

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE RENEE
RANDALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Christine Renee Randall in recognition of her commitment to helping community members gain new workplace opportunities.

Christine was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the daughter of two educators, the late Julius T. Randall, Jr., formerly a Director of Cooperative Education, and Ann Knight Randall, an Associate Professor of Library and Information Sciences at Pratt Institute.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Howard University, with a major in French and a minor in Public Relations, and received a Master of Business Administration from Hofstra University.

In 2002, Christine joined the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation as the Director of the RITE Center, a community technology center in Brooklyn. The Center provides free and low cost technology training for a broad range of community residents, including adolescents, entrepreneurs, and senior citizens. Its goal is to help clients utilize computer technology for job preparation, entrepreneurship training, research, and communications.

Christine believes that 21st Century technology offers incredible workplace opportunities for community residents. She firmly holds that everyone has the potential to learn these new skills. Christine's expertise in marketing and public relations has already yielded fantastic results for the Center. Through new partnerships and outreach activities, she has helped the Center double its attendance in the past year. This accomplishment has already earned recognition and additional support for the RITE Center and the Greater Harlem Real Estate Board Development Fund.

Previously, Christine worked for the Draft Worldwide Advertising Agency and Madison Square Garden. Additionally, she founded Constant Interaction, a marketing consulting firm. She is a member of the Direct Marketing Association, African Americans in Advertising, and the Howard University Alumni Association.

Christine worships at St. Paul's Community Baptist Church and Concord Baptist Church where her family has long established ties.

Mr. Speaker, Christine Renee Randall is dedicated to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING MARY CAMERON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Cameron on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Since 1965, Mary has been involved in hands-on management of the family's Atsma Cameron Dairy. Ms. Cameron was the first woman to serve on the boards of directors for Danish Creamery and Western United Dairy-men. Mary's involvement in the community and her fascination in the field of agriculture have sparked the interest of many school children of Kings County during their visits to her dairy. She remains active in dairy and milk promotion and as an advocate for children's nutrition and agriculture awareness.

Mary is active in children's activities, agriculture education, and industry organizations. She has served as a President of the Elliott Elementary P.T.A. and the Kings County Dairywomen, as well as Director for the Danish Creamery, National Dairy Board, and Dairy Management, Inc. Ms. Cameron was also the 4-H Dairy Leader from 1970-1973. She was named Kings County Dairywoman of the Year in 2000 and Agriculturist of the Year in 2001. Mary Cameron is truly an inspiration and role model for many people in agriculture today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Mary Cameron for her exceptional service to the public and her dedication to the California dairy industry. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mary many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
THOMAS E. LOUIS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Thomas E. Louis has exemplified leadership for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union 18; and

Whereas, Thomas E. Louis has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Thomas E. Louis has been a dedicated and loyal spokesman for the International Union of Operating Engineers, as a legislative Representative and as appointed by the Governor of Ohio to the State Construction Compliance Council; and

Whereas, Thomas E. Louis is to be commended for his hard work and dedication to the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18, serving in many capacities including on the Advisory Board, on the Executive Board, and serving as President; and

Whereas, Thomas E. Louis has long been a dedicated family man. His personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends and community are characteristic of a fine gentleman;

Therefore, I join with the many friends and relatives, as well as all the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District, in honoring Thomas E. Louis as he retires after 39 years of service to the people of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union 18.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE
AFFORDABILITY AND LIFETIME
SAVINGS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, with sixty-three of my colleagues in the House, the College Affordability and Lifetime Savings Act.

According to the Department of Education, more than 7 million students will take out a Federal student loan this year to help finance their college education. As tuition costs swell and grant-aid fails to keep pace, students and their families are increasingly turning to loans as the primary mechanism to finance a higher education. While student loans make the college dream a reality for millions, they all too often turn into a nightmare of debt.

Over the past eight years the typical student loan debt has almost doubled to \$16,928. In addition, 39 percent of all student borrowers now graduate with unmanageable debt levels. Too many student borrowers struggle to make their monthly loan payments, and many too forgo savings, public service careers, and major purchases.

Borrowing for higher education should be a sound investment for the future, both for the student, and society. Yet, today we are asking far too many students to mortgage their future at too high a cost.

Unfortunately, President Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress have ignored the pleas from millions of Americans to make student aid funding a priority. Instead, just at the time when students and their families need help the most to make ends meet, President

• 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.

Bush and the Republican leadership have responded by cutting key student aid programs. Just last week, House Republicans demanded that we finance President Bush's tax cut on the backs of students by cutting \$4.7 billion in aid to student borrowers. This could force the typical borrower to pay an additional \$170 in student loan taxes over the life of their loans.

This is unacceptable, and we must do better by delivering sound legislation that helps Americans to make the college dream a viable reality.

The College Affordability and Lifetime Savings Act will help ease the burden of student loan debt for millions of Americans. The Act will change the current student loan tax deduction benefit to a tax credit—which will deliver a larger rebate on the interest paid on student loans to borrowers, particularly those who are struggling the most to make ends meet. The savings for the typical borrower who is earning \$20,000 a year will more than triple, to \$347, in their first year of repayment. The Act will also help expand this benefit to more middle class families, allowing them to claim rebates, too.

I urge you to support the College Affordability and Lifetime Savings Act as a means to ensure that a college investment remains the investment of a lifetime for all Americans.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and Friends of Taiwan, I want to take a moment to place into the RECORD a traditional oral expression or toast to the long-standing relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The republic of China's Twin Oaks Estate here in Washington, D.C., has been home to nine Ambassadors, as well as a venue for receiving guests of the Republic of China's Representative in the United States. It is a symbol of the abiding friendship between our two nations. Over the last six decades, countless Americans and Chinese friends and Ambassadors have met with members of Congress at Twin Oaks.

On the south side of this wonderful mansion stand one hundred plum trees. The plum blossom, the national flower of The Republic of China, can withstand below freezing temperatures. After enduring this type of physical duress during the winter, in early spring the dark pink plum blossom emerges and blooms, demonstrating a glorious vitality. And so it is with the relationship between Taiwan and the United States of America. No matter how challenging the problems are now or will be; our time-honored relationship will continue to blossom and display this type of resilience. In a larger sense, it will spring eternally regardless of geopolitical pressures.

So Mr. Speaker, the enduring strength of the plum blossom at the Twin Oaks Estate symbolizes our lasting friendship, which has benefited both of our nations for six decades.

IN MEMORY OF AHMAD R. OLOMI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to his country and community was extraordinary. Orange County, California, was indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and dedicated community leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talents to make his community a better place in which to live and work. The individual of whom I speaking is Ahmad Rateb Olomi. He was unexpectedly and tragically taken in an airplane accident over the Arabian Sea on Monday, February 24, 2003, at the age of 45.

Mr. Olomi was born in Afghanistan, and earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. He moved to the United States in 1980. He was hired by Orange County in 1984 and shortly thereafter became a naturalized United States citizen. He worked his way up from Engineering Technician to the position of Senior Civil Engineer. Some of the more notable projects he worked on were Seven Oaks Dam, the Santa Ana River Mainstream Project, and the Laguna Canyon Road State Route 133 realignment. Over his 19 years of service to Orange County, Mr. Olomi developed himself into one of the County's most talented and valued professionals.

In addition to his love for the United States and his community, he never forgot his original homeland. On the day of the tragedy, Mr. Olomi was on a six-month leave of absence from the County of Orange traveling with the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries to help with the rebuilding of Afghanistan, and the construction of a transnational pipeline project that would pump natural gas and oil from Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and into Pakistan.

Mr. Olomi was also a dedicated family man. He is survived by his wife Roya and children, Yusef and Sahar. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man admired for his integrity, honesty, intelligence and selfless commitment to others. My thoughts and prayers go out to them for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Mr. Olomi's life, we see a man dedicated to his family, community, adopted country and original homeland—an American and Afghani whose service led to the betterment of those who had the privilege to come in contact or work with him. Honoring Mr. Olomi's memory is the least we can do today for all that he gave over his lifetime.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROL YING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Carol Ying in recognition of her dedication to improving the educational opportunities for the students in her community and enlightening them with her teachings.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Carol immigrated to the United States in January 1985. She enrolled in the fifth grade at a private catholic school called St. Augustine-St. Francis Xavier where she won an award for the fifth grader of the year. After three years at the school, she wanted to explore a public school and enrolled in Samuel J. Tilden High School. Again, she excelled in her academics and received a PTA award given to the most outstanding high school freshmen. Her achievements at the High School allowed her to graduate within three years and attend Long Island University. She was a Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) student at the institution.

Carol was always fascinated with mathematics and showed exceptional ability in the subject. Although she started out as a Computer Science major, she would eventually change her major to Mathematics Education. During the summer of freshman year, she discovered that she had a passion for teaching mathematics after teaching a class of high school students. Carol was inspired by the many great math teachers she has encountered in her academic career. After graduating from Long Island University, Carol returned home to teach mathematics at Samuel J. Tilden High School. During her seven years at Tilden High School, she served as a dean for a year as well.

She continued to challenge herself by enrolling in a Master's program at CUNY Brooklyn College, receiving a degree in Mathematics Education. Later, she furthered her academic credentials when she earned a Certificate in Administration and Supervision. In the process, her supervisors and colleagues, who saw her capacity as a leader, encouraged her to do more than teach. This inspired her to pursue a position as an administrator.

Carol is currently working in the New York City public school system as an Assistant Principal at South Shore High School. She is also in charge of supervising the Mathematics Department. Carol is very passionate about her job and enjoys working with students and faculty to advance students' achievements in Mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Ying is committed to increasing the educational opportunities of members of her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING MAXINE MACHADO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maxine Machado on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Awards. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera,

Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Maxine, a native of Los Angeles, California, has always been considered a lifelong "country girl." Farming has played a major role in Maxine's life through good and bad, and she finds her satisfaction in knowing that she helps to feed and clothe our nation and a great part of the world through it. She and her husband, Fred, farm diverse crops and manage a dairy along with their grown children in the Easton area of Fresno County.

Mrs. Machado is an active volunteer in church, political, school, and agricultural activities. Some of Maxine's philanthropic and community involvement includes being the President for the Fresno County Cabrillo Civic Club #10 and the American Union School Parent's Club. She was involved in the St. Jude Catholic Church's Alter Guild and Church Building Fund and C.P.D.E.S. Hall and Holy Ghost Celebration Committees. Mrs. Machado has also been a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau Women, the Fresno County Republican Women, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Fresno County Right to Life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maxine Machado for receiving the 2002 Common Threads Awards. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Maxine for her commitment to community service and agriculture and in wishing her many years of continued success.

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A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
HEATH EMERSON GROGRO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Heath Emerson Grogro has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Heath Emerson Grogro has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Heath Emerson Grogro has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Heath Emerson Grogro must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 403, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Heath Emerson Grogro as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE
OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER
AMERICA ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, with sixty-

three of my colleagues in the House, the College Opportunity for a Better America Act.

Higher education has become more important than ever to ensure America's economic prosperity, national security, and health. Yet, swelling enrollments among low-income and working class families, massive state budget cuts, and rising tuition continue to strain our ability to ensure access to a college education for all Americans.

As a result, increasing numbers of students and their families are relying on debt to finance their college dreams. Over the past eight years the typical student loan debt has nearly doubled to \$16,928, with 64 percent of students borrowing to finance their college costs. In addition, nearly two-fifths of all student borrowers graduate with unmanageable debt levels, and as a result, many may seek higher-salaried positions rather than public service careers.

At the same time, severe shortages of highly qualified personnel in many public service sectors, such as teaching, nursing, childcare, and child welfare, threaten the health and well being of our nation.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the United States will need more than 2 million new teachers over the next 10 years. In a recent report, the American Hospital Association found that there is a national shortage of 126,000 nurses; just as the number of nursing school graduates decreased by 29 percent between 1995 and 2001. In addition, the number of unfilled child welfare specialists is growing rapidly; while the nation's childcare programs are plagued by high staff turnover, fueled by poor compensation.

We can no longer afford to ignore the growing shortage of a skilled public service workforce. We must invest in our recent graduates to enable more of them to pursue public service careers. The College Opportunity for a Better America Act would take an important step to filling shortages of highly skilled workers in the public service sector by providing up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness for graduates who enter teaching, child care, nursing, child welfare, and other high priority public service careers.

In short, the Act would provide the financial means necessary to attract and retain a highly skilled public service workforce.

America's higher education system has long served as a vehicle to achieve economic prosperity, national security, and an educated citizenry. From our nascent beginnings, when public education served as the means to equalize our society, to the National Defense Act of 1958—which launched many of our federal student aid programs—we have used higher education as a tool to move this country forward.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this tradition by supporting the College Opportunity for a Better America Act. It is an important step to help fill America's critical public service work gap.

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MEDIA ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we all heard from the President's speech last night,

we are regrettably closer to engaging in military action to oust a murderous dictator, Saddam Hussein. At this time, we should focus our thoughts and prayers on the men and women standing in harm's way to liberate a country that has so often in history been a center of culture, innovation, and education.

Our troops are young volunteers serving a country they love, and a foundation of freedom in which they deeply believe. They have many worries, as would any human being in this situation, but they know their jobs and the risks that accompany military service. As an American and a veteran, I have strong, heart-felt feelings and a sense of pride for these young soldiers and airmen willing to fight for a people they do not know and a cause that requires constant vigilance.

It is these feelings I have for troops that led me and a number of my colleagues to openly question recent media interviews that subject these young troops to questions, which in my mind, have no business being posed days before possible military action.

The initial coverage that brought me to the floor today aired on Peter Jennings "World News Tonight," on Monday, March 10. The segment contained interviews with American troops on the Kuwait/Iraq border. Specifically, some of the questions focused on hypothetical situations regarding combat, enemy responses, and casualties.

This morning, a USA Today article ran with the headline "As War Looms, Young Soldiers Confront Fear . . . 'Black Hawk Down' scenario among worries" (Many of us remember "Black Hawk Down" was based on the operation to capture Somali warlord Adid.

These interviews are asking questions regarding fratricide, combat deaths, chemical or biological weapons, "personal demons," and "bloody urban fighting." As many of us in the House are veterans, we know the sacrifices that come with service, including the loss of life. We have heard countless times, as have our troops, what threats may be encountered if we engage Iraq, and, what the risks entail. As such, our young troops do not need to be reminded of those possibilities by individuals who only seek to generate a story. Nor should the family and friends of loved ones serving in the Middle East be subjected to these stories that further exacerbate worries they may already have.

Our men and women serving in these areas are professionals and they know the job they have to do, though it is obviously a job they would prefer to accomplish by other means than force (I would like to add that we in Congress and the President share that desire). Nonetheless, our troops and their commanders know they must focus on the tasks assigned and the mission objectives that must be completed. I believe that focus can be hindered when certain media personalities, who have no comprehensible idea of what it is like to be in the very situation our troops are facing, continue to dredge up these feelings purely for national coverage.

Such coverage does not serve the home front well either. In Florida, we have activated more Guard and Reserve forces than any other state in the union. In my district, I have watched unit after unit depart for destinations unknown in support of Enduring Freedom. These are incredible individuals—as are their families. My thoughts and prayers go to them as well, for they too are sacrificing.

Let me emphatically state for those that may disagree with my remarks that I do not advocate censorship. I do advocate common sense. I believe the media lacks a solid understanding of our military and its mission. Providing media access to our troops is necessary to assist in providing accurate information for the American public and to counter false propaganda from other resources seeking to undermine our objectives. Such access can provide a better understanding and appreciation for what our young people do every single day in service to our country.

However, we must be mindful that reporting facts is quite different from generating an emotional story for ratings purposes. Today's media has a tremendous amount of access—much more so than during Desert Storm in 1991. With that access comes responsibility . . . responsibility to the troops, their families and the public. I ask that the media let our troops focus on the mission at hand, let them do their job and return safely home. Refrain from undermining that focus and the necessary morale . . . just because it might make a good story.

Mr. Speaker, we face challenging times ahead. Our troops need our support, our thoughts, and our prayers. May God bless them and their families and return them home safe.

TRIBUTE TO JAMIL DADA, 2003
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the Inland Empire are exceptional. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Jamil Dada is one of these individuals. On March 21, 2003, Jamil will be honored by the Boy Scouts of America and will receive the 2003 Distinguished Citizen Good Scout of the Year Award.

Jamil is the Senior Financial Manager for Provident Bank's eleven branches and serves as the manager of Investment Services. In addition to his outstanding professional career, Jamil finds time for numerous community organizations. He serves as Chairman of the Riverside County Workforce Development board which oversees approximately \$18 million of federal funding that Riverside County receives for workforce development and job training. His financial experience and integrity led to his appointment to the board by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

In addition, Jamil serves as a board member of the Riverside Community College Foundation, the United Way of the Inland Valleys, the Boy Scouts of America Inland Empire Council, the Family Service Association of Western Riverside County and the Magnolia Center Division of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Planned Giving Advisory Board at the University of California, Riverside.

Jamil is a long time member of the Moreno Valley Rotary Club and currently is Vice-Chair-

man of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce. He is a board member of the Police Activities League and treasurer of the Moreno Valley Substance Abuse Task Force. He is also actively involved as the Vice President of Moreno Valley's largest food pantry, the Community Assistance Program. Jamil has also been instrumental at March Air Reserve Base as an Honorary Commander. He is also the Vice President of the March Air Field Air Museum, Chairman of the Friends of March Field and treasurer of the MARB Forum.

