A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF NICHOLAS SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the birth and life of my grandson, Nicholas Bradley Smith, my namesake.

Born to Brad and Diane, on June 27, 1987, my wife Bonnie and I join Nick’s other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Montleh from Kitchener, ON, in celebration of his life.

That year the first heart-lung transplant took place, astronomers at the University of California saw the first sight of a bird of a galaxy, and the US and Russia signed an accord to remove midrange missiles. That year the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 2,700 for the first time in history. Our economy was growing.

Over the next decade government spending would outpace inflation and the national debt increased to monstrous proportions. It is my hope that we can reduce the national debt that will otherwise be passed on to this young man and his generation. We must work today to provide Nick with a better future, a sound economy, and the ability to achieve his greatest potential.

Let us remember Nicholas Smith and all the other young people in this country. We leave our legacy to them. May it be a good one.

HONORING MATTHEW BOWERS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Norman Bowers, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matt has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as the Packard and Sea Base High Adventure Camps. Additionally, Matt earned 29 merit badges for different activities and projects. Over the eleven years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions with his troop, serving as den chief, troop guide, quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt remodeled a nursery for the Parkville Presbyterian Church.

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

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF IONE’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 1953, the City of Ione was incorporated as a General Law City and is now the largest city in Amador with a population of 7,500 people. This year the city, and all those who enjoy its unique atmosphere and year round recreation, celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Ione got its name by Thomas Brown around 1849 after one of the heroines in Edward Bulwer Lytton’s drama “The Last Days of Pompeii.” During the days of the Gold Rush, miners knew the names of “Bedbug” and “Freezout.” Unlike other communities in Amador County, which were founded on gold mining, Ione was a supply center, stage and rail stop and agricultural hub.

The town of Ione continued to grow and prosper after its gold rush founding. The first school was built in 1853 and the first flour mill in 1855. The first brick building was built by Daniel Stewart in 1855 for his general merchandise store and is still owned and operated by the same family.

At the centennial of 1876, Ione had a population of 600 people. The centennial also celebrated the completion of the railroad to the town of Ione. The centennial celebration was the beginning of what is now known as the Ione Homecoming. This annual celebration has been held during the month of May almost every year since that first Centennial celebration in 1876 and is now held on the first weekend in May every year.

Our community is indeed proud of the City of Ione and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the City and its residents as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the City of Ione.

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET: TAKING FROM THE POOR TO GIVE TO THE RICH

HON. GEORGE MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the following column authored by Bob Herbert that appeared in today’s New York Times. “Mugging the Needy” accurately details the serious dangers posed by the budget plan recently passed by the House: that in providing $1.4 trillion in tax cuts to the wealthy, House Republicans are slashing billions of dollars in funding that aids low-income Americans. These cuts will affect Medicaid recipients, children in foster care, the national school lunch program, as well as veterans’ benefits and the ability of students to afford their higher education.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget is not just a political document that details their misguided vision for America. It is far more serious than even that, for it fails to stimulate the economy and create jobs, it saddles future generations with enormous deficits, and it robs needy Americans—both young and old—of critical services. The Congress should reject this budget.

MUGGING THE NEEDY
(By Bob Herbert)

I had wanted today’s column to be about the events in Tulia, Tex., where a criminal justice atrocity is at last long beginning to be corrected.

(The House plan offers the well-to-do $1.4 trillion in tax cuts, while demanding billions of dollars in cuts from programs that provide food stamps, school lunches, health care for the poor and the disabled, temporary assistance to needy families—even veterans’ benefits and student loans.)

An analysis of the House budget by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that its proposed cuts in child nutrition programs threaten to eliminate school lunches for 4.4 million low-income children.

Under the House plan, Congress would be required to cut $265 billion from entitlement programs over 10 years. About $165 billion would come from programs that assist low-income Americans.

