

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