In 1993 the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber honored him as their Man of the Year and in 1994 he was Rotarian of the Year for Rotary District 5330 and Moreno Valley's Citizen of the Year in 1997. In 2002 he was the finalist in the Inland Empire Leaders of Distinction.

Jamil has set a standard of excellence and commitment in his work in the community that would be hard to match. His tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire. His involvement in the community makes me proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the 2003 Distinguished Citizen Good Scout of the Year Award.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCY SCHWARTZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lucy Schwartz in recognition of her passionate dedication to improving her community through civic participation.

Born in the East New York section of Brooklyn, Lucy was the fourth of five children. A first generation American, both of Lucy's parents were born in Russia.

She began her political activities at the tender age of 15, stuffing envelopes for the American Labor Party (ALP). Later, when her family left the ALP to become Democrats, Lucy began volunteering for the Democratic Party.

Lucy attended Thomas Jefferson High School where she met her husband Murray who she married at age 21. Their first son Stephen was born in 1942 and their second son was born five years later.

Concerned about her children's education, in 1952, Lucy started and became the first president of the parent's association for a brand new elementary school PS 273. Before meeting with the school's principal to discuss a possible parent's association, Lucy purchased a Roberts rules and Order book and received a book from the United Parent's Association on how to start an association. These two books became her bibles.

From 1953 to 1956, Lucy was president of the Boulevard Community Center. During her term, she helped form a nursery school. With the help of Meade Esposito, she also started a youth program in the community center. She would become President of this program as well as the Teenage Day camp at Tilden High School. Lucy, with Meade's assistance, was also a major fundraiser for the United Leukemia Society.

Motivated by the lack of street lightening on Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn and after being ignored by the local district leader, Lucy and her friends in the parent's and tenants' association decided to become more politically active. The group decided to form their own Democratic club, called the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club. In 1960, the group had their first political victory when Lenny Yoswein was elected to the New York State Assembly. Lucy became the "Mother Hen" of the newly formed Democratic club, mentoring and providing guidance to countless young Democrats, including myself.

The Thomas Jefferson Club has been Lucy's love. She has held several volunteer positions such as the supervisor of the placement of inspectors on polling day, financial secretary, journal chairperson, and chairperson of the annual dinner/dance. In addition to the Club, Lucy also keeps her fellow cooperative owners up to date on current government programs that affect their lives.

When she is not volunteering, Lucy enjoys gardening. She has read extensively on this topic and has developed a green thumb. Wherever Lucy is, you can be sure that there is a green garden growing as well.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy Schwartz has been tireless in her devotion to civic participation and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING SAYRE McFARLANE
MILLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sayre McFarlane Miller on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2003 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Sayre, a partner in the family farm, McFarlane and McFarlane of Clovis, has always believed that "the way to get things done is to put one foot in front of the other every day." from water policy to land use policy, she has held leadership roles in several agricultural, natural resource, and communities activities. She values her involvement as an agricultural representative in the Growth Alternatives Alliance, a land use policy group that developed the Landscape of Choice: Strategies for Improving Patterns of Community Growth.

Mrs. Miller has enjoyed a wide range of community involvement. Some of Sayre's philanthropic and community involvement include

sitting on the Fresno Irrigation District and the Kings River Water PAC's Boards of Directors. She has participated in the Association of California Water Agencies, the Fresno Art Museum, the Agricultural Council of California, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and St. James Episcopal Cathedral. Sayre cannot say for certain that the discourse of the boardroom surpasses the joy of receiving a Sunday school kindergardner's hug around the knees, but she has loved it all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sayre McFarlane Miller for receiving the 2002 Common Threads Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Sayre for her commitment to community service and agriculture and in wishing her many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
SANDRA "SANDY" BLESSLEY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sandra "Sandy" Blessley; and Whereas, Sandra Blessley was a gifted speaker and a Capital Guide for 29 years. Her dedication and love for her work was truly exemplary; after her first stroke she recovered by reciting her tour speech, so that she could return to work; and

Whereas, Mrs. Blessley will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which she gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her;

Therefore, while I understand how words can't express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Sandra "Sandy" Blessley.

HONORING JEFF FAUX

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Faux, who is the founder of the nationally respected Economic Policy Institute. During his long career, he has been a merchant mariner, railroad worker, blueberry farmer, antipoverty official, Labor Department statistician, and instructor at Harvard University.

Jeff Faux used these work experiences to his advantage when undertaking the great task of founding and building the Economic Policy Institute, the nation's only think tank expressly dedicated to examining economic issues from the vantage point of how they affect working families.

Named after the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, Faux grew up in Queens, New York, as an avid reader but an apathetic student. Dropping out of high school, he joined the merchant ma-

rine and shipped out to the Caribbean, before realizing that he didn't want to spend the rest of his life that way.

Completing high school years before open enrollment at New York's City University, his wide-ranging reading stood him in good stead when heaced an examination that qualified him for Queens College, in spite of his uneven record in high school. On evenings, weekends, and summers while in college, he worked as a bartender (following his father who had been a charter member of Bartenders Local 164), on a railroad, and in an American Can Factory in Brooklyn.

After he severely injured his back, Faux was treated in Queens General Hospital, sparing him from what might have been a lifetime disability. While hospitalized, he mused that he was, in a sense, the product of public programs—born in a public hospital, educated in public schools, and put back together again in another public hospital. Faux traces lifelong commitment to progressive politics to this period of recuperation and reflection.

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's New Frontier, Faux moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked, first, for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and, then, for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Meanwhile, he enrolled as a graduate student at George Washington University, doing graduate work in economics.

Moving to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Faux became one of the originators of a new kind of anti-poverty program: the Community Development Corporation. Modeled after a project initiated by Senator Robert F. Kennedy in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, community development corporations promote economic development in low-income areas, from the inner cities to rural America.

Traveling throughout the country, and briefly living with migrant farm workers in Colorado and New Mexico, Faux helped to turn the concept of community development corporations into a national program. He also found the time to participate in the historic Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights and to register black voters in Virginia.

In the 1980's, Jeff returned to Washington, D.C. and set about a new mission: founding a progressive think tank that would focus on economic issues. Others involved in the project included Barry Bluestone, Robert Kuttner, Ray Marshall, Robert Reich, and Lester Thurow.

In 1986, the Economic Policy Institute opened its doors, with a staff of Faux, communications director Roger Hickey, an administrative assistant and a graduate research assistant. Originally commissioning papers by academics, EPI build its own capacity with the hiring in 1987 of Larry Mishel as research director. A year later, EPI published the first biennial edition of its signature publication, *The State of Working America*, which would be researched and written by Mishel and many of the economists who later joined the staff of EPI.

In the later eighties, as a wave of deindustrialization swept over the U.S., EPI helped build the case for plant closing legislation, work that bore fruit in the WARN Act of 1988. A few years later, EPI shaped the debate on the minimum wage, showing that the benefits of raising wages for the poorest workers far outweighed the potential cost in terms of inflation or job loss.

Joining the debate about the North American Free Trade Agreement, EPI explored international issues as well, pioneering the proposal that labor standards be included in trade agreements. On domestic issues, EPI developed a trademark tactic, releasing statements signed by prominent economists supporting increased public investment, opposing the balanced budget amendment, endorsing President Bill Clinton's first budget plan, and opposing President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the very wealthy. Surveys continuously find that EPI is the most widely quoted progressive think tank in the nation's news media.

In 2002, Faux stepped down as president of EPI and assumed a new role as EPI's first Distinguished Fellow. He has begun work on a book about the North American economy.

Today, we thank Jeff for his enormous contribution in improving the well being of working families all across the world.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH
CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. This bill would provide legal protections to HMOs and override all of our efforts to hold them accountable through the Patients' Bill of Rights. Worse, it would restrict patients' rights without actually solving the problems associated with high insurance costs.

The Democratic substitute, which we were prevented from offering, would have taken a comprehensive approach to the malpractice insurance crisis, recognizing the need for both tort reform and insurance reform. Not only would it have prevented frivolous lawsuits, but it would have also required insurance companies to pass their savings on to health care providers, in addition to providing assistance to the physicians and communities who need it the most. Even the CEOs of 4 insurance companies say this bill does not guarantee reduced insurance premiums for doctors.

Capping non-economic damages at \$250,000, as this bill does, will disproportionately hurt stay-at-home mothers, children, the elderly and the disabled—people who do not earn enough to show a substantial economic loss. They suffer just as much as a high-paid CEO, yet under this bill, they would receive virtually nothing for their pain and suffering.

I urge my colleagues to do right by these families and oppose this bill. Let's come back and pass a bill that will actually do something to address the malpractice crisis.

A TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS
TALIAFERRO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Phyllis Taliaferro in recognition of her commitment to providing mental health treatment in the community.

Phyllis is a member of a proud African American family of Taliaferros. The most notable of whom is Booker Taliaferro Washington. Since 1898 Phyllis's family has maintained the Lucy Taliaferro Estate in Colonial Beach, Virginia. Phyllis's great-grandmother purchased the property. Prior to World War II, Phyllis's family moved to Baltimore where she was born. Following the war, Phyllis along with her parents and sister moved to New York.

Phyllis is a graduate of Amityville Memorial High School on Long Island. She earned her bachelor's degree at Morgan State University and received her master's degree in Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She has also studied at the University of Ghana at Legon and at St. Ann's Psychiatric Hospital in Rosekilde, Sweden. In the United States, she took post-graduate courses at the Lenox Hill Hospital Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy program and at Beth Israel Hospital. She has held faculty positions in the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College and at Old Westbury and Euro College.

In her professional life, she is focused on improving mental health treatment for women and children. She runs a group for women called "He Ain't All That." She has been honored by the Visiting Nurse Service, the Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, and the New York Black Psychologists. She is a Past President of the New York Association of Black Psychologists.

Phyllis is also the executive producer of the "The Phyllis Taliaferro Show—The Psychology of Everyday Life" on Brooklyn Community Access Television. Previously, on Starrett City Television, she was a producer and host of "Perceptions and Insights." Additionally, she made frequent appearances on Dr. Jeff's early television show, "A Hipper Shrink" and Dr. Brown's show, "Psych on Call." Phyllis has had guest spots on several radio shows as well as including "The Dr. Watkins Show," "The Gary Byrd Show," and "Hit It."

In addition to her work in the mental health field, she is actively involved in several local civic organizations. She is a member of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Brooklyn Women's Caucus, the National Political Caucus of Black Women in Politics, and the Central Committee for Al Sharpton. She is also a member of Church Women United and the auxiliary at Kings County Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Taliaferro is dedicated to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING ANNE HESTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anne Hester on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made

a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Anne married into a 3rd generation farming family, and she and her husband, Gary, are principles in Hester Orchards. Anne has played a major role in her and her husband's diversified orchard crops, nut processing, and farm management companies. She is actively involved in the operation and manages the administrative office.

Anne has been active in many agriculture and education organizations. Mrs. Hester served as chairperson for the Tulare County Farm Bureau and acted as the driving force for its Ag Education, Youth Leadership, Fund-raising, and Scholarship committees. She recognized that Ag needed to reach out to student leaders and educate them about agriculture and its importance before they went on in their education. Because of her commitment to youth, Anne was also involved in a program at Farmersville High School where she helped at-risk kids get jobs in an effort to redirect their lives. Mrs. Hester's philanthropic devotion to helping the education of youth and her active involvement in the farming industry make her a significant part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Anne Hester for her superior service to the public and her leadership in the agriculture community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF MARVIN L. LAWVER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver upon the death of this outstanding person; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver was born November 6, 1925 and in 1943, at the age of 17, Marvin L. Lawver answered his country's call to duty and enlisted in the United States Navy; and

Whereas, during his overseas service, including Pearl Harbor, he became highly decorated earning the American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal; and

Whereas, for his service to our country we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and kindness to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him;

Therefore, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver.

HONORING ANGEL GONZALEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my youngest and bravest constituents, Angel Gonzalez. Angel is California's Ambassador to Foresters Champions Across America and the Children's Miracle Network program that honors remarkable children who have triumphed despite severe medical challenges. Today, Angel enjoys the fun and games of most five-year olds, but it wasn't long ago that would have seemed impossible.

Angel was standing with his Grandmother outside the oil change shop where his Mom works in Salinas, California, when a car in one of the service bays suddenly accelerated and crashed through the closed door of the shop. Angel was hit by the car and suffered severe head trauma and internal injuries. After emergency surgery and 10 days in a coma, there were no doubts that Angel was truly a fighter. He pulled through not only because of the good work of his surgeons and nurses, but because of determination and will power. His courage and determination has been crucial in his progress on the long and difficult road of rehabilitation. Over the months, Angel has made remarkable progress, gradually regaining his speech and motor skills. Through the continuing and laborious physical therapy, Angel has maintained his positive attitude and brought a playful approach to the challenges of his continuing recovery.

Angel's recovery is a remarkable testament to his strength and perseverance and the wonderful treatment he received at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. As California's Ambassador, Angel has traveled to Washington, DC to bring hope to other children who are fighting for their health, and to recognize the important role that children's hospitals play in providing specialized care for kids. I would like to congratulate Angel on his amazing recovery and his position as an inspiring role model to all people who face adversity. I am honored to be able to recognize the resolve and support of Angel, his family, and their community.

A TRIBUTE TO LYSTRA MOORE- BESSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor of Lystra Moore-Besson in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community.

Lystra was born to Henry and Alice Moore in Trinidad & Tobago. She immigrated to the United States in 1975 to further her education. In 1980 she graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. After graduation, she pursued a career in banking. She is presently Vice-President and Branch Manager of HSBC Bank USA and holds her securities licenses from NASD.

During her twenty-years in banking, she has received several awards including the "Chairman's Award for Sales Excellence" at HSBC Bank USA. She also sits on the African American Diversity Sub-Committee for Mentoring

and Career Development. Throughout her banking career, she has mentored employees and neighborhood youth, both personally and professionally.

Lystra is deeply involved in her community. She has been a member of the Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club since 1995. She was elected Treasurer in her first year, a position she still holds. She also serves on the Board of Directors and is the funding co-advisor of the Brooklyn Canarsie Leos Club, which lends its support to the Guide Dog Foundation and the Vacation Camp for the Blind. She is on the Board of Directors of Canarsie By Choice and has supported the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, National Conference for Community Justice, and National Association for Breast Cancer.

Lystra has also lent her banking expertise to the community through various financial seminars in credit, insurance, investment, and homeowners' information. Small businesses have also benefited from her personal counseling and expertise. Lystra has also participated in several civic causes, working with the Office of Senator John Sampson and helping to elect HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON to the Senate.

Lystra is married to Ian Besson. They have three daughters Habika Zwen, Zakiya, and Tabia, and a granddaughter Lystra Daniella.

Mr. Speaker, Lystra Moore-Besson is devoted to serving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING ELIZABETH MCCABE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth McCabe on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving which serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Mrs. McCabe's life has been dedicated to the growth of agriculture and education. Elizabeth has spent countless hours involved in 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities. In 1972 she and a friend began the Mission 4-H Club. A leaders for 15 years, Elizabeth assumed the responsibility of making sure the kids traveled to five fairs a year. She is a 20 year member of the Merced Chapter, California Women for Agriculture and served as their President. She remains very active in 4-H, FAA, and California Women for Agriculture activities.

Elizabeth has a great respect for education which is why she works diligently for the Friends of the Library and is a strong supporter of organizations which fund scholarships. She has served as President for the Merced County School Board Association, the United Methodist Women, and as Treasurer for the Merced Senior, Inc. Elizabeth is a leader of philanthropy in her community and a guiding light to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Elizabeth McCabe for her outstanding service and commitment to education and agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Elizabeth many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY
SWEARENGEN STRONG

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorothy Swearingen Strong, a dynamic woman who had committed 45 years to advocating for the educational and developmental needs of African American children, especially in relation to mathematics. Making it a priority to equip at-risk youth with essential mathematics skills, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that all children are prepared to master standards-based mathematics and traditional basic skills simultaneously.

She began teaching in 1958 and has remained true to her philosophy that all children can and must complete Algebra by the end of eighth grade, in addition to attaining four years of college preparatory math by the end of high school. Strong has diligently worked from her vision of high expectations, full access, quality instruction and high achievement for all students. Always innovatively finding new ways to educate. Strong is currently directing and piloting the BiMathematics Project. This program will connect multiple definitions of curriculum faced by school districts, high stakes assessment and key mathematics principles to restructure and consolidate the mathematics curriculum for grades K-12. The project includes extended professional development, parental and community involvement components.

Impressively, Strong had developed and implemented several initiatives aimed at making math both exciting and educational for students. She has coordinated three major Mathematics and Science Motivational Projects with NASA that highlighted the achievements of African American astronauts. In an effort to increase academic achievement for inner-city students, she pioneered the MathCounts Competition, which celebrates their participation in statewide mathematics competitions.

She strives to empower students to always be prepared, be active participants in today's society and become lifelong learners. Leading by example, Strong has devoted many hours as founder and past president to the Benjamin Banneker Association. This Association provides a forum for mathematics educators and mathematicians to discuss learning and teaching math with respect to African American children. She has also developed a series of Bible Mathematics books and a Mathematics Tutor Training Manual to help Black South Af-

rican students prepare for their University Examination.