This assault on society’s weakest elements has been almost totally camouflaged by the war, which has an iron grip on the nation’s attention. The House budget does not dictate the specific cuts that Congress would be required to make. In its analysis, the center assumed (as did the House Budget Committee) that the various entitlement programs would be cut by roughly the same percentages. If one program were to be cut by a somewhat smaller percentage, another would have to be cut more.

The analysis found that in the year in which the budget sliced deepest: “The cut in Medicaid, if achieved entirely by reducing the number of children covered, would lead to the elimination of health coverage for 136 million children.”
Today, we continue to create new products to improve our way of travel history.

Of the greatest achievements in our space technology, on board our flight to Mars was "Sojourner." This roving device, the first autonomous vehicle to travel on another planet, sent back to earth chemical analyses of soil and rocks. "Sojourner" was one of the greatest achievements in our space travel history.

Inventors play a unique role in our history creating new products to improve our way of life. Inventors are forever at the cusp of new inventions to discover or find out. Today, we continue to "find out" and create new ways to travel, grow food, communicate, and continue exploration of uncharted territory.

I hope that for these children curiosity will always be their guide so that they and their generation will continue scientific research to invent ways to make their own lives better.

Robert Greenstein, the center's executive director. "What I mean is that given the deficits we're already in, you can't keep cutting social programs, running up huge budget deficits and fighting a war in the Middle East. At least in the House budget the first—if not the worst—of the cuts are in plain view. In the Senate plan the inevitable pain of the Bush budget policies remains concealed.

There is a significant human toll in the Senate budget, but it's in the future," said Robert Greenstein, the center's executive director. "What I mean is that given the deficits in the Senate, when you can't keep cutting tax cuts like this—you can't keep cutting your revenue base—without it inevitably leading to sharp budget cuts."

But no matter what they do, the day of reckoning is not far off. The budget cuts are coming. In voodoo economics, the transfer of wealth is from the poor and the working classes to the rich. It may not be pretty, but it's the law.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF SELENA AND JAMES BURNETTE

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my grandchildren, Selena Anastasia and James Azariah, born February 26, 1997 to Elizabeth and Fred Burnette. My wife Bonnie and I join with James and Selena's other grandparents, Bonnie and Charles Burnette, to celebrate these children.

In James and Selena's birth year we made great advances in space technology. Onboard our flight to Mars was "Sojourner." This roving device, the first autonomous vehicle to travel on another planet, sent back to earth chemical analyses of soil and rocks. "Sojourner" was one of the greatest achievements in our space travel history.

Inventors play a unique role in our history creating new products to improve our way of life. Inventors are forever at the cusp of new inventions to discover or find out. Today, we continue to "find out" and create new ways to travel, grow food, communicate, and continue exploration of uncharted territory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Sgt. James W. Hallman for their loss. His friends knew him as a kind man with an easy laugh and his coworkers knew him more for putting his fingers in his pocket to pull out candy than for putting his hand on his gun belt. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens, Sgt. James W. Hallman, Jr., whose legacy will live on long beyond his passing.

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens. Sergeant James W. Hallman, Jr. On February 24, 2003, we lost James when he was senselessly gunned down during a morning stroll in Cantonment, the randomly chosen victim of a crime that has no explanation. We will forever miss James, but his impact and influence on our Northwest Florida community will never be forgotten.

A 34-year veteran of the Pensacola Police Department, James was the epitome of every law enforcement officer for whom James was awarded the prestigious Silver Cross from the department in 1989 for going above and beyond the call of duty when he attempted to rescue two children near the 17th Avenue boat ramp. It was that dedication and determination to serve his community to the furthest lengths of his abilities that made him a hero to all and whom so many have tried to model themselves after.

Probably best known as the "Candy Man," James could always be found passing out candy to children when he was out patrolling schools and housing developments. As Chief John Mathis said at his funeral, "there is little doubt in my mind that right now, James is passing out candy to angels in heaven."

