps made the difference in providing for visitor and staff safety, in addition to preserving the cultural, historic, and natural resources we are responsible to protect. Larry's contributions have greatly benefited the people of his community and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Larry the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BLOOMFIELD  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the City of Bloomfield Fire Department based in New Mexico for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Bloomfield Fire Department played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado, and today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of the Durango community called upon the Bloomfield Fire Department to protect their loved ones, homes, and property from what would become the worst fire in the area's history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens everyday. The Bloomfield Fire Department contributed 1400 man-hours as they worked for 14 days straight to contain the fire, relying on 35 firefighters, mostly volunteer. Additionally, the community of Bloomfield donated more than 16,000 pounds of supplies to those who were working to contain the Missionary Ridge Fire.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Bloomfield Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the brave volunteer firefighters and their support staff for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of this and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and I am honored to pay tribute to their dedication and commitment to their neighbors in Colorado.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED W.  
KLATT III

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fred W. Klatt III of Durango, Colorado. Mr. Klatt has been a dedicated citizen and leader of the Durango community for over 18 years, and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Fred began his career in public office when he was elected to the Durango City Council in 1984, and was elected Mayor in 1987. Following his service to the city, Fred was elected La Plata County Commissioner in 1990, and served the county for over twelve years. While in office, Fred also dedicated his time to several civic boards within the community, including San Juan Forum, La Plata County Humane Society, Durango Area Chamber Resort Association, Durango Library Board and the Durango/La Plata County Airport Commission.

Fred has also been active in Durango's business community where he was the proud owner of Klatt Travel, a local travel agency. Utilizing his service as a County Commissioner and a small business owner, Fred paid special attention to the concerns of small business owners and worked tirelessly in advocating the minimization of government, reducing costs and becoming fiscally efficient to create a stronger county government. For his significant contributions and endeavors within the community, Fred was recognized in 2002 as Durango's Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Mr. Fred Klatt before this body of Congress and this great nation for his dedication to and leadership of La Plata County and the City of Durango. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of his community and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Fred the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE  
STATE OF OHIO

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,  
Whereas, the people of Ohio are commemorating Ohio's 200th Birthday on March 1, 2003; and

Whereas, they will be celebrating the Bicentennial in Chillicothe, the original capital of the great state of Ohio; and

Whereas, the residents of Ohio have molded a strong tradition of family values and a commitment to a high standard of living for Two-Hundred Years; and

Whereas, Ohio, since its inception, has developed into a growing and prosperous community dedicated to its past and future generations;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the 18th Congressional District and all of Ohio in celebrating the Ohio Bicentennial.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEON EVANS, IN  
MEMORIAM

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mr. Leon Evans who passed away Thursday, February 20, 2003 in Neptune, New Jersey. Mr. Evans was a dedicated, loving man and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Leon Evans was born on December 29, 1936 to the late Leroy and Virginia Evans in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Evans is a man who recognized the value of education early on in life. First attending school in Little Rock, Arkansas, he continued his education at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces in New Mexico. Later, Mr. Evans furthered his studies at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Evans paid tribute to his county by serving in the United States Army from 1955 until his retirement on September 1, 1975. While in the Army, Mr. Evans was an instructor and fundamental Branch Supervisor at the U.S. Army Signal School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After Mr. Evans distinguished service in the United States Army he worked at Siemens Communication Systems Inc. Transmission Systems in Mount Laurel, New Jersey and Iselin, New Jersey from 1976 to 1984.

Mr. Evans was self-employed from 1984 through 1987 operating a communications

service company. He later worked at Check-Mate Inc., where he provided his services to the Monmouth County area until his death.

In addition to his work ethic, Mr. Evans possessed a strong sense of community as exhibited by the various community memberships he held. Mr. Evan's was a member of Neptune's VFW Post #2639 and American Legion Post #266. He also served on the Democratic and Environmental Committees for Neptune Township and was a member of the Optimistic Social Club and the Over the Hill Gang.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Evans for his loving devotion to his family. He was married to his beloved wife, Wanda for 47 years. Together they raised five wonderful children, and enjoyed spending time with their seven grandchildren and great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Evans had many friends and colleagues who affectionately knew him as hard working, dedicated, patriotic, and a civic-minded individual. His friends and family greatly enjoyed his company and will sorely miss him. On this day, I ask my fellow colleagues to join with me in honoring and remembering this extraordinary individual.

PANTHEON OF BLACK HEROES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise to introduce a se-

ries of bills—a Pantheon of Black Heroes—recognizing the historic achievements and contributions of African Americans. Several of these heroes resided and worked in the Harlem area, while others inspired or lent inspiration to our community.

The Pantheon of Black Heroes is part of my continuing effort, begun years ago, to officially recognize some of America's best and brightest. Black History Month presents us with another opportunity to highlight the achievements of these men and women. It is our opportunity to ensure that our stories are told as we have lived them, and as we would have them handed down to those who follow us.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in recognizing the vast contributions of these great African Americans.

Arthur Ashe, Ralph Bunche, Roy Campanella, Shirley Chisholm, Katherine Dunham, Marcus Garvey, Althea Gibson, Lionel Hampton, Dorothy Height, Zora Neale Hurstson, Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Power, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Sugar Ray Robinson, Arthur Schomburg, Betty Shabazz, Madame C.J. Walker, James L. Watson, and Malcolm X.