Mr. Speaker. It is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Dorothy Swearingen Strong today before Congress. She has been referred to as the Mother of Modern Day Mathematics. Her outstanding leadership and commitment to efficiently educating students makes her more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge that my colleagues join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING SEAMAN 1ST CLASS
JOSEPH MCKENNA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have made America the strongest nation on earth. Their stories serve as a reminder of the costs that our nation has endured to ensure peace and freedom. I believe that it is vitally important to acknowledge the commitment and achievement of every veteran who put his or her life on the line to protect this nation.

I want to take this opportunity to share the story and bravery of Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr., of Melville, New York, a veteran of World War II.

In the spring of 1943, Joseph McKenna was serving as a United States Navy armed guard on the tanker, *MS Panam*. The *Panam* was making a trip from Norfolk to Lake Charles, Louisiana when it developed engine trouble. After becoming separated from the rest of the convoy, a German U-Boat attacked. The first torpedo ripped through the engine room, killing two crew members. The engines were destroyed and water started to rush in.

At the time of the attack Joseph McKenna was on the bridge. His commander, Arley Zinn, met him there and told him to return to the gun deck. At this point, McKenna realized that his buddy, Seaman 1st Class Earl Mayle, was missing and he went to find him. The door to their quarters was shut; it wouldn't budge. McKenna kicked in the bottom panel of the door and, on his hands and knees, made his way through the opening to Mayle, who was wedged under a bunk. Amazingly, McKenna, a man of only one hundred and thirty two pounds, was able to drag Mayle to what he thought was the safety of the gun deck.

Upon reaching the deck, McKenna was injured when another torpedo stuck the *Panam*. Thankfully, McKenna made it to a lifeboat with Mayle. After floating in the open ocean for six hours, the Coast Guard cutter *USS SC664* finally picked them up.

McKenna lost touch with Mayle for fifty-six years. In 1999, he tracked down Mayle's wife Shirley. She told him that Mayle passed away in 1993. She said that all Earl would speak about was McKenna saving his life. "Thank God for Joe McKenna," Earl would say. "If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here."

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to recognize Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr. In honor of him and his act of bravery, I have flown a flag over the United States Capitol.

A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE TURNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Jeanette Turner in recognition of her passionate commitment to her community.

Jeanette was born and raised in Brooklyn New York. Educated in the New York City Public School System, she was able to attend college and pursue a career in nursing through the Higher Education Extension Program. She earned an Associate in Applied Science from the Bellevue School of Nursing of New York City Community College and a Bachelor of Science from Hunter College. She also received a Master of Arts in Nursing from New York University. Additionally, Jeanette has a certificate from the Alcohol Council of New York Education and Training for Historical Approaches and Current Trends to Substance Abuse.

For more than 20 years, she dedicated herself to providing quality health care for veterans while working in patient services at the New York Harbor Health System of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She worked at the Health System from 1977 to 1998. Always recognizing that veterans are individuals with their own unique needs, she emphasized a holistic approach to client care.

Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas B. Horvath, Chief of Staff of the Special Unit, she helped and supervised the implementation of the Mentally Impaired Chemical Abuse (MICA) program. Jeanette was involved in creating all aspects of the program from counseling to job placement. Additionally, she assisted physicians in providing annual physical and psychiatric examinations. Working with the community, Jeanette helped veterans obtain food, clothing, shelter, and financial assistance. Her work with the Veterans Outreach Center made sure that 250 veterans received referrals for veteran's benefits. She also developed a special patient education program and coordinated with the recreational services office to bring live entertainment for veterans, their families, and staff.

Jeanette has been committed to improving the health care of her community in her other professional experiences as well. She served as the Director of Service and Rehabilitation in the Brooklyn office of the American Cancer Society, providing rehabilitation services for families with oncology problems in the tri-state area. At Kings County Hospital, she worked with children in the outpatient pediatric unit, emergency room and on the medical and surgical units.

For her hard work and dedication, Jeanette was awarded the "We Care" Award from Kings County Hospital, a Special Commendation Award from the Acting Director of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, and a Certification of Excellence from Department of Veterans Affairs. Her chief of staff also nominated her for the "Hands and Heart" Award. In 1996, She was the guest speaker during African American heritage month at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ryerson Street Outpatient Clinic.

Additionally, she is a member of several community and civil organizations including the Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club Foundation,

Joseph Riley-Blacks in Government Chapter, St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, and Order of Eastern Star Chapter 719—Deborah Grand Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Jeanette Turner has dedicated her life to improving the health care for children, families and veterans in her community. As such, she is more the worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleague to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Falls Church, Virginia.

Located in the heart of Virginia's 11th Congressional District, St. Paul's goal of centering their faith in Christ was established at the time of their founding. Assembling at George Mason High School in 1953, a small group of men and women gathered together to formally give up their status as a mission of Arlington's Our Savior Lutheran Church and organized their own self-supporting congregation.

Today, St. Paul's has grown from a suburban congregation on the outskirts of Washington, DC, to a large urban congregation. Reflective of the diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the Falls Church community, the congregation stresses warmth and acceptance for all people. Through their numerous Sunday school and adult classes, St. Paul's emphasizes the strengthening of their faith through education, prayer, and service. From its humble beginnings, the church has been successful in serving the community and strengthening their faith through God.

As well as offering education on their faith, St. Paul's also sponsors many fellowship groups and social events. By offering opportunities for members of the church to come together through potluck dinners, Bible study groups, and special holiday events, St. Paul's furthers its dedication to faith in God.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I extend my warmest congratulations to St. Paul's Lutheran Church on this special occasion. With their commitment to faith and service to their community, the staff and members of St. Paul's are truly role models for us all. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the church's 50 years of excellence.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CHAMBERSBURG INTO A BOROUGH
HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Chambersburg into a

Borough. Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, the county seat of Franklin County, is a town rich in history. Chambersburg was settled by Benjamin Chambers in 1730. He chose the area because of the promising demographic features of the land, where the Conococheague Creek and the Falling Spring merged to provide him with the necessary water power to operate a gristmill and a sawmill.

The community of Chambersburg was formally spread out in 1764, extending the land south and east of a fort that was built to provide protection against Indian raids. The epicenter of the town, which served as the crossroads for many travelers, began to grow in size and importance. Due to the number of people that traversed through the area, many businesses began to settle and expand in the valley. These businesses were the start of the promising entrepreneurial, agricultural, and residential area that Chambersburg is today.

In March 1803, the municipal government was established through a state granted charter as a borough. In May of the same year, the town elected the first mayor, the Town Council, a High Constable, and a flour and wood inspector were appointed. A tax duplicate of \$550.97 was issued in order to begin providing government services, which at that time were mainly limited to those provided by the courts.

The Borough of Chambersburg is now home to over 17,000 people, many small and medium industrial enterprises, and continues to have strong ties to agricultural endeavors. I am very proud to represent the individuals that make up this vibrant community and would like to again commend the Borough of Chambersburg for its 200th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN M. DIXSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Honorable Evelyn M. Dixon in recognition of her dedication to her community and her enormous contribution to her church.

Evelyn is a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, President of the Cornerstone Baptist Church Federal Credit Union, and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Cornerstone's Sandy F. Ray Senior Housing. Always involved in efforts to improve her community, Mrs. Dixon is a past president of the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. She also served two four-year terms as the organization's president, which had never been done in the history of the organization. Presently, she is an advisor to the Club.

Evelyn is a former member of the Board of Directors of Elected Officials of New York State and a charter member of the Stuyvesant Heights Lions Clubs International. The club made her a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest honor one can achieve as a member of the Foundation.

Evelyn was one of the founding members of the Committee for Medgar Evers College and is a member of the Bridge Street A.W.M.E. Community Advisory Board. The Pratt Area Community Council honored Mrs. Dixon by

naming one of its affordable housing projects in 1994, "The Evelyn Dixon Houses," which are seven newly rehabilitated buildings in Brooklyn.

In recognition of her many contributions and her participation in the improvement of the Bedford Stuyvesant community, she has received numerous awards, including the Thomas S. Boyland Award for leadership and commitment to the cause of Black Americans from the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. She was also honored by Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden with a Certificate of Achievement for outstanding leadership and service. Other awards include the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs' Sojourner Truth Award, the Salvation Army's Humanitarian and Service Award, and the Key Women of America's Church Woman of the Year award.

Evelyn has also been honored by the Medgar Evers College Women's Center, Lions and Lioness Clubs, Friends of Shaw University, the National Council of Christians and Jews, and the Council of Churches of the City of New York.

A former teacher, she also studied at Bank Street College in New York City and at the New School for Social Research in New York City, specializing in Early Childhood Education. Evelyn was also an executive administrative assistant for the Taxi and Limousine Commission of New York City. One of her most outstanding accomplishments of her professional career was being elected to eight consecutive two-year terms as State Committeewoman (District Leader) of the 56th Assembly District. She was also a delegate to the 1980 National Democratic Convention.

Mr. Speaker, with her numerous awards and professional memberships, Evelyn M. Dixon has shown that she is clearly dedicated to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING CABRILLO POWER, LLC OF CARLSBAD, CA, FOR EARNING THE WALTER JONES/NOAA EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize one of the outstanding businesses in my district, Cabrillo Power, LLC of Carlsbad, CA, for recently earning the Walter Jones/NOAA Excellence Award for Excellence in Business Leadership.

The Walter Jones/NOAA Excellence in Business Leadership Award recognizes a business organization that has made significant contributions, "above and beyond the call of duty," to improve or protect the coastal or ocean environment and that demonstrate the ability to balance business interests with environmental needs.

Cabrillo Power owns and operates the Encina Generating Station located along the coast in Carlsbad, California. The Encina Gen-

erating Station has been in operation since 1952 and produces nearly 25 percent of San Diego County's electricity supply. Cabrillo Power is also an active partner in the development of a sea water desalination facility which, when built, will be the largest sea water desalination facility in the Western Hemisphere. Cabrillo Power has helped federal, state and local resource managers develop a successful and effective approach to eradicating the highly invasive marine algae from Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Cabrillo Power has a clear impact on the lives of many Californians and seeks to conduct business in a responsible manner. It serves as a stellar model for advancing the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

As a resident of one of San Diego County's coastal communities, I understand the importance of preserving our coastal resources and promoting energy efficiency. Cabrillo Power's proven creative ability to harness technology in their business practices that tempers business and environmental interests led to their selection for this prestigious honor. I applaud Cabrillo Power for its dedication to improving and serving San Diego's coastal community.

IN HONOR OF THE TVB BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW 2003

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the extraordinary efforts of NYU Downtown Hospital and its Chinese Community Partnership for Health program, for all of their work in health education, outreach and case management throughout lower Manhattan. I salute them on the occasion of the fourth annual Hong Kong Television Broadcast Limited Benefit Variety Show, which raises funds for this worthy cause.

Lower Manhattan is a diverse community that welcomes thousands of new immigrants every year, especially to the dynamic neighborhood of Chinatown. NYU Downtown Hospital is the only health care facility in the area and works to guarantee that these immigrants have access to quality health care.

The hospital has numerous successful outreach programs including the Chinese Community Partnership for Health (CCPH) program. The CCPH works to promote health care to all the residents of New York's Chinese community, including the tens of thousands of new residents each year. For ten years, the CCPH has served more than 80,000 garment and restaurant workers, elderly Chinese residents and school children in the Hospital's service area.

The centerpiece of the Partnership program is its health screening activities conducted by specially trained outreach teams that include bilingual nurses with both Eastern and Western healthcare concepts and practices. CCPH helps these immigrants overcome language and cultural barriers which prevent them from receiving the medical assistance they need and deserve.

To help raise funds for this worthy cause, CCPH and NYU Downtown Hospital will host a three-day extravaganza featuring a celebrity gala dinner and culminating in the Benefit Variety Show. Produced by the Hong Kong Tele-

vision Broadcasts Limited (TVB), the Benefit Variety Show is an annual event in its fourth year that will be held in New York on March 22nd. The festivities are broadcast worldwide, which helps to display New York's tremendous diversity.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many individuals who work tirelessly to make this event an annual success, including Sir Run Run Shaw, Executive Chairman of TVB, George C.K. Liu, Chairman of the Physician Committee, and Hong Kong Superstars Jerry Lamb, Sonija Kwok, Edwin Siu, Joey Yung, Steven Ma, Moses Chan, Ming-Fai Koi, and Christopher Wong. I would also like to recognize the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, who are the grand benefactors of this event and do so much throughout Chinatown to serve and protect the interests of the Chinese community in New York City.

I appreciate all the good work that CCPH does to promote quality health care and I wish them great success with this year's variety show.

OPPOSING THE FCC DECISION ON DEREGULATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in the final analysis, America's national security depends heavily on America's economic security—and, especially critical to our economic growth and prosperity in the future is our telecommunications industry.

Telecommunications is very important to my own state of Florida. More than 80,000 Floridians work in telecommunications. Thousands more depend on the industry to maintain their pensions, their retirement savings—to generate the additional income they need to continue as active, contributing members of society.

What hurts the American telecommunications sector, in other words, often generates problems which can only ripple throughout our economy, affecting our national goals and values.

And, that's why I was so disappointed by the decision announced by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) members on February 20—that they had no intention to remove existing restrictions placed on local phone companies nearly seven years ago, restrictions which the chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee, Mr. TAUZIN, and the Ranking Democrat, Mr. DINGELL, both agree are discouraging new communications investment and new jobs creation.

The best prescription for economic growth and for producing good jobs with a future—for every American who wants to work—is a strong and growing economy. One does not foster investment and jobs creating by perpetuating unneeded regulations and deliberately discouraging new investment, especially new investment.

Congress needs to send the FCC majority a message that when it comes to jobs creation, when it comes to spurring new investment, when it comes to stimulating the broader availability of advanced communications, Congress expects the FCC to vote "yes."

This country can't afford—and, the American people don't deserve—the kind of anti-investment, anti-jobs policies that the FCC has displayed through their ruling against local phone company deregulation.

HONORING KALMAN AND
DEVORAH STROBEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kalman and Devorah Strobel upon their selection to be the honorees at the 24th Annual Dinner of the Young Israel of Avenue J, in Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Strobel have truly defined community service. Having given generously of their time, finances, and business acumen, our local Brooklyn neighborhoods have truly been blessed to be the beneficiaries of such selflessness.

Mr. and Mrs. Strobel have played an integral role in the success of the Young Israel for over twenty years as well as many other crucial local Jewish institutions. The Strobel's dedication to Tifereth High School for Special Children is only one example of the breadth and depth of their efforts to better our neighborhoods. Their efforts have provided a guiding light into the true meaning of the Hebrew word "chesed" translated into English as kindness.

Being of a soft spoken nature, Mr. & Mrs. Strobel have proven that actions speak louder than words. Although never ones to seek accolades for their work, the community and the Young Israel will forever be indebted to them.

Additionally, I wish to congratulate the Strobel's children, Suri, Miraty, Rivky, and Meir Eli, and granddaughter Chaya Leah so fortunate to have Kalman and Devorah as their role models.

May you continue to grace our community with your inspiring presence for many years to come.

HONORING THE SOUTH LAKE MEMORIAL AMERICAN LEGION AUX NO. 55

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Ms. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Lake Memorial American Auxiliary #55 on their Anniversary. Sixty-six years ago this Auxiliary was founded by the brave veterans of World War I and has been serving their community ever since.

Most recently, they were recognized as one of the strongest promoters of the "Spinoza Bear Program". This is a compassionate crusade that brings a smile to thousands of grieving children.

Their commitment to public service is renewed every year as they sponsor two young women to attend Girl's State, a wonderful program that has been developed to foster political activism in our nation's youth. They are in-

involved in countless other activities that promote community involvement by their members.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call the men and women of the South Lake Memorial American Legion constituents, and I ask that you join with me today to congratulate them on their service to our nation.

IN REGONITION OF VERONICA
NIGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Veronica Nigh, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. She has been honored with the Award of Distinction as winner of the Cotillion for Achievement Scholarship Program.

The Cotillion for Achievement Award was established in 1986 and is presented annually. Two winners, one male, one female are selected from public and private school seniors attending school in Andrew and Buchanan County, Missouri. Students are evaluated on four criteria, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement and an essay written by the student. This prestigious award has been extended to Veronica.

Veronica has established herself as a well-rounded student. She is involved in numerous activities, including Student Council, FFA, FCCLA, Social Studies Club, National Honors Society, class officer, volleyball, county fair play, the county museum, the County Fair Board, Student Tutors and the District Health Board as a student ambassador. Additionally, she has been honored for her achievements with such awards and distinctions as The National Honor Society Award, Missouri Girls State Minority House Leader, who's who among American high school students, student of the quarter, 1st place on the State Agriculture Literacy Team, 3rd place on the state FFA Agriculture Sales Team, the Washington Leadership Conference, FFA Chapter Star Greenhand, State FFA Creed Speaker, High Honor Roll, Honor Letter and The Missouri FFA Public Speaking Academy First Place Novice Division.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Veronica Nigh for her many achievements and in wishing her the best of luck in her future.

TRIBUTE TO SOMERSET, KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker I rise today to commend the staff of the Somerset Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other

federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of just about everyone.