James' dedication to serving his community did not end upon his retirement from the police force in 1998. He was a member of the East Brent Baptist Church, the Brownsville Masonic Lodge 20, Order of Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, Masonic Lodge, York Rite Mason, and the Hadji Shrine Temple. He was a man who lived to serve his community and for that we will be forever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Sgt. James W. Hallman for their loss. His friends knew him as a kind man with an easy laugh and his coworkers knew him more for putting his fingers in his pocket to pull out candy than for putting his hand on his gun belt. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens, Sgt. James W. Hallman, Jr., whose legacy will live on long beyond his passing.

TRANSMITTAL OF IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS TO POLAND

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to direct the attention of the House of Representatives to a sad and heartrending story. Almost 60 years ago, on April 13, 1943, Americans awoke to a startling announcement from Radio Berlin: the disclosure that thousands of bodies of Polish officers had been found by the Germans in a remote wood near the Dreiper River called Katyn Forest. These men had been captured in the fall of 1939 by the Red Army and executed the following spring by the NKVD which later became the KGB. Until the German discovery all trace of these men had disappeared.

Top secret and German discovery put tremendous strain on the western alliance from the moment it was announced. Our mortal enemy had accused the Soviet Union, a great ally who had just defeated the Wehrmacht at Stalingrad, of the unspeakable crime of murdering prisoners of war. For many in the West, it appeared to be a cheap propaganda stunt by Joseph Goebbels. Perhaps the Germans had murdered the Poles and were merely covering their tracks by blaming the crime on the Soviets. But as more and more evidence was collected, it became abundantly clear that the Russians, not the Germans, had the blood of the Poles on their hands.

Over the next two years the governments of the United States and Great Britain took great pains to hold together the Alliance with the Soviet Union and downplayed Soviet responsibility for the murders in Katyn Forest and at two other sites that took the lives of more than 14,000 Polish officers. Eyewitness reports that should have been made public were classified and subsequently disappeared. An Ambassador to the Balkans was forbidden to disclose incriminating documents and photographs. Polish broadcasters were censored by the Office of War Information.

Finally, between September, 1951 and December, 1952, a Select Committee of the U.S. Congress stepped in to investigate this horrible crime. This committee held hearings in six cities and four countries, received testimony from 81 witnesses and took depositions from another 100 who could not appear in person. Its published report of 2,162 pages filled seven volumes. In many ways, this investigation was Congress at its best. It meticulously assembled a body of fact that left no doubt about its principal conclusions: first, that the Soviets were guilty; and second, that the State Department and Army Intelligence (G-2) had engaged in a determined effort to shield the American people from the truth.

I recently learned that the seven-volume published record of the Select Committee to investigate the Katyn murders is not available anywhere in Poland. At the request of the Polish Government, I have arranged to provide Poland with a copy of this record which most experts believe is the most comprehensive body of record ever assembled on this ghastly subject. I would like to thank the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, and his fine staff for their extensive cooperation and assistance in this matter.
On Friday, I will present this document to Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski, who will accept it on behalf of the Polish government. These records will then travel to Poland with Mr. Allen Paul, an American author whose book, Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Seeds of Polish Resurrection, provides a comprehensive overview of the event and the context in which it occurred. Mr. Paul's book has recently been translated into Polish and will be released at an event in Warsaw on April 12. He will place the hearing record at that time, in my behalf, in the hands of Mr. Andrzej Przewoźnik, Secretary General of the Polish Government Council on War Archives, Public Monuments and Historic Sites.