The field office in my hometown of Somerset, Kentucky, is a shining example for this massive agency. Under the leadership of W.D. Dalton, the staff in Somerset consistently goes beyond the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of their unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Somerset Office as the Best Level II Field Office in the Atlanta Region for fiscal year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Somerset Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED
AND INJURED AT FORT DRUM
BLACK HAWK CRASH

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have countless times before on the floor of this House, to talk about something very near and dear to my heart—Fort Drum and the brave men and women of the Army's 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), the most frequently deployed division in the U.S. Army today.

When I raise this topic, I take a particular amount of pride in reminding my colleagues that Fort Drum, which is the most modern military facility anywhere in the world, is situated within my upstate New York Congressional District. Since the early 1990s, soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division (LI) have participated in significant operations both at home and abroad, including Hurricane Andrew, the Northeast's Ice Storm of 1998, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and beyond.

I have seen the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) in action. I have met many of the soldiers one-on-one and have been fortunate to speak with them during visits here at home and while the Division has been deployed around the globe. I am always impressed by their professionalism and the way they do their job without hesitation. The dedication, commitment, and heroism these men and women have is, perhaps, what is most remarkable about Fort Drum.

Last week, people from across the country became familiar with Fort Drum as well. But sadly, our nation learned the importance of this Army post through news reports of a tragic helicopter crash that occurred during a training mission. We were all devastated on last Tuesday afternoon when we learned that a Black Hawk went down killing 11 soldiers and injuring two.

Mr. Speaker, the soldiers who lost their lives on March 11, 2003 in the service of our nation are:

Cpt. Christopher E. Britton, 27, from Ohio, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth L. Miller, 35, from California assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment.

Staff Sgt. Brian Pavlich, 25, from Port Jervis, NY assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. John L. Eichenlaub, Jr., 24, from South Williamsport, PA assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Joshua M. Harapko, 23, from Peoria, Axiz., assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Spc. Lucas V. Tripp, 23, from Aurora, Colo., assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment.

Spc. Barry M. Stephens, 20, from Pinson, Alabama, assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment.

Pfc. Shawn A. Mayerscik, 22, from Oil City, PA, assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Pfc. Tommy C. Young, 20, from Knoxville, Tenn. assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Pfc. Stryder O. Stoutenburg, 18, from Missoula, Mont. assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Pfc. Andrew D. Stevens, 20, from Rockingham, NH. assigned to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, those injured in the crash were:

Spc. Dmitri Petrov and Spc. Edwin A. Mejia, both from Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to pray for these soldiers and their families during this difficult time.

Our nation, the United States Army, and the people of Northern New York stand united with the families of the fallen and injured soldiers. While I know there are no words or deeds that can ever ease the pain and heavy burden the loved ones of these soldiers are experiencing, I want to pay tribute to those who have given their lives to the fullest measure as well as those soldiers injured in the line of duty.

The North Country community has long viewed the soldiers stationed at Fort Drum as much more than just the defenders of our nation. They are our friends and neighbors. The outpouring of care and concern from area residents has been truly extraordinary. It is because we feel this loss, too. I want the injured soldiers and surviving families to know we share their grief and sorrow.

The crash at Fort Drum was not the first introduction Americans have had with the Black Hawk helicopter. Mark Bowden's best-selling book and movie titled "Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War" was an account of the American military campaign on the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia when warlords there were wreaking havoc on their own people in 1993. As I have mentioned before, the 10th Mountain Division is the Army's most frequently deployed force, so it's not surprising that elements of the 10th played a significant

role in that mission and were featured in the book's after-action report of the difficulties they faced. The title, "Black Hawk Down" comes from the ominous words that echoed from the radio transmissions almost as soon as the operation began.

Whether we are talking about the Black Hawk that went down in Somalia nearly a decade ago, or the crash near Wheeler-Sack Airfield at Fort Drum, we know that things do not always go as planned in war or in warfighting training exercises. And now, as our Armed Forces face another military offensive overseas, the tragic accident at Fort Drum serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices our service men and women make on a daily basis. Whether it be in training or in battle, we do not always have the privilege of seeing their acts of heroism carried on CNN or in a motion picture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in paying tribute to these men. Let us also acknowledge the rest of the men and women in uniform and express our gratitude for their service to our nation. As they go forward with their assignments, both at home and abroad, they need our support and our prayers.

HONORING WIDER HORIZON SCHOOL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in the 5th Congressional District of Florida. Educating our Youth is one of the most important challenges that we as a nation face. The founders of Wider Horizons School have embraced this challenge with a vigor and dedication that has left a strong impression on the community which they serve.

On Friday, March 14th, Wider Horizons School will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Founded in 1983, Wider Horizons was the brain child of two individuals who cut their teeth in the Peace Corps opening schools in the jungles of Peru. Their formula for success includes a focus on independent learning, international field trips, and instruction in Spanish beginning in preschool.

I am proud to call Mr. and Mrs. Domenick constituents. They and their staff serve as examples to us all of what it means to truly be public servants.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEVIN GOODLET

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devin Goodlet, a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. He has been honored with the award of distinction as winner of the Cotillion for Achievement Scholarship Program.

The Cotillion for Achievement Award was established in 1986 and is presented annually. Two winners, one male, one female, are selected from public and private school seniors attending school in Andrew and Buchanan County, Missouri. Students are evaluated on four criteria: scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement and an essay written by the student. This prestigious award has been extended to Devin.

Devin has established himself as a well-rounded student. He is involved in numerous activities, including varsity tennis, student government, UMKC leadership seminar, Forum Club, Spanish Club, JCCC Mathcount, Math Olympiad, National Forensics League, Heartland Health Systems, Food Can Drive, Habitat for Humanity, Harvest Food Bank, Multiple Sclerosis Walk for the Cure, United Way penny drive, Missouri State Senate youth forum, 2000 election campaign, doctors day, royal family kids camp, and the Diwali Celebration. Additionally, he has been honored for his achievements with such awards and distinctions as the National Honor Society Award, the National Merit Commendation Award, the Academic Excellence Award, Bright Flight Scholar, the Missouri Math League Award, the ASME Math Competition Award, Duke University Tip Scholar while qualifying for the State tennis competition.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Devin Goodlet for his many achievements and in wishing him the best of luck in his future.

TRIBUTE TO MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Middlesboro Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of just about everyone.

The field office in Middlesboro, Kentucky, is a shining example for this massive agency. Under the leadership of Steve Schneider, the staff in Middlesboro consistently goes beyond

the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of their unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Middlesboro Office as the Best Level II Field Office in the Atlanta Region for fiscal year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Middlesboro Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE QUALIFIES FOR THE SCHOOL'S FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. MR. Speaker, On Tuesday, March 11, 2003, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Men's Basketball team qualified for the NCAA tournament by defeating the Butler University Bulldogs. The Panthers (24-7) are making their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, and gained an automatic berth into the field with a 69-52 win over Butler in the championship game of the Horizon League Tournament. UWM will be seeded number 12 in the West Region of the NCAA Tournament.

This outstanding achievement is a proud moment for the university, alumni, students, and the community. I would like to join with the UWM family in recognizing this enormous accomplishment, and it's with great pride that I offer my congratulations and applaud their efforts.

Tournament MVP Clay Tucker scored a game-high 23 points in leading the No. 2 seed University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee over No. 1 seed Butler University in the championship game. He also had team-high eight rebounds to go with game-bests in assists (4), steals (4), and blocks (2).

UWM's Head Basketball Coach Bruce Pearl coaching talents have been recognized nationally. In the May 1999 issue of Sport Magazine, Coach Pearl was listed as one of the "Five Head Coaches on the Rise," placing him in a group with Paul Hewitt (Georgia Tech), Mike Brey (Notre Dame), and Buzz Peterson (Tennessee).

Before coming to coach the UWM Panthers, Coach Pearl ended 14 years as an assistant at the University of Iowa. Prior to coaching at Iowa, he was an assistant coach at Stanford, and, at the age of 23, was promoted to Associate Head Coach at Stanford. Bruce Pearl helped lay the groundwork for the resurgence in men's basketball at Stanford.

So, I am pleased to join with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to recognize the Men's Basketball Team for their notable play and excitement for the community at large and the State of Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GARY D. JERAULD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Gary D. Jerauld upon his retirement after more than 26 years of outstanding service to our country in the United States Army. After his effective retirement date of June 30, 2003, Col. Jerauld will reside in my Congressional district.

Colonel Gary D. Jerauld has distinguished himself throughout his military service in challenging and diverse assignments. Throughout his remarkable career, he has received many medals and awards for his ability to lead by example, encourage excellence from his peers and subordinates, effectively manage the Army's resources, and consistently produce outstanding results. I commend Col. Jerauld for his ability to energize a diverse staff toward a common purpose, setting high standards and inspiring his staff to achieve them.

Colonel Jerauld has been assigned to several key military positions throughout his career, which culminated as the Project Manager for the Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs) and Air and Missile Defense Command and Control Systems (AMDCCS), a position he has held since 1999. It is in this role that Col. Jerauld will leave an enduring mark on the future of our Army.

One example of his unique leadership abilities occurred in March 2000, when he was given the mission: "Restructure A2C2S into an executable program, place the system in the hands of the user now, and field to the First Digitized Division in Fiscal Year 2003." In just over one year, Colonel Jerauld and his team stood up the A2C2S Product Manager position and office, restructured the program, deployed an A2C2S demonstrator system to the 4th Infantry Division, and awarded a competitive contract for system integration. Colonel Jerauld has built a reputation as a Project Manager for delivering quality products to the field in much less time normally required for design, fabrication, and delivery.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Colonel Jerauld for his 26 years of service to our country and I welcome him to our North Alabama community.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1309, "VETERANS PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS ACT OF 2003"

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1309, "The Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003", legislation which will provide a revolutionary change in veterans' medical care.

"The Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003" would allow veterans to be the first among America's seniors and disabled people to have a real, meaningful Medicare outpatient drug benefit. If our nation is serious

about implementing a drug benefit for seniors, the legislation I am introducing today would speed the availability of a prescription drug benefit and could even result in savings for the Medicare trust fund by allowing VA to employ its considerable prescription drug purchasing and benefit management skills in administering the benefit for veterans who are Medicare eligible. Additionally, this legislation would realign VA health care, allowing VA to concentrate its health care assets on the many veterans who rely upon it for the majority of their care needs.

"The Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003" would, for the first time, allow veterans to bring prescriptions ordered by physicians who are not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs to the VA to be filled. It would also require the Medicare trust fund to pay the cost of this new benefit for veterans who choose it and who are also eligible for Medicare Part A and enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Recently the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has decided to restrict enrollment of higher income veterans to those who were enrolled prior to January 17, 2002. Consequently, this legislation would allow veterans who no longer have the option of receiving a full continuum of health care services to receive subsidized prescription drug coverage from VA.

Providing this new drug benefit to Medicare eligible veterans could also have the effect of eliminating the enormous queues that have developed as higher income veterans have flooded the system to seek inexpensive prescription drugs. As of the end of January, about 202,000 veterans had waited longer than six months for a first primary care visit or for necessary follow up care. Many of these veterans are likely to be Priority 7 or 8 veterans who constituted more than 75 percent of VA's new users in 2002. Offering these veterans an opportunity for new drug coverage without first obtaining an appointment with a VA provider could have the effect of significantly reducing or entirely eliminating these waiting times. In fiscal year 2002, VA estimates almost 900,000 veterans used the VA health care primarily or exclusively to fill drug prescriptions who would also be likely to take advantage of a new prescription drug benefit.

At the end of 2000, VA's Office of Inspector General (IG) advised "VHA can reduce the cost impact of providing prescriptions to priority group 7 veterans, make additional resources available for veterans healthcare, and enhance the delivery of prescription services to veterans." (Audit of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Pharmacy Co-Payment Levels and Restrictions on Filling Privately Written Prescriptions for Priority Group 7 Veterans, Report No. 99-00057-4, December 20, 2000) This report suggested that VA could have saved more than \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2001 by eliminating the need for VA to re-examine veterans who have already received examinations and tests to receive prescriptions from private physicians. These savings were projected only for Priority 7 veterans, who were, at that time the group with the lowest priority for care. For all veterans, the IG might project even higher savings.

While cognizant of his IG's finding, Secretary Anthony J. Principi testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs that he believed that the IG did not factor in the additional costs of new demand for the prescription drug benefit. His response when asked

about a prescription drug bill introduced in the 107th Congress by Mr. Wicker was:

I would like nothing, better than to be able to provide prescriptions for all of our veterans. And I very, very seldom disagree with my IG about cost.

There is no question that the IG is right that we would save money if we did not have to do the medical evaluation, like Mr. Simmons said earlier. . . . I think the doors would come tumbling down by 25 million veterans or whatever percentage are on prescriptions, seeking to get their prescriptions filled at the VA. So I think yes, on the one hand we would save money. But how do you control the workload increase?

If you just increase by 25 percent the number of veterans who are coming to us for prescriptions—and that is not a large number—the bill would be \$9.2 billion. Fifty percent, it would be \$15.9 billion. Again, where do we get the money?

Offering veterans an opportunity to receive subsidized drug coverage from VA through Medicare and receive the rest of their care from their choice of private providers is one possible solution to the Secretary's dilemma. My bill requires a veteran to choose between a VA benefit and a Medicare benefit. I do not believe it is likely that thousands of satisfied veterans would disenroll from VA to receive this new benefit—those with satisfactory access can receive even cheaper drugs as VA beneficiaries. However, particularly since Priority 8 veterans are being told they can no longer enroll for all health care services and waiting times make access to VA services difficult for some veterans, I believe some lower priority veterans might opt to receive the new Medicare benefit administered by VA. In addition, it would present a new option for subsidized drug coverage to Medicare—eligible veterans that might interest veterans who have never attempted to access the VA system.

My bill also provides an option for veterans who have highly rated service-connected disabilities to have this coverage at VA expense to fill private sector physician written prescriptions. I believe this option might only be attractive to veterans that have serious access problems due to their distance from VA medical centers or other factors that make even the rare visits to physicians necessary for pharmacy refills extremely difficult.

The yearly option to choose one system or the other—Medicare or VA—for health care benefits offers the federal government an opportunity to assess the effect of coordinating multiple eligibilities without compelling veterans to choose between services to which they currently have open access. Because this is a new benefit, veterans' choice to enroll for that benefit would not be easily characterized as a diminution—but rather would be an enhancement—to existing choices.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the "Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003" offers a solution to many of the problems confronting VA today. It will allow VA to offer some benefit to veterans who have been "locked out" of VA for the indefinite future and a more convenient choice for the many veterans currently in long queues for their first appointment for VA provided health care.

I have letters of support from several of our major service organizations that I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN VETERANS,

Lanham, MD, March 17, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Member, House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: On behalf of the members of AMVETS, I write to express our gratitude and support for your leadership in proposing legislation to permit veterans to obtain prescriptions from veterans' hospitals using prescriptions written by hometown doctors.

Currently, veterans are eligible to receive prescription medications from the VA only if a VA physician prescribes the medication. While insisting that a VA doctor see the patient may not seem like too great an imposition, many of the more than 200,000 veterans waiting over six months for a doctor's appointment are waiting to have a prescription written and filled.

Your legislation would allow VA to fill veterans' prescriptions written by hometown doctors under special circumstances. First, the veteran would accept VA solely for the purpose of filling prescriptions. Second, the veteran would be required to make a copay based on the type of drug treatment requested. And, third, the cost of the prescription would be partially offset through Medicare reimbursement.

This change would provide an avenue for many veterans to receive timely access to prescription drugs and reduce the number of veterans waiting to see a VA physician as well.

Again, we appreciate your creative approach to solving an issue facing many veterans and thank you for taking a very big step toward helping veterans receive access to prescription medications.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. JONES,
National Legislative Director.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Democratic Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: The American Legion looks forward to working with you and your staff on the draft legislation, Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003. This is a proposed new benefit program for Medicare-eligible veterans that choose only to use the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) pharmaceutical services. The legislative intent is to provide a new option for certain Medicare-eligible veterans; however, there are concerns:

The American Legion does not agree with Priority Group 1 veterans paying any enrollment or co-payments for this service.

What is the impact on Medicare-eligible veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 with service-connected medical conditions? Would they have to disenroll to participate in this program? If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funding fails to cover the actual cost of the program, how will VA be reimbursed? Is CMS willing to adopt this as a new Medicare program? Will this be scored as third-party reimbursements, an offset against annual discretionary appropriations? Why must VA collect the enrollment fees and co-payments, transfer these collections to CMS, then CMS transfer funds back to VA?

Will VA be staffed with qualified pharmaceutical personnel to meet increased pharmaceutical demands?

The American Legion applauds your efforts to solve one of many challenges facing the VA health care system. The VA health care system is a comprehensive program that ad-

resses the total range of veterans' health needs. Likewise, Congress must address the overall problem of delivery and demand for services from a growing patient population.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of America's veterans.

Sincerely,

STEVE ROBERTSON,
Director,
National Legislative Commission.

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION,
Washington DC, March 14, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Democratic Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: On behalf of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the only Congressionally chartered veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our Nation's blinded veterans, thank you for your initiative to create a prescription drug benefit for veterans. BVA supports your proposed legislation Offering Medicare-eligible veterans an opportunity to fill their non-VA prescriptions at a VA facility in lieu of enrollment into the VA health care system is the right approach to take. Over 900,000 veterans indicate they use the VA system primarily for prescription drugs. BVA believes this bill as written, will alleviate some of the unnecessary waiting time backlog created by veterans scheduling appointments exclusively to receive a prescription from a VA doctor. In many cases, a non-VA physician has previously prescribed the prescription they are seeking. Provision of a funding mechanism that will not further erode the already insufficient funding levels for VA Health Care is the most attractive aspect to this proposal.

BVA supports inclusion of Priority 1 veterans in this benefit. Offering a prescription drug benefit to veterans who choose not to fully use the VA health care system because of distance or personal preference, is the right action to take. We caution you to be very clear in your explanation of prescription coverage as an ADDITIONAL benefit that does not take away a Priority 1 veterans access to any other VA service.

Sincerely,

THOMAS H. MILLER,
Executive Director.

MILITARY ORDER
OF THE PURPLE HEART,
Springfield, VA, March 14, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Cannon Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: First, on behalf of the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) I want to thank you for your unwavering support for combat wounded veterans, indeed your support for all veterans.

Second, we are aware that you are going to introduce legislation that would create a prescription drug benefit for veterans. MOPH supports your efforts in this endeavor and looks forward to passage of the legislation.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM A. WROOLIE,
National Commander.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Democratic Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: On behalf of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I am writing to offer our support for the "Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of

2003." By providing a new Medicare drug benefit to veterans, your measure would begin to address a vital need and concern of our elderly citizens—the need for affordable pharmaceuticals.

The increasing use of prescription drugs for medical treatment options has revolutionized the provision of medical care. Every year pharmaceuticals represent an ever-growing percentage of health-care expenditures. Medicare has not kept up with this revolution. By providing veterans with this benefit, facilitated through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and ensuring that VA does not spend scarce and inadequate resources, we can begin the process of reflecting the manner in which health care is delivered in this Nation.

This measure, unlike others, would not force the VA alone to bear the burden of addressing this national policy failure. The VA would merely be acting to facilitate a benefit offered to veterans, a benefit that would provide substantial pharmaceutical savings to the federal government because of VA's statutorily mandated discounts. In addition, this measure would reimburse the VA for expenses relating to the implementation of this benefit as well as costs incurred in administering it.

Although veterans seeking treatment for a service-connected condition, and veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or more are expressly exempted from the requirement of enrolling in order to receive care by Medicare benefit, and foregoing their VA health care options are always able to seek treatment for service-connected conditions at VA facilities. Additionally we request that other veterans needing specialized services be afforded access to care.

Again, thank you for introducing the "Veterans Prescription Drug Benefits Act of 2003." We look forward to working with you closely in order to pass, and ultimately enact, this important measure.

Sincerely,

DELATORRO L. MCNEAL
Executive Director.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Silver Spring, MD, March 18, 2003.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Democrat, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) strongly supports the "Veterans Prescription Drug Benefit Act of 2003" that you plan to soon introduce to the House of Representatives.

As you know, VVA reluctantly supported Secretary Principi's decision to temporarily suspend new enrollments of Category 8 veterans only because the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical facilities were in such a dire under-funded state. While the approach that you have taken in moving to relieve this pressure might not be what VVA would choose in a perfect world, in the real world of a veterans health care system that is so grossly under funded this is a similarly sensible, responsible, and effective approach to provide relief to the system.

While VVA has not favored such plans to allow VA to so provide pharmaceuticals in the past because they included no way to fully fund VA honoring prescriptions written by non-VA physicians, your proposal does allow for payment of such from both Part A and Part B of Medicare in addition as well as annual enrollment fee and co-payments that are reasonable. As long as such prescriptions are provided at a net negligible additional cost to the system, VVA does favor this proposal for Medicare eligible veterans who are not service connected disabled.

In regard to the provision that would accord priority group 1 (70 percent or greater service connected disabled) veterans the opportunity to have non-VA prescription drug orders filled by VA via mail fulfillment, VVA favors such mail fulfillment as a convenience for veterans who sometimes have to travel great distances to reach a VHA each time they renew their prescription, imposing a hardship.

As the primary purpose of the Veterans Health Administration is to be a "veterans health care system" and not just a general health care system that happens to be for veterans, VVA urges that you amend this bill at mark up to require that there is a complete physical, including blood draw tests annually performed on at least the Priority 1 veterans covered under this proposal. While VHA continues (inexplicably to VVA) to fail to ensure that a complete military history be taken on every single veteran seeking health care services from VHA, and that VHA clinicians use this key data to do a proper assessment of overall health of the veteran, including conditions or illnesses that may be due to exposures or other factors during his/her military service, there is still a need for VHA to fulfill their responsibilities for medical oversight of significantly and or profoundly disabled veterans.

If this proposed legislation reduces the utilization of VHA services primarily or only to secure pharmaceuticals by only a proportion of the 900,000 veterans reported seeking services for this reason, then it will help relieve the pressure that is crushing the VHA system without leaving any veteran without alternative services.

Again, VVA thanks you for your strong leadership on behalf of America's veterans.

Sincerely,

RICHARD F. WEIDMAN,
Director of Government Relations.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLARK
MERSHON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clark Mershon, a very special educator who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. He has been honored as the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals 2003 Middle School Principal of the Year.

Clark began his teaching career in 1982 at Lebanon Junior High School, as both a teacher and coach and advanced to Principal in 1992. He currently serves as Principal of New Mark Middle School in North Kansas City, Missouri, where he has been since 1997. Clark was given this distinction because of the impact he makes on both staff and students.

The staff of New Mark Middle School commend Clark for his strong leadership shown to teachers, students and community members. His humanity, humility, and sound instructional and organizational skills illustrate the importance of his impact on his school and community.

The student body acknowledges Mr. Clark for his welcoming personality that instills pride, honor and school spirit at New Mark.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clark Mershon as the MASSP's Middle School Principal of the Year. Clark exemplifies the qualities of exceptional leader

and Principal and we are proud to have him as an educator in the 6th District of Missouri.

TRUTH SEEKERS SUBSTANCE
OUTREACH MINISTRY, INC.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Truth Seekers Substance Outreach Ministry, Inc. on their 10th anniversary celebration in Newark, New Jersey.

Under the direction of Reverend Lance Abercrombie, Truth Seekers Outreach Ministry began its journey in 1993. Traveling throughout the tri-state area, Reverend Abercrombie and his cousin, Wayne Reynolds, worked to spread the word of how their faith saved them from a life of substance abuse. Becoming incorporated in May of 2000, they have worked hard to refer individuals to detoxification and rehabilitation centers, shelters, as well as other organizations to help assist individuals on their road to a life free of substance abuse.

The Truth Seekers Outreach Ministry, Inc. has reached out to our community to see that those in need are not left behind. They are providing a wonderful service to the many men and women in this country who suffer from substance abuse, by showing them that there is hope and that they can conquer their illness.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Truth Seekers Outreach Ministry, Inc. on their 10th anniversary, and wishing them the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN OREGON
RADIO PERSONALITY DICK
BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE AIRWAVES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Dick Bailey and congratulate him on his retirement from the airwaves of southern Oregon. Dick's commanding, gravelly voice has been a fixture of KCMX radio in Medford for five years and he will surely be difficult to replace.

Dick Bailey was born on February 4th, 1941, in Winchester, Massachusetts, a sin for which the people of Oregon long ago forgave him when they welcomed him into their warm Western embrace. Dick graduated from Gorham High School in Gorham, Maine, and afterward enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served from 1958 to 1962. He went on to receive a degree from the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California and also attended the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California, where he edited the college's first newspaper.

Dick's professional career has been a long and varied one that has taken him to radio and television stations in California, Washington, Alaska, Vermont and of course Oregon

over the past 41 years. While in Alaska, he taught broadcasting classes at the University of Alaska. Dick spent several years announcing at the Redwood Acres Speedway and Eureka Speedway in California, as well as the Southern Oregon Speedway. He also announced the Hanford 150 in Hanford, California, and a Canadian-American Race in Vermont. Dick's wandering came to an end when he settled in Shady Cove in Oregon's Jackson Valley, and it is there that he will retire.

During his career, Dick has covered Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush the Elder, Bill Clinton and our current President Bush. During President Bush's trip to southern Oregon last year, he provided steady and reliable coverage of the President's visit, which his listeners have come to expect from Dick. For years he has communicated the latest news and happenings around the greater Medford area with clarity and precision. Dick has both a voice made for radio, and no one who has heard him on the airwaves doubts that he found his true calling. Fortunately, he also has a tremendous sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey's service to his community did not just come in the form of his news broadcasts. He has also lent his voice to the Jacksonville Christmas Parade and other local activities. Anyone who knows Dick knows of his love of the outdoors, and his service as a member of the Jackson County Parks Commission reflects his desire to preserve the natural beauty of his adopted home. He is an active outdoorsman and has made clear how much he looks forward to the extra time he will have for fishing following his retirement. In the years ahead, the local fish population will have much to fear from Dick as he spends his days casting his line and enjoying the beauty of southern Oregon's waterways.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey will be fondly remembered by his listeners in southern Oregon, just as he'll be missed by his colleagues. Like everyone who has dealt with Dick in a professional capacity, I'm sorry to see him retire, but happy to see him begin the relaxing years of his retirement. Thank you for everything you've given to us, Dick, and best wishes in the years ahead.

THE EAST KERN AIRPORT
DISTRICT IN MOJAVE, CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is necessary to enhance our national security. The East Kern Airport District in Mojave, California, faces unique security threats.

Although it is a General Aviation airport and does not have commercial passengers, the East Kern Airport District is home to high-tech aerospace firms and provides storage to over 300 commercial transport aircraft. These aircraft, which are stored with fifty percent of their fuel tanks full, rest just minutes through the air from several major military installations and downtown Los Angeles.

Since September 11, 2001, the Airport has been seeking funding to address these threats, as it fears a serious act of terrorism.

However, the Airport has been repeatedly informed that no security funds are available for its needs because it is classified as a General Aviation airport.

To correct this situation, I am introducing legislation today to ensure that the Undersecretary of Transportation has the authority needed to enhance security at the East Kern Airport District. Very simply, this legislation will allow the Undersecretary to provide up to \$300,000 annually to meet the Airport's security costs and up to \$1.25 million to reimburse the East Kern Airport District for security costs incurred since September 11, 2001.

I trust that my colleagues and the appropriate Department of Homeland Security officials will recognize the East Kern Airport District's unique situation and work with me to ensure that the Airport is adequately protected.

RICHARD K. ARMEY ROOM

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and former colleague, Former Majority Leader Richard K. Armeay. Representative Armeay recently retired following 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including eight years as the Majority Leader.

From his humble roots in Cando, North Dakota, to his rise in Washington, Dick Armeay never drifted from his principles of honesty and integrity. He made life better not only for his constituents in Texas, but for Americans all across this great land. His work in Congress saved taxpayers millions of dollars annually. His sound conservative values renewed America's commitment to the principles of personal freedom and limited government.

As a loyal and dedicated conservative, Dick Armeay advocated welfare reform, personal retirement accounts for Social Security, and fundamental reform of the tax code. He specifically supported implementing a flat tax. His persistence to this cause gave it a national platform. This cause continues in his new career at Citizens for a Sound Economy as its Co-Chairman.

It has been a great honor to spend most of my tenure in Congress working with Representative Armeay, a fine Southern gentleman and true fiscal conservative. The naming of Room 236 in the U.S. Capitol as the Richard K. Armeay room is a deserving tribute for a committed public servant. I will miss my good friend Grumpy, and I wish him and his wife Susan all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONNIE
BUCHNER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize Connie Buchner of Rocky Ford, Colorado for her decades of service to the United States

Postal Service. Connie retired in January after a thirty-four year career and, as she enjoys her retirement, I would like to highlight her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

In her thirty-four years with the postal service, Connie has overseen remarkable changes in technology, moving from labor-intensive mail processing to a largely automated workload. Connie also supervised increased security demands following the September 11, 2002 terrorist attacks.

Connie began working for the postal service in 1970 as a letter carrier. She rose through the ranks to become Rocky Ford's postmaster, and also served as the Fowler postmaster for sixteen years. Connie has touched many lives in her long career, and the Rocky Ford community insisted on holding an open house reception to officially send her off into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Connie Buchner for her thirty-four years of outstanding service to her community. Post Offices are often the lynchpin of small communities, and Connie filled her position with the Postal Service with compassion and efficiency. I am thankful for her service.

HONORING THOMPSON
ENGINEERING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thompson Engineering, an extraordinary engineering design, environmental, construction inspection and materials testing firm located in Mobile, Alabama. Each year, the Alabama Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies honors outstanding engineering achievements with its Engineering Excellence Awards. This year, Thompson Engineering was recognized with the 2003 Engineering Excellence Honor Award by the Alabama Chapter and received national recognition by the American Council of Engineering Companies for its outstanding work as prime design consultant for the Mobile Landing project.

Mobile Landing is a twelve-acre municipal wharf complex on the Mobile River adjacent to the waterfront business and entertainment districts in downtown Mobile, Alabama. The landing provides the citizens of Mobile with a publicly accessible waterfront development including a new ceremonial docking space for large oceangoing vessels; a riverfront pedestrian promenade; an outdoor plaza with amphitheater, bandstand and fountain; parking for vehicles; utilities; security and lighting and landscaped open space.

Thompson Engineering, as the lead design firm, developed the master plan for the project site and provided architectural and engineering design and construction management services for the project. Thompson also provided grant budgeting and management, regulatory permitting and environmental assessment, subsurface exploration, land and hydrographic surveying, and a cultural resources reconnaissance report for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me and the American Council

of Engineering Companies in honoring Thompson Engineering for its outstanding work with the Mobile Landing project. The landing and its facilities will prove to be another valuable asset to the City of Mobile, its citizens and visitors provided by Thompson and its talented and distinguished team of designers and contractors. I personally thank and recognize Thompson for its continued dedication to the City of Mobile and the State of Alabama.

INDIAN POLICE COLLECTING DATA
ON CHRISTIANS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read an article in the Hindustan Times saying that Indian police are collecting data on Christians in Gujarat. Gujarat is the site of the massacres of Muslims last March in which 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were killed. Hasn't Gujarat seen enough trouble?

According to the report, the All-India Christian Council submitted a memorandum to the state police chief detailing the survey. The police are seeking information on family sizes, job profiles, sources of funds, and even whether the person is a first-generation Christian and/or has converted. At least 25 Christian institutions have been questioned in just a few days. The article quotes Bishop Gregory of Rajkot as saying that he was asked "about the number of Christians and institutions here." Father Cedric Prakash of the United Christian Forum for Human Rights predicts that "this survey may be a buildup to the anticonversion bill."

India has already outlawed conversions to any religion but Hinduism in two states. Recently the ruling BJP has begun an effort to make that national.

This is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. It is a major violation of religious freedom, which is one of the main pillars of a democracy. Instead, India is again acting like a Hindu fundamentalist theocracy.

In 1997, a Christian festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer" ended when the police fired their guns at it to close it down after they received complaints that the festival was converting people. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, were murdered while they slept in their jeep. The murderers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," according to contemporaneous news reports. None of these people has been held accountable. Now an American missionary, Joseph Cooper, has been expelled from India after being severely beaten by Hindu nationalists.

Since 1998, Christian priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned as they were in the Old South during segregation, Christian schools and prayer halls have been violently attacked. Since India's independence in 1947, its forces have murdered over 200,000 Christians. They have also murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Bodos, Assainese, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Many lowercaste Hindus are converting to Christianity and other religions and now the BJP is passing laws to prohibit this.

Mr. Speaker, these are the acts of a theocratic tyranny, not a real democracy. We must impose the sanctions appropriate for a violator of religious freedom. We must also stop our aid and trade with India until it begins to allow the exercise of basic human and religious rights. And we must support self-determination for all the people of South Asia as the best way to bring real freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity to that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Hindustan Times article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Hindustan Times, Mar. 9, 2003]

GUJARAT CHRISTIANS ALLEGE SURVEY OF
FAMILIES

(By Rathin Das)

AHMEDABAD, March 8.—The Gujarat Police have reportedly started a discreet survey of Christians in some parts of the state, seeking information on family sizes, job profiles and sources of foreign funds. The All-India Christian Council, which submitted a memorandum to the state police chief on Friday, is planning to move the High Court over the issue next week.

State Director General of Police K. Chakravarthy told the Hindustan Times that no statewide survey had been ordered. He added, however, that some information might have been sought from some people on the orders of district police chiefs.

A senior home department official echoed the state police chief. He told the Hindustan Times that no survey of Christians had been ordered. "It may be a survey about foreign funds and its use, but that is applicable for institutions of all communities," he said.

But despite official denials, community leaders alleged that policemen came calling at some houses in Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Kutch districts over the past few days and asked about the antecedents and assets of Christian families.

Community leaders also said at least 25 Christian institutions and families had been questioned over the past few days. Police personnel who visited Christian institutions, they said, wanted information on the number of Christians in the area and other details, like the sources of their funds. Bishop Gregory of Rajkot, who was questioned by the police on Friday, said: "I was asked about the number of Christians and institutions here." The police also asked him to contact the nearest police station if he needed help. Bishop Gregory told this correspondent.

The police have also asked some Christians whether they converted voluntarily or under pressure, and whether they were first-generation Christians.