It is to be hoped that the record established by the Select Committee will aid public officials, historians, and many others in efforts to understand the terrible crime of Katyn and its continuing impact on Russo-Polish relations. I am including with this statement some excerpts of Mr. Paul's reflections on the importance and scope of the select committee which will be delivered on April 12 in Warsaw at a V. Robinson, known for her focus on economics and biotechnology breakthroughs of the past ten years, nanotechnology holds the potential to revolutionize our way of life. However, the science is still very much in its fledgling stage, so it is important that the federal government coordinate and fund basic research into the fundamental aspects of nanotechnology and biotechnology. Today, we continue to push forward with scientific advancements. Like information technology, nanotechnology holds the potential to revolutionize our way of life.
Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Harold Brown. Harold is celebrating his 30th anniversary as chief executive officer at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. Wisconsin’s second oldest city, Prairie du Chien, is a town of 5,500 people that is rich in both history and culture. Located on the beautiful Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien works hard to maintain its pioneer heritage. Memorial Hospital, a model for rural hospitals around the country, is a 40-bed facility that receives approximately 1,800 admissions and 6,800 emergency room visits each year. Under Harold’s guidance, Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital has won both national and state awards for its exemplary service.

My friend Harold has brought an enormous amount of leadership to his per person hospital. He has been a small and rural hospital administrator for 37 years and was previously a health care consultant and medical education administrator for 6 years. He has received numerous awards, most recently the Governor’s Exemplary Employees Award and the Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund Award, both in 2002. In 1988, Harold received the Louis Gorin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Care by the National Rural Health Association. Continuously awarded the Employee of the Year Award by the employees of Memorial Hospital, he also received the Community Distinguished Service Recognition Award for 25 years of service.

From 1985 to 1990, Harold worked hard to provide new services for the elderly at Memorial Hospital. He developed and implemented certified hospice and rural regional hospice, as well as day care for the elderly. He helped establish an independent living program for seniors, as well as meals-on-wheels service. Further, Harold was instrumental in starting elderly apartment housing, as well as a companion service program.

In 1990, Harold expanded Memorial Hospital’s service to the community to include, among other programs, child day care, expanded rehab services, athletic training, parish nursing, and personal care.

A long-time member of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Harold is also a part of the National Rural Hospital Association, serving as the group’s president in 1996. He is also a board member of the Rural Wisconsin Hospital Cooperative, an organization that includes 26 rural hospitals. As a member of this cooperative, Harold is involved with Shared Health Services, a corporation providing services to 400 hospitals and nursing homes.

Harold continues to take an interest in Prairie du Chien. A highly active member of the community, he is a member of the City Planning Council, the Special School Board Committee, and the St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Council. His service has not gone unnoticed; in 1997, Harold was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the National Rural Health Association. He has received the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce’s Volunteer of the Year Award in 1999, an honor that is given annually for service to one’s community. He has committed himself to not only the healthcare needs of Prairie du Chien but to its other needs as well.

Harold’s service to the state of Wisconsin and the community of Prairie du Chien has been tremendous. He has dedicated much of his life to providing quality health care and has touched many lives along the way. Harold is truly a man of service, and I feel privileged to call him a friend.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today before this house I’d like to recognize and honor Mayor Paul Jadin, whose exceptional leadership and commitment to the citizens of Green Bay have strengthened our community, and set a superb example for our future leaders.

Paul’s dedicated service as mayor spanned 8 years. During that time, he helped our struggling downtown find new life, eliminated a score of government inefficiencies, revitalized our neighborhoods, and showed our breakaway community that it makes sense to reinvest in a city like Green Bay.

As a friend and colleague, I am sad to see Paul leave. However, I know that his constituents are very grateful for the tremendous contributions he has made to our community throughout his tenure. Green Bay is a strong community with an exceptional work force, a proud history, and a wholesome tradition. There’s no question Paul has kept Green Bay on that path.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to recognize today the extraordinary service of Mayor Paul Jadin. On behalf of my constituents, we say thank you, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today in honor of the birth and life of Claire Smith, born to our son Brad and his wife Diane on February 2, 1982. It was in this year on my birthday, November 5, that I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; 1992 was the international space year and my first committee assignment was Science.

It is for Claire, and for all our children and grandchildren, that we in Congress continue to push the boundaries of science, invention, and technology, so that their lives, will be better and more productive in the years to come.