"This survey may be a build-up to the anti-conversion bill the government wants to introduce in the state assembly during this session," said Father Cedric Prakash of the United Christian Forum for Human Rights.

One church leader in Saurashtra was asked whether Christians would hold demonstrations if the anti-conversion bill is introduced in the assembly, sources said.

Individual Christians are scared to speak to the press as many of them are in government employment. In the wake of the attack on Christians and the burning of churches in the Dangs district around Christmas 1998, the state intelligence department had ordered a similar survey, but abandoned it after a petition was filed in the Gujarat High Court.

Minority report:

July 1998—Copies of the New Testament burnt in a Rajkot school;

Oct 1998—Christian congregation attacked in Vadodara;

Dec 1998—Government threatens to stop grants to Christian schools;

Dec 1998—Churches razed in Dangs district;

Jan 1999—PM visits Dangs, calls for national debate on conversions;

Feb 1999—Secret survey ordered, first of Christians, later of Muslims;

Jan 2000—Government lifts ban on employees joining RSS.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sue Jones of Pagosa Springs, Colorado for her outstanding service to the citizens of Pagosa Springs and the many student athletes of the Archuleta School District. For the last nineteen years, Sue has helped organize Pagosa Springs' Annual Blow-out charity softball tournament, and I would like to acknowledge her efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

For eleven years, Sue has been the tournament's director. Each year over thirty teams come from all over the four-corners region to participate in the tournament, generating thousands of dollars for the local economy, in addition to charity contributions. For the first ten years of the tournament, proceeds went to support the Spanish Fiesta Scholarship Fund, then for two years to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. For the last seven years proceeds have gone to local school athletic programs.

Just over the past three years, Sue has raised enough money to allow the Pagosa Springs school athletic department to purchase baseballs, a radar gun, volleyballs, score clocks, weight room equipment, and wrestling shoes. She also contributed to a band competition trip to the Air Force Academy. During the school year, Sue donates countless hours to school athletic programs as a scorekeeper.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Sue Jones for her enduring commitment to the boys and girls of Pagosa Springs before this body of Congress and this nation. Sue recognizes the importance of athletic programs and competition in the development of well-rounded and conscientious young citizens. Her energy and service have provided students of the Archuleta School District invaluable support for their athletic dreams.

THE ASSASSINATION OF SERBIAN
PRIME MINISTER ZORAN

DJINDJIC ON MARCH 12, 2003

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express outrage at the assassination of the Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic. This assassination represents a hideous and appalling crime that was intended to block reform and democratization endeavors. The United States has strongly endorsed Djindjic's reform-minded approach, his advocacy of democratic values and his struggle to propel Serbia into

modern Europe and the Western world of democratic nations.

As a student in Belgrade he was jailed after joining a non-communist student organization protesting against Marshal Tito's communist rule. In the late 1990s, Djindjic emerged as the leading figure in the opposition movement against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Congress had a vital interest in ending Milosevic's dictatorship in Serbia, and Djindjic was instrumental in helping engineer the demise of this evil ruler. Djindjic played a crucial role in the arrest of Milosevic, and he later courageously sent the dictator to the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague. When Milosevic was handed over to the tribunal in 2001, the Prime Minister pushed aside the objections of other senior Serbian politicians, and he was prepared to confront the harsh criticism by Serbian nationalists.

The prosecutors at the United Nations tribunal regarded him as their best hope to deliver fugitive Serbian war criminals indicted by the court. At the time of his tragic death, Djindjic had been preparing to arrest Milorad Lukovic and his associates, some of whom are suspected of committing war crimes and belonging to an underworld group accused of dozens of murders and kidnappings.

By promoting economic and democratic reforms, Djindjic was further instrumental in realizing the U.S. goal of bringing and maintaining stability on the Balkans. Djindjic saw the need for reform and taught his people to understand the demands and rewards of integrating Serbia into the world of peaceloving democracies. He urged the Serbian people to confront and work up its own past in order to manage the difficult task of democracy building. Djindjic understood the challenge to tackle these difficulties instead of denying them even if they are unpleasant. His death represents a major setback to the fight for democratic stability in this important transitional phase.

I express my condolence to the people of Serbia and to Serbian-Americans on the sad and tragic death of Zoran Djindjic, whose courageous endeavors to bring democracy to Serbia must not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR VALENTINE YAROCH

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Arthur Valentine Yaroch, who passed away March 5, 2003, at the age of 73. Mr. Yaroch, who served with distinction as the director of finance for the City of Mobile under former Mayor Arthur Outlaw, was a pillar of the Mobile community and will be deeply missed.

Art Yaroch, a native of Detroit, was a long-time resident of Mobile and Ono Island. After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration, he worked as a member of the controller's staff at Uniroyal Tire Co. and then as a comptroller with Borden, Inc. Art then moved to Mobile and became the executive vice president of Colonial Sugars.

In March 1989, Art was appointed as the City of Mobile's finance director and resigned

at the end of that year. He also served on the board of directors of The Lighthouse, as membership chairman of the Baldwin County Republican Party and as treasurer of the Pleasure Island Republican club. Art Yaroch was a devoted parishioner of St. Thomas by the Sea Catholic Church in Orange Beach where he was an usher and past member of the parish council.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute to the life of Art Yaroch. He was my friend and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Art is survived by his lovely wife, Isabel; two sons, Arthur and Steven; two daughters, Lauri Ann Grove and Susan Courtney; two brothers; two sisters and eight grandchildren. I would like to extend my prayers and deepest sympathies to his entire family and many friends.

SAVE THE LIFE OF DEVINDER PAL SINGH BHULLAR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar is about to be put to death in India for a crime even India admitted he didn't commit.

I thank my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this shameful case to my attention. The Council of Khalistan put out a very informative press release on the case.

The chief judge of a three-judge panel from India's Supreme Court found Mr. Bhullar not guilty of the crime of which he was accused, involvement in a bombing. The judge ordered Mr. Bhullar's release. Instead, the Indian government tortured Mr. Bhullar until he signed a fake confession. Now they are trying to put him to death.

Unfortunately, this is just the latest episode in India's abuse of minorities, which has been well documented in Congress by many of my colleagues and me. This brutal atrocity against justice must be stopped.

The Bush Administration should demand Mr. Bhullar's release, or at least a new trial. In addition, they should impose sanctions on India, cut off its aid and trade, and put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikh Nation of Khalistan and the other 16 minority nations seeking their freedom from India. This should be done in the democratic way, through a free and fair plebiscite. It is time for India to start acting like a democracy, and it can start by sparing the life of Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the Council of Khalistan's press release on Bhullar into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues and the public.

[Council of Khalistan—Press Release, Feb. 25, 2003]

DEVINDER PAL SINGH BHULLAR'S LIFE MUST BE SPARED

INDIAN CONSTITUTION ONLY PROTECTS MAJORITY HINDUS MINORITIES ELIMINATED, DIRECTLY OR BY COURTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The impending execution of Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar shows that the Constitution of India only protects the majority Hindu population, according to

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence from India. Dr. Aulakh called on the President of India to stop the execution. Bhullar was accused of a 1993 bomb blast near the Youth Congress office in Delhi in which 20 people were killed. Congress leader M.S. Bitta lost a leg in that attack.

The presiding Judge of a three-Judge bench in the Supreme Court of India found Professor Bhullar, a political activist, 'Not Guilty' and directed that he be released. However, Professor Bhullar was convicted based on a forced confession obtained through torture, which was retracted. On that basis India wants to impose capital punishment on Professor Bhullar. Sajjan Kumar and H.K.L. Bhagat, who personally incited the murder of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, got off scot-free without any punishment. Even by Indian standards, this is an outrageous miscarriage of justice.

"The Bhullar case is merely the latest example of how India eliminates minorities," said Dr. Aulakh. Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been picked up, tortured, and killed, then their bodies are declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Then Mr. Khaira was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. Similarly, the police murdered former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke. His body was not handed over to his family.

Last spring the Indian police stood aside under orders while militant Hindus murdered 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat. Australian missionary Graham Staines was murdered a few years ago by VHP activists. Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while they slept in their jeep. Their killers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. After the murder, Staines's widow, who was working with lepers, was expelled from India. No one is ever punished for these atrocities. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, and Christian churches have been burned by the fanatic, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist militants.

"It is clear from these actions that India is not the democracy it claims to be," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead it is a tyrannical Hindu theocracy where minorities die or disappear," he said. "There is a consistent pattern of Indian government efforts to protect its tyrannical rule over the minorities of South Asia."

The Indian government 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. More than 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's 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 Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. 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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY
WHITNEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize the leadership of Christy Whitney of Grand Junction, Colorado. For the last ten years, Christy has served as the president and CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, an institution dedicated to enhancing quality of life for the seriously ill in Mesa, Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties.

A registered nurse, Christy has recently been elected to serve as a director of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. In her new post, Christy will represent hospice programs nation-wide by working with other organizations that share an interest in end-of-life care. Christy also chairs the National Hospice Work Group, a professional coalition of executives from some of the nation's most innovative hospices. Christy's involvement in national hospice organizations ensures that she is at the cutting edge of education, research and advocacy for the best ideas and models for end-of-life care. Her national leadership is an invaluable asset to her patients in Western Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Christy Whitney for her outstanding commitment to the seriously ill. Her organization serves a vital purpose to the citizens of Western Colorado, and her leadership is a credit to the community she serves. I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

THE FAILURE OF THE CYPRUS
PEACE TALKS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment about the failure of the latest Cyprus peace talks. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan carefully worked out an acceptable peace plan which represented a compromise approach. The UN peace plan to reunite Cyprus as a single bicommunal federation enjoyed strong support by the United States, the EU, and the wider international community. This plan would have satisfied the interests of both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots.

I thus applaud Cypriot President Tapas Papadopolous who accepted the UN proposal and was prepared to submit the plan to a separate referendum on March 30. Moreover, immediately after the failure of the negotiations, Papadopolous announced that the Greek Cypriot side will continue its efforts for reaching a solution to the Cypriot issue within the UN framework.

Likewise, I must express my disappointment to the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş who was unwilling to settle for a compromise and rejected the plan. I join the international outcry at the Turkish side's obstructive attitude and urge Denktaş to reconsider his ap-

proach. Indeed, the Turkish intransigence hurts first and foremost Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots themselves. The failure of the unification endeavors complicates Ankara's own efforts to join the European Union as the European Commission warned Turkey on March 11. The Greek Cypriot part of the island is going to join the EU in May 2004 with or without the Turkish Cypriots. Yet without a deal on the Cyprus issue, Turkey will find itself in a position of not recognizing a member of the European Union.

Public demonstrations by the Turkish-Cypriot opposition in favor of the proposal further express clearly who will be the major victims of the failed talks: the Turkish Cypriots who will be excluded from the benefits of EU membership that the Greek Cypriot side will enjoy.

I conclude in expressing my desire that the United States must remain involved in seeking a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus issue. The Bush administration must therefore put more pressure not only on the Turkish Cypriot leader but also on Turkey to cooperate constructively within the UN framework to realize a negotiated settlement on Cyprus.

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVANT, MR. JOHN WIGGINS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes who work night and day, week after week, month after month to keep our neighborhoods, cities, states and this great nation safe and secure. Mr. John Wiggins is one of those heroes. John, at the very young age of 53, is retiring in April after almost 33 years of dedicated service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department.

John is the oldest firefighter in the department who actually still fights fires. For more than three decades, he has been able to live out his childhood dream of serving his community as a firefighter. He has seen many changes in firefighting, paramedics and in the department and has raised, and trained, many new recruits and most of the current fire chiefs. John laughs that every time he gets in Ladder Truck 10, which operates out of Gus Rehm Fire Station on Moffett Road in Mobile, "and those lights and siren come on, it's like I'm 20 years old again."

John has also assumed leadership roles with his fellow firefighters. He has been a member of the Mobile Fire Fighters Association Local 1349 since he first joined the fire department and has served as its president for the last four years. He has not only worked for his fellow firefighters but has also worked as president of the City Workers' Coalition to approach City Hall with city workers' work-related concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring John Wiggins for his many years of commitment to bring safety and security to his community and to his nation through his continued service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department. The Department and the City of Mobile are losing a valuable and dedicated servant and leader. However, I am sure that John's wife, Joy, and his children, stepchildren and grandchildren

will enjoy spending more time with this hometown hero. I wish John all the best in his retirement years and always.

RECOGNIZING THE MATIGNON
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Matignon Warriors boys' basketball team. On Monday, March 10, 2003, the Warriors defeated the Southeastern Regional Hawks to win the MIAA Division 4 state championship by a score of 78-55. Matignon High School, which is located in North Cambridge, is a cornerstone of the community, and I am proud to honor the members and coaches of the boys' championship basketball team.

I want to take the time to recognize the individuals who make up the state champs, and extend my congratulations on an incredible season: Alex Aiello, Shelby Berleus, Greg Case, Ralph Fevrier, Jimmy Guerrier, Jeff Lerebour, John McMahon, Chris Neil, John Nicoloro, Chris O'Callaghan, Ricky Prosper, AJ Urquhart, Justin Veri, Frank Whitney, Head Coach Joel Burke, Assistant Coaches Ed O'Callaghan, Sean O'Callaghan, Terry Matthews and Mel Story.

I am also including a copy of an article which appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on March 12, 2003.

WARRIORS WIN DIV. 4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(By Jamie Pote)

The last time the Matignon boys basketball team played at the FleetCenter, coach Joel Burke said the excitement of taking the fabled parquet floor caused his team to lose focus.

Monday afternoon, the Warriors' focus was impeccable. Matignon stormed out to a 27-point halftime lead and coasted to a 78-55 victory over Southeastern Regional to capture the Division 4 state title (there are no Div. 4 teams outside Eastern Mass.).

"In 1997 we were just happy to be here," said Burke, whose team lost to Avon that year. "We were too busy taking pictures and we seemed to have lost our focus. That was my big concern heading into this game—we had to be ready."

"And for sure, we were ready for this game."

Led by seniors John McMahon (29 points) and Chris Neil (19 points), Matignon (21-4) outplayed the Hawks in nearly every facet of the game, including a 20-9 edge in rebounds in the first half.

"We thought if we held them to just one shot that we would be able to keep the game close," Burke said. "We had no idea that this would happen. The court is so big and we just moved the ball all over to the open spots and hit a lot of easy baskets."

In Friday's sectional final, Matignon picked apart Minuteman Tech's 2-2-1 zone defense and led by 39 points at halftime. Southeastern played much of the same defense yesterday and Matignon again picked it apart with baskets in transition. The Warriors also relied on their outside shooting by hitting eight 3-pointers in the game, with seven of those treys coming before halftime.

"When we play on the bigger courts, it's just easier for us to score on transition," Neil said. "It means that we're the team

that's most in shape. We're a running team and no one can catch us when they try those gimmick zone defenses, the 2-2-1 or the 1-2-2. We just skip right over that and score so many easy baskets."

Neil set the tone right away for Matignon when he buried a 3-pointer from the right elbow just 30 seconds into the game. South-eastern stayed close over the next few minutes, trailing 10-9, and that's when Matignon blew the game wide open. The Warriors went on a 16-0 run, including three baskets by junior Jimmy Guerrier (12 points).

"We were just getting a lot of great looks," said Burke, whose team led 47-20 at the half. "And the ball was falling in the basket. That's a good team over there and I think some of their early shots that didn't go in just took them out of their game."

Matignon opened the second half with an 11-4 run, sparked by a 3-pointer and layup by Neil and a pair of baskets from McMahon.

TRIBUTE TO SONJA HOROSHKO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure that I rise today to commend a distinguished artist, Sonja Horoshko of Cortez, Colorado, for expanding the reach of artistic endeavor in Montezuma County and the four-corners region. Sonja is a nationally recognized artist who brings an appreciation for art to diverse communities through her "Drawing Together" workshops. Today, I am honored to pay tribute to her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

"Drawing Together" encourages individuals, families and communities to create art collectively and with a wide variety of media. In 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded Sonja a Challenge America Grant to present her workshops to four locations in Montezuma County. Eighty-one students, ages eight to sixty-two, participated. This summer a film drawn from one of her pioneering workshops with third grade Butterfly Dancers will be released at Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico.

Since relocating to Montezuma County in 1993, Sonja has become a fixture of the Southwestern Colorado Art Community. She has been an artist in residence at Hovenweep National Monument and has received grants from Colorado Council of the Arts, the Utah Art Council, and the Mesa Verde Museum Association, among others. Internationally, she was invited to participate in the 53rd Conference on World Affairs in 2001, where she participated in panels connecting art to journalism, science, and politics. Sonja's art has also been a platform for activism in Colorado, as she represented the rural voice of Montezuma County at a conference in Denver focusing on critical statewide issues including economic development, tourism, and public health.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize Sonja Horoshko before this body of Congress and this nation. Sonja's career models the wide scope and influence of art in all its forms. Her workshops teach artistic expression to communities and individuals, both

young and old, encouraging them to tell their own story in their own voice. It is my distinct honor to represent such a fine and creative American in this Congress and to know that there are individuals, like Sonja Horoshko, who constantly strive to create and appreciate beauty in our world.

IRAQ

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, my hopes for peace have given way to the reality of war. Although I agree with President Bush that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous man, I am not convinced that a military attack against Iraq is in the best interest of our nation. For this reason, I voted against a resolution last year that was the equivalent of a declaration of war which authorized the President to launch a military strike to disarm and possibly overthrow Saddam Hussein.

The issue is not whether or not Saddam Hussein is a dangerous dictator who should be disarmed. Just this past Sunday, we marked the fifteenth anniversary of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons attack on a predominantly Kurdish village in northeastern Iraq where 5,000 civilians died. The international community has an important obligation to ensure that Saddam Hussein cannot repeat his aggression of the past, and as the world's most powerful country, we must be committed to lead. Through U.N. inspections, continued monitoring and increased scrutiny of Baghdad, I think we can meet that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we must realize that a possible military attack against Iraq would represent a major shift in American diplomatic and strategic thinking. For nearly fifty years, we relied upon deterrence to check Soviet expansionism. Deterrence brought us victory in the Cold War without having to fight a hot, shooting war under the shadow of nuclear annihilation. That same strategy has kept Iraq at bay for more than a decade. Now that doctrine is on the verge of being discarded.

There are several other critical questions to which we've heard very few answers. We must have a clear plan on how an attack on Iraq would transpire, including identifying our military options, determining our strategy to change the regime, calculating the potential casualties, and estimating how much an operation would cost and how it will be funded.

We must also see a plan to build democratic and free-market institutions in a post-Saddam Iraq. History teaches us that how we win the peace is just as critical as how we win the war. Thus far, these crucial issues have received little attention.

For those of us who counseled a peaceful strategy to disarm Iraq in the months before this point, it is now time to unite in our support for the 300,000 brave men and women in the region. I fervently and completely join the President in the hope and prayer for the safe and quick return of our soldiers to their homes and families.

I know that members of our military serve this nation's ideals and they demonstrate those ideals in their code and in their character. I have seen their love of this country and devotion to the cause of peace and freedom. I know that their mission is dangerous, and I personally thank them for their service. May God bless our troops and their families, and may God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today Congresswoman WILSON and I are introducing the Medicaid Safety Net Improvement Act of 2003. This important legislation would increase the allowed federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotment in "extremely low-DSH" states from one percent to three percent of Medicaid program costs.

In the mid-1980s, Congress established the Medicaid DSH program to provide additional funds to certain hospitals that deliver a disproportionate share of health care services to low-income patients, including Medicaid recipients and the uninsured. By providing financial relief to these facilities, this program ensures that all Americans—regardless of ability to pay—have access to critical hospital care.

Unfortunately, due to limitations imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), there are significant inequities in how these funds are distributed among states. For 18 states, including the State of Wisconsin, the federal DSH allotments are not allowed to exceed one percent of the state's Medicaid program costs. The average state spends about eight percent of its Medicaid funding on DSH.

This bipartisan legislation would address this inequity by raising the share of federal funds to extremely low-DSH states. The 18 states that would benefit from this proposal include: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. It is important to note that this bill would not redistribute or reduce the federal DSH allotments in other states.

The Medicaid DSH program plays a tremendous role in the survival of the safety net that serves our most vulnerable populations, particularly the rising number of uninsured Americans, which at last count stands at nearly 42 million. For many hospital facilities, Medicaid DSH is the main reason they are able to keep their doors open. Providing an increase to three percent of Medicaid spending in the allowable DSH allotment would do a great deal to help these low-DSH states support low-income medical care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation.

SECOND OPINION COVERAGE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Second Opinion Coverage Act of 2003—legislation that will ensure the accessibility and coverage of medical second opinions.

Imagine that your doctor tells you that you must undergo radical surgery that may threaten the use of a limb or leave you with a serious chronic condition. Understandably, you would request a second opinion from another physician. Most health care groups see the value in such requests and provide patients with a second opinion. Besides giving patients much needed peace of mind, second opinions can benefit health plans by reducing the number of invasive procedures and result in better patient care through increased dialogue about treatment options.

However, when I was a member of the California State Assembly, I heard from a number of patients who experienced a glitch in their health care coverage. They noticed the absence of a clear process for obtaining medical second opinions. These patients, many struggling with challenging health conditions, had difficulties obtaining second opinions through their health plans.

After meeting with patients, physicians and health groups, I authored a law in California that guarantees coverage of second opinions. Patients, meeting any one of several qualifying conditions, are entitled to a timely second opinion by a "qualified health care professional," within 72 hours in cases of serious or imminent health threat. When another expert is not available within the provider group or network, the organization will pay for an appropriately qualified doctor outside of the plan. Patients are responsible for the costs of applicable co-payments.

The law in California was a good first step. Unfortunately, this legislation does not cover the almost 5 million Californians enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. Nationwide, this translates into 67 million persons without guaranteed access to second opinions. This means that one in four insured families are not protected by California's own second opinion law! I believe the time has come to make access to second opinions a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH STEELE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ruth Steele of Pueblo, Colorado for her determination and commitment to her community. Ruth is the director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission and Cultural Center, and has been a tireless activist for African-American interests in Pueblo and throughout Colorado. I

am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Ruth graduated from Centennial High School in Pueblo and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. In the 1950s and 60s she was active in the civil rights movement, registering African-Americans to vote. Since then, she has been a leader for Pueblo's African-American community. She was a legislative aide to state Representatives Wilma Webb and Arie Taylor, and worked to establish a Martin Luther King holiday in Colorado.

Ruth helped found Pueblo's orphanage for African-American children, the renovated Lincoln Home, and the Martin Luther King Cultural Center which she now directs. In the future, Ruth hopes to build a multicultural center next to the Lincoln Home and expand African-American leadership in Pueblo. She has been a strong advocate of quality education for African-American youth and was recently named the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for her service.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Ruth Steele before this body of Congress and this nation for her outstanding commitment to the community she calls home. Ruth has worked tirelessly to build bridges between Pueblo's disparate communities. Her leadership is an invaluable asset to her neighbors and fellow citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND THE NATIONAL MOTTO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to introduce legislation creating a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Motto.

Last month, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals let stand the ruling of a San Francisco Federal Court which proclaimed the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. There have been reports that the next victim of the left's crusade against the historic heritage of our nation could be to challenge the use of our National Motto, "In God We Trust," on our currency.

These are unfortunate assaults on America's tradition of recognizing the role of God in our country's life, and as the foundation of our liberties. Unfortunately, there has been a trend in our courts that has sought to remove every vestige of God from our country, while child pornography is protected.

When our Founding Fathers sought the monumental break between the American people and the British King, they wrote in the Declaration of Independence that they appealed "to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions." They appealed to God to judge their moral condition, their uprightness and righteousness in forming our nation. Today, we can forget making any such appeal, for our judges have declared that the mere acknowledgement of God violates our highest national law. My colleagues, those who led our country in years past would be

outraged. Those who gave their lives for our independence would be outraged. Those who gave their lives that we might realize the most American dream, that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," those leaders too would be outraged. Americans who gave their lives to secure our freedoms would be outraged. Americans, who this very day face a war to secure our freedoms and liberate Iraq, are outraged. And friends, I am outraged, too.

The time for action has come. Today, I am introducing legislation that would provide for a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Motto, "In God We Trust."

Amending the Constitution is never taken lightly, nor should it be. Yet Congress can no longer sit idly while the courts rewrite our nation's history and traditions. This amendment is very clean, clear, concise, and unobtrusive as possible. However, it is very effective and the only way to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Motto are protected and preserved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and hope that we can begin the process to move it forward.

WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2003, more than 1200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, an educational program developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Central Academy from Des Moines will represent the State of Iowa in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of

Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for the students to become active, responsible citizens.

The class from Central Academy is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People national finals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 12, 2003, during rollcall vote No. 56 on H.R. 659 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. THOMAS J. RITTER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Ritter, whose contributions to Philadelphia have been multi-faceted and unparalleled.

Beyond being a community activist, builder, and leader, Reverend Ritter has served his congregation with the commitment of a dedicated and loving father for 45 years. Reverend Ritter built the Second Macedonia Baptist Church from a small house with six members to a large worship center with over a thousand members with 27 ministries.

Reverend Ritter's wide scope of dedication to Philadelphia spans more than the religious spectrum. He has been very instrumental in the development of many of Philadelphia's new major business centers. Reverend Ritter served as the first executive director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center, an organization which has assisted over 75 urban communities throughout the United States and the world. Additionally, he sits on the board of directors of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Association for Nonviolence, chairs Philadelphia's Human Relations Commission, and has established a community-based volunteer self-help organization called "Giving of Self Partnership." The list of charitable endeavors that Reverend Ritter is involved in are innumerable.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose dedicated leadership has enriched the lives of countless individuals in both my district and the nation. I hope that all of my distinguished colleagues will join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Ritter.

HONORING REVEREND THOMAS BOND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Reverend Thomas Bond for exemplary service to his community. Eighteen years ago, Reverend Bond founded the Wayside Cross Gospel-Rescue Mission in Pueblo, Colorado to serve the area's homeless population. Today, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his accomplishments.

With its food, housing, and educational programs, the mission provides a hand up, not a hand-out, for Pueblo's homeless community. In many cases, the mission has helped rebuild lives and reconnect people with families. Reverend Bond provides invaluable assistance to all people, enabling them to overcome the challenges of poverty and lead meaningful lives. He saw a community need and selflessly filled it, donating his time, talent, and energy.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Reverend Thomas Bond for his dedication to improving the lives of his fellow citizens. The people of Pueblo are immeasurably enriched by his years of selfless service, and his retirement from work at the mission is a tremendous loss to the southern Colorado community. I wish Reverend Bond well in his retirement.

MAKING MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, together with my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. JEFFERSON of Louisiana, Mr. SHAW of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. TANNER of Tennessee, Mr. FOLEY of Florida, Mr. CANTOR of Virginia, as well as Mr. NEY of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin and Mr. HAYES of North Carolina, Mr. RADANOVICH of California I am introducing legislation that will extend the mortgage interest tax deduction to include mortgage insurance premiums, government and private. This is an important piece of legislation because making mortgage insurance payments tax-deductible will boost homeownership for lower-income, minority and veteran borrowers that typically need mortgage insurance to purchase a home.

It is widely recognized that homeownership helps create stable and safe communities. Thus, the expansion of homeownership has been a longstanding goal of the Federal Government. The Bush Administration announced a goal of 5.5 million new homeowners by the year 2010. To achieve that goal, groups that have typically been unable to purchase homes—young people, low-income, members of minority groups—must be able to participate in the housing market.

Government and private mortgage insurance programs help first-time, low-income and veteran borrowers afford to purchase a home.

The VA, FHA, RHA and PMI programs allow buyers to make a down payment of 3 percent or less of the appraised value. Mortgage insurance is a critical factor in allowing middle-income families and minorities to become homeowners. In Wisconsin, approximately 149,000 families held mortgages with either FHA or private mortgage insurance at the end of 2002. Insured mortgages covered nearly 18 percent of home loans originated in Wisconsin in 2001. Insurance, however, covered about 30 percent of the mortgage loans made to Hispanic borrowers in Wisconsin and 28 percent of the loans made to African American borrowers.

In 2001, nationwide, mortgage insurance covered 57 percent of mortgage purchase loans made to African American and Hispanic borrowers and 54 percent of the loans to borrowers with incomes below the median income. The people who use mortgage insurance are policemen, firemen, teachers, and veterans who live in every community throughout the country. Twelve million American families presently use mortgage insurance.

Presently these borrowers cannot deduct the cost of their mortgage insurance payments for Federal tax purposes. If mortgage insurance payments were made deductible, the cost of homeownership would be further reduced for these borrowers, enabling new buyers to get into a home that they might not have been able to afford or to purchase a more valuable home. It is estimated that 300,000 more homeowners per year would result from making these payments tax-deductible.

Extending the tax deduction for home mortgage interest payments to mortgage insurance payments will significantly contribute to making the American dream of owning a home come true for many more of our citizens. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and join me in working towards its enactment this year.

CYPRUS TALKS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the world witnessed a tragic setback in the search for a peaceful settlement on the Island of Cyprus. Nearly 30 years after Turkish troops invaded and occupied approximately one-third of the territory of Cyprus, the United Nations' efforts to achieve a negotiated solution appeared to have a real chance for success. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan convened the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to a meeting at the Hague last week, and asked them to agree to hold a democratic vote on the U.N.'s plan to establish a bi-communal federation. The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, speaking for the Greek Cypriot community, agreed to the referendum, despite reservations with the details of the plan. Unfortunately, Mr. Rauf Denkash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, rejected it, out-of-hand.

Mr. Denkash's veto of the U.N. peace plan was not only a rejection of the efforts of the world organization, and the interests of its member states, but most importantly, in direct

contradiction with the interests of the Turkish Cypriots themselves. This community has recognized that they have the most to gain from reunification, and have strongly supported the U.N. plan, as demonstrated by unprecedented popular expressions of support from within the community. Mr. Denktash has thwarted the will of the people he purports to represent.

The reunification of Cyprus would help to enhance the local and regional stability of this island nation located a little more than a 100 miles from Israel, Lebanon and Syria, to the benefit of all of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, the U.S., E.U. and the whole world body. Reunification would be a great boon economically to the Turkish Cypriots, as the Greek Cypriot community is about to join the E.U. and command the many political and economic advantages of membership in that community. A settlement would have allowed the Turkish Cypriots to join in those benefits. Failure has condemned them to suffer without.

If the civilian and military leaders in Ankara were serious about achieving a negotiated settlement on Cyprus, they could clearly prevail upon Mr. Denktash to deal in good faith. By doing so, Turkey would not only be helping the Turkish Cypriots, but would be acting in its own self-interest, as Turkey's own bid for E.U. membership hinges to a significant degree on its playing a constructive role in ending the division of Cyprus. On March 4th of this year, the E.U. warned Turkey that "if Cyprus settlement efforts failed, the E.U. would find it very difficult to start accession talks with Turkey" since Turkey would find itself in the untenable position of not only failing to recognize a member of the E.U.—Turkey still does not recognize the Republic of Cyprus—but also occupying militarily part of E.U. territory.

As in any process of negotiations, both sides have to give up something. The Greek Cypriot side has, over the years, made one concession after another in the search for peace. The most recent plan put forward by Secretary General Annan forced the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to make many difficult decisions. Still, at the end of the day, President Papadopoulos—who was just recently elected in free and fair elections—was willing to put the Plan before the people in a democratic manner.

On the other hand, Mr. Denktash, who has been in power for three decades, was unwilling to concede on his demand for two separate states—a goal completely contrary to the reunification favored by the people of Cyprus and the entire world community. Mr. Denktash is apparently afraid of what his own people would say when given a chance to express their views at the ballot box.

This latest setback need not be a fatal one for the peace process of Cyprus. President Papadopoulos has left the door wide open to resuming the process of negotiations. After the Hague meeting, President Papadopoulos said that the Greek Cypriot side will "continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the E.U." Furthermore, on his return from the Hague to Cyprus, Mr. Papadopoulos pledged one more time to "continue the efforts for a Cyprus settlement that would properly serve the interests of both Cyprus communities, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots," adding that there "are no last chances" for a Cyprus solution.

Our State Department has been clear in expressing its disappointment over Mr.

Denktash's rejection of the U.N. referendum proposal, and in voicing hope that the process can resume. But now it's time for our government to put the necessary pressure on Mr. Denktash and the government of Turkey to negotiate in good faith and agree to a referendum. Continued obstructionism by Mr. Denktash should trigger coordinated U.N. sanctions against the Turkish Cypriot leader. The new government of Turkey must recognize its share of responsibility in the current stalemate, and show leadership in guiding Mr. Denktash back to the path of peace. If Turkey refuses to accept that responsibility, and Mr. Denktash continues his intransigence, the government of the U.S. must consider those policy prescriptions, of the highest orders, to bring the parties back to the table. The peace of the region, and the well-being of the Cypriot people, are too important to allow Mr. Denktash to destroy all our hopes for peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a group of colleagues to introduce the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act of 2003. Medicare's mental health coverage is woefully inadequate. Instead of the standard 20 percent coinsurance payment required by beneficiaries, mental health services require a 50 percent co-payment, limited community-based treatments are covered, and there is a cap on mental health hospitalization days. The bill we are introducing today eliminates this blatant mental health discrimination from Medicare and modernizes the Medicare mental health benefit to meet today's standards of care.

In the past, the late Senator Paul Wellstone championed this effort in the U.S. Senate. This year, Senator JON CORZINE has stepped forward to introduce the companion legislation in the Senate. I want to thank Senator CORZINE for his commendable efforts on behalf of this important legislation.

One in five members of our senior population display mental difficulties that are not part of the normal aging process. In primary care settings, over a third of senior citizens demonstrate symptoms of depression and impaired social functioning. Older adults also have the highest rate of suicide of any segment of our population. Furthermore, mental illness is the single largest diagnostic category for Medicare beneficiaries on disability. There is a critical need for effective and accessible mental health care for the Medicare population. Unfortunately, the current structure of Medicare mental health benefits is inadequate and presents multiple barriers to treatment access. This bill addresses these problems.

The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act is a straightforward bill that improves Medicare's mental health benefits as follows:

It reduces the discriminatory co-payment for outpatient mental health services from 50 to the 20 percent level charged for most other Part B medical services.

It eliminates the arbitrary 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals.