My wife Bonnie and I join with Claire’s other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteth from Kitchener, ON in celebrating this young life and all the opportunities we have through science to make the future better for our legacy, those children and grandchildren like Claire Smith.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gregory Hawkins, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Camp Bartle, and 45 nights of camping with his troop. Additionally, Gregory has earned 33 merit badges for activities and projects he has participated in. During his time with Troop 66, he has been involved in over 112 hours of community service that the troop has performed.

For his Eagle Scout project, Gregory landscaped an area next to Clinton County Middle School. He moved a tree and constructed and installed five benches for the middle school students to use.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, in 1953, the roots of Heritage Community Credit Union were planted. This year the Credit Union, and all those
who enjoy its unique service, celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

It was 1953 when seven civilians working on Mather Air Force Base recognized a need for better financial service on base. Each member contributed $5 to form what was then called Mather Civilian Credit Union. In 1962 the Credit Union merged with another military credit union to form Mather Federal Credit Union.

In an effort to increase membership the Credit Union added products and services such as mortgage loans, Priority Line Audio Response, and a Telephone Services Department. In 1992, the Credit Union merged with Electric Workers #340 Credit Union to add 1600 new members. In a third effort to expand membership the Credit Union merged with Proctor & Gamble Employees Federal Credit Union, which added another 1600 new members.

On December 14, 1998, Mather Federal Credit Union members voted to convert to a State chartered community credit union. Membership eligibility was again broadened to include anyone living or working in Sacramento County and the name was changed to Heritage Community Credit Union.

It is no surprise that the Credit Union has received “Business of the Year,” “Federal Credit Union of the Year” and “The Best Small Business to Work for in the Sacramento Area.” The Credit Union has devoted countless hours and financial support to local charities and philanthropic causes. The Credit Union has used its rapid growth and increased recognition to serve not only its members but also the entire community.

Our community is indeed proud of Heritage Community Credit Union and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the members and staff as we celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of our second grandchild, Emily Smith, born on March 9, 1989 to our son Brad and his wife Diane. The year 1989 was a time of change for America and the world. A new President, George Bush Sr., took office. More importantly it was the year that the world ushered in a new era of peace. On the second of May, Emily Smith was a just a few months old, but her future would be changed forever. It was in 1989 that the Berlin Wall fell and forty-five years of conflict and fear were soon behind us. It was a new era of prosperity, potential, and peace.

As we stand here today decisive moments confront us, but we have the opportunity to choose. Our community and our children are proud to produce X items or services for us, the federal customer. It is the year that the world ushered in a new era of peace. As we stand here today decisive moments confront us, but we have the opportunity to choose.

My wife Bonnie and I join Emily’s other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this wonderful person.
PUHCA was enacted in 1935 to address abuses arising out of pyramid corporate structures at a time when electric utility regulation was just starting at both the federal and state level. PUHCA’s primary purpose was to dismantle more than 100 complex utility holding company structures that, in many cases, took advantage of regulatory exemptions to pursue inappropriate business practices. There are now 28 top electric and gas utility holding companies that are required by PUHCA to operate under arbitrary investment caps that preclude them from investing in new markets by PUHCA. Enron was opposed to PUHCA repeal because its continued existence imposed competitive handicaps on well-established, asset-backed energy companies in emerging competitive markets.

The counterproductive restrictions that PUHCA places on the natural gas and electric power industries are based on historical assumptions that are no longer valid. The factors that existed when PUHCA was enacted in 1935 no longer exist today. Federal and state laws at that time were inadequate to protect consumers and investors. Today, federal and state regulations have become much more comprehensive and sensitive to market conditions. PUHCA, however, remains an economic drag on America’s energy industry.

The ability of State commissions to regulate holding company systems and, together with the development of regulation under the Federal Power Act of 1935 and the Natural Gas Act of 1938, have eliminated the regulatory caps that existed in 1935 with respect to wholesale transactions in interstate commerce. The expanded ability of State commissions and the FERC to regulate inter-affiliate transactions have further rendered the 1935 Act unnecessary. In addition, important market and power issues need to be reviewed by FERC, DOJ, and the FTC.

This legislation would reform the regulation of utility holding companies by repealing the duplicative SEC-related provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, while assuring that the SEC retains all of its non-PUHCA jurisdiction of securities and securities markets in order to protect investors. The bill would put gas and electric power companies on an equal competitive footing, allowing them to take the advantages of market opportunities that benefit investors and utility companies.

Registered companies will continue to be subject to all government regulation intended to protect investors to which other industry participants are subject. SEC authority under the Securities Act, Exchange Act, Investment Advisers Act, and Trust Indenture Act will all remain in place. The State securities commissions will also have available to them the various State Blue-Sky laws. The bill will enhance the ability of FERC and the State utility commissions to access the books and records of utilities and their subsidiaries in order to improve customer protection. This would be in addition to the ongoing authority of state and federal regulators to oversee rates charged by regulated utilities in retail and wholesale markets.

In the new environment confronting the utility industry, PUHCA has become nothing more than a bottleneck that constrains the ability of our nation’s natural gas and electric power industries to serve consumers. PUHCA is an anachronism that burdens utility systems with costs and restrictions that impair their competitiveness and prevent them from adapting to the new and more competitive environment. PUHCA is no longer a solution because the problems of the 1930’s have been replaced by effective state and federal legislation and by the realities of today’s marketplace. Simply put, America no longer can afford the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. It is time for Congress to act on the recommendations of the SEC and to enact this legislation.
I would have voted "yes" to H.R. 743, the South Korea Quality of Life Act won't fix all the hard issues our forces in Korea face. The United States Forces Korea Quality of Life and Infrastructure requirements may lead to further neglect of the critical conditions for our service personnel are "the worst in the world to live according to a recent United Nations survey. Despite this, our service men and women receive no cost of living allowances, COLA, for being stationed there. That meaning they receive no additional compensation to offset higher costs in Korea. Working and living facilities in Korea, as well as living conditions for our service personnel are sub-standard by any measure.

Even the living quarters on post are smaller than typical military installations, and all our soldiers must live in an environmentally degraded region. Beyond cost and comfort, it's not forget that these soldiers live under the threat from an unpredictable North Korea. They arechoose voluntary family separation before their families to the conditions on the peninsula.

Seoul is the third most expensive city in the world to live according to a recent United Nations survey. Despite this, our service men and women receive no cost of living allowance, COLA, for being stationed there. That means they receive no additional compensation to help offset higher costs in Korea. Working and living facilities in Korea, as well as living conditions for our service personnel are sub-standard by any measure.

Even the living quarters on post are smaller than typical military installations, and all our soldiers must live in an environmentally degraded region. Beyond cost and comfort, let's not forget that these soldiers live under the threat from an unpredictable North Korea. It's no wonder then that those who are allowed to bring their families to Korea rarely do so and that those who are given the opportunity to command forces in Korea decline at a rate five times the normal Army wide rate.

There are many uncertainties about the future of our forces abroad as we re-examine our overseas basing and force structure. Unfortunately, discussion of overseas re-alignment may lead to further neglect of the critical quality of life and infrastructure requirements of our forces in Korea. As we work to rectify the inequities in pay/benefits for those stationed in Korea, I believe it is so important to give our soldiers there an extra boost now. The United States Forces Korea Quality of Life Act won't fix all the hardships that our service members face in Korea, but it will give them a chance to make their life there a little better and their time there more agreeable.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in giving our soldiers in Korea the additional assistance they need and deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was inadvertently detained in the Senate while attending to duties associated with my role as Chairwoman of the Civil Service Subcommittee. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" to H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 743 makes necessary changes to existing Social Security law to ensure the protection of recipients and the Social Security system. The provisions included in this bill aim to promote the accountability of the Social Security program by closing the present government pension offset (GPO) loophole. I feel that the clarifying corrections addressed in this bill will result in the improvement of the Social Security program.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the support of several of my colleagues on the Workforce Protections Subcommittee to introduce legislation designed to correct matters of fundamental unfairness in the area of workplace safety and health. Our goal is to address situations where employers, and especially small employers, are being denied fundamental fairness and/or equitable results in their efforts to defend themselves against citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, for alleged violations with which, in good faith, they take genuine issue.