It improves beneficiary access to mental health services by including within Medicare a number of community-based residential and intensive outpatient mental health services that characterize today's state-of-the-art clinical practices. The mental health field has undergone many advances over the past several decades. Effective, research-validated interventions have been developed for many of these mental conditions that affect stricken beneficiaries. Most mental conditions no longer require long-term hospitalizations, and can be effectively treated in less restrictive community settings. This bill recognizes these advances in clinical treatment practices and adjusts Medicare's mental health coverage to account for them.

It further improves access to needed mental health services by addressing the shortage of qualified mental health professionals serving older and disabled Americans in rural and other medically underserved areas by allowing state licensed marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to provide Medicare-covered services. Similarly, it corrects a legislative oversight that will facilitate the provision of mental health services by clinical social workers within skilled nursing facilities.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to examine whether the Medicare criteria to cover therapeutic services to beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and related cognitive disorders discriminates by being too restrictive.

The push for mental health parity is ongoing. We've made important strides forward for the under-65 population. Twenty-three states have already enacted full mental health parity and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan was improved in 2001 to assure that all federal employees are provided mental health parity. Last April, President Bush called for Congress to enact legislation to provide equivalence for private sector health insurance coverage of mental and physical conditions (though he has yet to endorse any legislation to achieve that goal). This year, legislation to enact real mental health parity for those with private health insurance already has the bipartisan support of 180 members in the House and 43 U.S. Senators. I fully support these efforts as well.

What has been too-often missing from this overall mental health parity debate is the fact that the Medicare program continues to fail to meet the mental health needs of America's seniors and those with disabilities. That's why we've introduced the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act. That's also why this bill has received support from numerous mental health advocacy and provider organizations including: the National Mental Health Association, the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the American Counseling Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of County Mental Health Directors and the National Association of Social Workers.

When Medicare was created in 1965, mental health treatment was very different than it is today. Over the years, Congress has updated Medicare's benefits as the practice of medicine has changed. It is past time for us to take this action with regard to Medicare's currently inadequate mental health benefits. The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act of

2003 removes discriminatory features from the Medicare mental health benefits and helps facilitate access to up-to-date and affordable mental health services for our elderly and disabled. I encourage my colleagues to support its passage into law.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM DICK AND
WIVK

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Dick and WIVK, the radio station he created in Knoxville, Tennessee. On Wednesday, March 19, WIVK celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Five decades ago, Jim Dick applied for and received a license from the Federal Communications Commission to build and operate a 1,000-watt AM radio station. At that moment, Dick Broadcasting Company was created.

Jim Dick is certainly a visionary. He was one of the first people in the radio business to understand the importance of broadcasting on the FM dial. He is also one of the most admired and respected businessmen in East Tennessee.

WIVK-AM debuted playing a wide range of music including gospel, country, jazz and others. The station only operated during the daytime hours in the early years. WIVK has grown immensely since then and is now a part of the Las Vegas based Citadel Communications Corporation.

Jim Dick and everyone at WIVK have always supported the community and have given so much to the citizens of their listening area. Almost everyone in East Tennessee relies on WIVK for great country music, timely news and information, as well as radio broadcasts of University of Tennessee football games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Jim Dick, all of the staff at WIVK, Citadel Communications Corporation and all of those people who have given so much of themselves to make this great radio station the best in the Country. I have also included an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that celebrates the 50-year anniversary of WIVK that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Mar. 16, 2003]

THE FROG HITS 50: WIVK CELEBRATES HALF A
CENTURY OF BROADCASTING

(By Wayne Bledsoe)

Radio station WIVK is as much a part of East Tennessee as UT football and the rush for bread and milk at the first hint of snow.

Through five decades of changing musical tastes, the station has unapologetically played country music and retained an unprecedented share of the listening audience. The station has helped launch the careers of country stars and even influenced the general direction of country music.

"It's hard to come up with another station to compare them to because WIVK is such a standout in the radio community," said Angela King, associate country editor of Radio & Records. "People in the industry say, 'This is a model of how a radio station should be.'"

On Wednesday, March 19, WIVK will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a gala that will include testimonials from stars like Dolly Parton, Kenny Chesney, Kenny Rogers, Travis Tritt, Charlie Daniels and Ray Price. There'll also be stories and reminiscences from the station's longtime personalities.

Few would've given the station much hope in 1953 when young radioman Jim Dick put WIVK-AM on the air with \$3,000 of his savings. At the time WIVK was just a 1,000-watt station that operated from sunrise to sunset only.

Dick initially rented space on the second floor of Greene's Hardware on North Gay Street and broadcast at 850 on the AM dial. Dick didn't think the location of the station mattered much.

"Absolutely the most important thing I did was to determine who were good people and hired them," said Dick, who is now 84.

Dick's "good people" became regional icons: "Big Jim" Hess, Claude "The Cat" Tomlinson, and later, Bobby Denton, Ed Brantley, Mike Hammond, Mickey Dearstone, Dave Young and other personalities became part of Knoxville's cultural landscape.

In its infancy the station aired programs hosted by gospel music impresario the Rev. J. Bazzel Mull and millionaire grocer Cas Walker, who began broadcasting musical shows in 1929 to promote his grocery stores.

The station also hired A. C. Wilson, one of the city's first black disc jockeys in 1954. Wilson hosted "The Acey Boy Show," which featured jazz and hot rhythm and blues.

"He was a super guy," recalled Dick. "If he hadn't have died, he could've really gone places."

Hess and Tomlinson were the first two disc jockeys to establish themselves at the station with the team "Big Jim" and "Little Alf." The duo's mischief on the air was but a pale shadow of the trickery they pulled off it.

They particularly delighted in playing jokes on Rev. Mull, whose eyesight was so poor he was classed as legally blind. Once Hess and Tomlinson put Mull's car up on blocks just barely off the ground while the preacher and his wife were on the air. When the Muls attempted to leave the station with Mrs. Mull at the wheel, the car's tires simply spun in the air. Thinking the vehicle was somehow stuck, Mull got out and pushed it, knocking it off the blocks and sending it and Mrs. Mull sailing.

On another occasion the pranksters rigged the studio so that when Mull's program went on the air, what the preacher heard in the studio was Elvis Presley singing "All Shook Up," while the radio audience listened to the gospel number that was actually on the turntable.

One of the pair's jokes riled Mull so badly that he promised to go to Dick and get them fired. But Tomlinson, who was a master mimic and could imitate Dick perfectly, slipped into the boss' office before Mull got there. The preacher's eyesight was so poor, he didn't detect the impersonation, and Tomlinson promised Mull that severe punishment would be dealt to Hess and himself.

"The Rev. J. Bazzel Mull was very important to WIVK's early success," said Dick, who could be both amused and frustrated by his employees' antics.

It wasn't the jokes, though, that finally drove Mull from WIVK; it was a referendum to legalize liquor in Knoxville in the early 1960s.

Both Mull and Cas Walker were vehemently against the measure and campaigned vigorously against it on shows. But Dick read an editorial on the air supporting legal liquor, and his comments were reprinted in the News Sentinel.

The measure passed, and "the next morning Mull was packing up his records and he left the station," Dick remembered.

Rock 'n' roll did serious damage to country music's popularity in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Stations across the country abandoned the format for Top 40. Local country favorite WNOX had already abandoned country music when WIVK followed suit in 1961.

That was about the time a young announcer named Bobby Denton was trying to break into radio.

"I started in radio by announcing drag races from Maryville Drag Strip after school on WSKT," said Denton, who is now officially retired but still serves as a consultant to current WIVK owner Citadel Communications.

Denton became acquainted with Tomlinson, who then persuaded Dick to give Denton a job at WIVK. But Dick was not impressed with his new hire's broadcasting skills.

"He said, 'This guy is so bad we have to get him off the air!'" Denton recalled.

During the station's three years of playing Top 40, they found the field crowded. WNOX and WKGN dominated the Top 40 format, and in 1964, WIVK moved to all-country programming.

In 1965 two pivotal events took place. WIVK was granted permission to increase its AM signal from 1,000 to 50,000 watts and an FM sister station was established. FM's replacement, because of its clearer signal, of the AM radio format was still years away, but Dick had the foresight to promote FM heavily from the outset.

"We would sign off at sunset and say, 'If you just have half a radio, we'll have to say goodnight until tomorrow morning. But if you have a whole radio, you can tune us in at 107.7 FM.'" Dick recalled. "Car dealerships would tell us that people came in wanting to buy a car with a 'whole radio.'" By the mid-1970s, however, FM was the dominant frequency.

With its new, more powerful signal, WIVK-AM shifted into high gear. Longtime morning disc jockey Tomlinson created the characters "Ol' Man Schultz" and simple soul "Lester Longmire." The characters would remain regional favorites for the next 25 years.

The station also began hosting a series of country concerts and championing country performers. In its early days the station had had young singer Dolly Parton performing in its small downstairs auditorium on Cas Walker's program. She had also recorded early demos after hours in the station's studios.

By the mid-1960s the station was beginning to wield enough influence to have a big impact in the country music field. For example, Denton has long been credited with persuading Jerry Lee Lewis to give country music a shot when his rock 'n' roll career was at an ebb.

"We became good friends, and he would come to my house," Denton recalled. "I think I just said 'Jerry Lee, I think if you would record country, people would buy it.'"

Lewis replied that he was country and was a far sight better country singer than some of the current country stars. Shortly thereafter, in 1968, Lewis began a string of country Top 10 hits.

Other stars have credited the station with helping establish their careers. Alabama's Randy Owen has long recounted how he and his wife stopped at the station with the first single recorded by the group, which was then calling itself Wild Country. Owen went inside and asked then-program director Denton if he would take time to listen to the record.

"We listened to it," Denton recalled, "and I said 'That's pretty good!'"

Owen and his wife then drove down Kingston Pike and were on their way to the

band's Myrtle Beach base when Denton put the single on the air.

"Randy said he just pulled the car over and started hugging his wife and crying because that was the first time he had ever heard his song on the radio," Denton recalled.

Kenny Rogers' first appearance as a country performer was at one of the station's concerts in 1975.

"He was scared to death," remembered Denton. "He didn't know how the crowd would respond to him."

East Tennessee natives Con Hunley and current superstar Kenny Chesney were also championed early on the station.

Ed Brantley, now WIVK's vice-president and general manager, started at the station in 1973 as a part-time announcer and hosted the station's first call-in talk show, "Sound Off."

"That was when country definitely wasn't the cool format," said Brantley, "but the people who did like it were a solid base."

The "solid base" became even more solid as the decade went on with the station drawing an almost unheard of 20-plus market share. Much of that had to do with the station establishing a solid news department and broadcasting regular weather reports and school closings. In 1978 the station began broadcasting UT football games, which further solidified its audience base.

Some of the WIVK's success was due to its programmers knowing the tastes of the audience. Brantley said the station took chances with several artists who dipped their toes into country. When the Pointer Sisters released the song "Fairytale," WIVK was one of the first to add it to the regular rotation. The station was also an early supporter of Olivia Newton-John's music.

"We played a lot of crossover," said Brantley, "and then with 'Urban Cowboy' it just broke loose."

At that time the station was receiving ratings for its AM and FM stations as one number, sometimes giving it better than a 30-point market share. Typical successful stations in other similar-sized markets were happy when they hit a 10 share.

Through the years a few local stations have challenged WIVK by going with a country format, but none have succeeded.

"Our research showed that it would take a direct competitor five years and \$5 million dollars in advertising and promotions to even compete with us," Denton said.

The only time that WIVK-FM seemed vulnerable was when Claude Tomlinson became ill in 1990. During his illness, the station would let Tomlinson broadcast from his home and sometimes his hospital bed.

Tomlinson died in 1991 and was replaced by the team Darren Wilhite and Tim Wall. The duo remained with the station for six years until they were replaced by Andy (Jerry Christopher Ritchie) and Alison (West) in 1997.

Ritchie said that his and West's goal in coming to such a hugely successful station was to "just not screw it up." They were surprised by the career longevity they encountered.

"It's pleasantly unusual to find anybody who's been at the same station for five years, much less 35," said Ritchie. "It's exciting to find some stability."

In fact, the station's personalities have nearly all been with WIVK for more than five years and have become part of the culture as their predecessors did. Andy and Alison, Gunner, Colleen Addair, Hoss and Jack Ryan are all part of the fabric of East Tennessee.

After the FM station became the dominant vehicle for WIVK, the AM station in 1987 moved to 990-AM, the former frequency of WNOX. In 1992 it shifted to all-talk and news format and became the region's most popular station in that format.

Jim Dick is no longer involved with either station. Dick Broadcasting sold WIVK and 11 other stations to Las Vegas-based Citadel Communications for \$300 million in 2000. However, Dick does visit the station and has warm feelings for the people still involved with the project he began 50 years ago.

"I'm very proud of them," says Dick. "Very proud."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY
SPECIALIST LUCAS V. TRIPP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a young man tragically taken from this earth while in the service of his country. U.S. Army Specialist Lucas V. Tripp of Aurora, Colorado was one of ten soldiers killed in the unfortunate Black Hawk helicopter accident near Fort Drum, New York last Tuesday. Those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Luke Tripp and his fellow soldiers. I am truly humbled to honor them before this body of Congress and this nation.

Luke joined the Army four years ago and, like so many young men and women before him, he saw it as an opportunity to serve our great nation. After enlisting, Luke graduated from boot camp at the top of his class and quickly rose through the ranks, eventually becoming a Black Hawk crew chief and certified flight instructor. Luke could rappel out of a hovering helicopter into a hostile area and repair damaged aircraft, an action that requires stunning bravery. The accident last week occurred as the 13 crew members returned from a training exercise in upstate New York, where they had been preparing for a possible deployment in the case of war. Luke's best friend was the first to reach the crash site and reported that he found Luke heroically shielding one of the two survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of these young soldiers and their families. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom and ideals against a new and emerging threat. Soldiers like Luke and his crew embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat and I know that their awesome sacrifice will not be in vain. They have done all Americans proud and I know they have the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

IRAQ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to question the merits of the mission this Administration will soon ask the brave men and women of our armed forces to undertake. I am sure that our servicemen and

women will perform admirably and we all hope they will achieve their objectives quickly and with minimal loss of life, but my reservations about this approaching war remain as strong today as they have ever been.

Although I agree with the President that we must eliminate the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction, I still believe it is at the least premature, and more likely contrary to our national interest, to launch a military attack against Iraq now. I firmly believe that we could better achieve our objectives in Iraq by building a strong international coalition capable of not only winning the war, but also capable of winning the peace.

When thinking about whether or not we should go to war against Iraq, I find myself returning repeatedly to one basic question. Will American-led military action against Iraq improve the security of the American people against the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction? I believe the answer is no.

I remain concerned that an immediate attack on Iraq would significantly rise the chance of terrorism here at home, while overseas I fear that a cornered Saddam Hussein would release his arsenal of chemical, biological, and possible nuclear weapons on American soldiers or on his neighbors in the region, including Israel. He could also pass them on to terrorists and speed their arrival to American shores. But it is not fear of danger to America that gives us pause. Americans are brave enough to face danger if necessary. However, there is no evidence I have seen either in classified or public briefings that convinces me that this war is necessary now.

Furthermore, even if we prosecute a successful war, which I have no doubt our brave men and women in uniform would, I have questions about our ability to win the post-war peace. A war and subsequent American occupation of Iraq would likely send a destabilizing shockwave throughout the Middle East and ignite violent anti-Americanism, giving rise to future threats to our national security. While I have no doubt that we would successfully depose Saddam Hussein, I am concerned that the act of extinguishing Saddam would inflame, rather than diminish, the terrorist threat to the United States. The ensuing anti-American sentiment could reinvigorate the terrorists' pursuit of the loose nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union—a greater threat than Iraq, I might add, one that America has largely neglected.

We can and should take the lead in eliminating the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, but this Administration has not made a convincing case to the world that war is necessary. Instead, it has used aggressive rhetoric to wage a diplomatic war on our allies that is straining our international relationships and alienating America from the world. While I do not believe that we need the permission of our allies to take action, I do believe that we need their partnership to be successful in the long run.

In order to be successful, we must lead the world community. But leadership is not simply about acting boldly—it means bringing along others to act boldly with you. We need to disarm and dismantle Saddam's arsenal, but we should do so with the support of the world. This Administration, however, has failed to earn the support of our allies. And so, in place of leadership, we have questions and ultimately instability.

This Administration has yet to explain how military action make Americans more safe, not less. It has also failed to explain to the American public what our responsibilities would be in a post-Saddam Iraq. How will we guarantee the security of our soldiers and the Iraqi people? How will we guarantee the success of a democratic transition? How many hundreds of billions of dollars would it cost to rebuild Iraq?

If the President has determined that military action against Iraq is necessary, I request that

he explain first to a joint session of Congress exactly how a war could affect our other international interests, what our plan is for achieving a long-term stabilization of post-conflict Iraq, and approximately how much military action and post-war reconstruction would likely cost. The American people deserve to know the answers to these questions.

Americans are willing to pay any price and bear any burden to advance the American ideals of liberty, equality and peace. However,

if a war is not deemed necessary, if it is not indeed a last resort, then the price in dollars and blood is too great.

Since it now appears that arguments against the war are too late, we must turn our attention to working with other countries diplomatically and to prosecuting the war as humanely as possible so that we will be able to pick up the pieces when the fighting is over.