This matter of fundamental fairness is achieved through several key amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This proposal targets only those situations when an employer must defend against heavy-handed or arbitrary enforcement of health and safety laws. This measure is especially targeted to help small employers who do not have the means to defend themselves against the substantial resources and formidable power of the Federal Government.

With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, the amendments we propose are designed to level the playing field so that these employers are: (1) Not deprived of their day in court due to legal technicalities; (2) not forced into settlement when they believe OSHA is wrong, just because it is the most cost-effective option available; (3) aware of the legal standards under which they will be judged; and (4) extended legal consideration for their unique situations and good-faith efforts to comply with the law.

Each reform in this proposed legislation is designed to make what I believe is a narrow, precise, and sensible adjustment for an omission regretfully not caught by Congress at the time of original passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, all of the provisions in this legislation lend themselves to bipartisan support, and I ask each of my colleagues to support this proposal.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF FRANCES DIANE SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my grandchild, Frances Smith, born on November 4, 1998. My wife, Bonnie, and I join with Frances’ other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this young life.

Three days after Frances was born, John Glenn returned from his second trip into space at the age of 77. His feat predict that a person born in 1998 may very well live to an age of 110 or even 120 years old.

The system of free enterprise in our country makes it possible for Frances Smith, and all our children and grandchildren, to make dreams real.

As we stand in this chamber each day we must remember the potential of our youth and the strength of the free enterprise system. Those two things, bonded together, will continue the tradition of prosperity we have so long enjoyed.

It is my hope that Frances Smith, the daughter of Brad and Diane, will never forget the achievements possible through the free enterprise system that can take us much further than John Glenn ever dreamed we could go.

REVISED COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 21, THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING FUNDING PROHIBITION ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a revised cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This revised estimate, dated April 2, 2003, describes the private-sector benefits that would be imposed by the legislation. The CBO's estimate of its impact on the Federal budget and on State and local governments is unchanged.

The original estimate was included in the Committee's report on H.R. 21 (H. Rept. 108–51, Part I) and was dated March 27, 2003.


Hon. Michael G. Oxley, Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. Dear Mr. Chairman: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed revised cost estimate for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This cost estimate supersedes the previous estimate. The cost estimate provided to the committee on March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by H.R. 21. Our estimate of the bill’s impact on the federal budget and on state and local governments is unchanged.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Mark Hadley (for federal costs), and Cecil McPheron (for the impact on the private sector).

Sincerely,

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director.
checks, or other bank instruments from gamblers who illegally bet over the Internet. The bill also would require financial institutions to take steps to identify and block gambling-related transactions that are transmitted through their payment systems.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) would enforce the provisions of H.R. 21 as they apply to financial institutions.

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and revenues would not be significant.

H.R. 21 would create a new intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate, but CBO estimates that the direct costs of the mandate would fall below the threshold established in UMRA ($17 million in 2003, adjusted annually for inflation) in any of the next five years.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: CBO estimates that the government would incur no significant costs under H.R. 21. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 21 would increase administrative costs of the Department of the Treasury, but any such costs would be negligible. The bill also would have a small effect on the operating costs of the FDIC and the Federal Reserve System. Finally, the bill would have a negligible effect on the collection and spending of criminal penalties.

Basis of estimate

The bill would have only minor budgetary effects, as described below:

Spending subject to appropriation

Because H.R. 21 would establish new federal crimes relating to Internet gambling, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects, however, that most cases would be pursued under existing state laws. Therefore, we estimate that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, investigations, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 21 would require the Department of the Treasury to submit an annual report on deliberations with other countries on issues related to Internet gambling. CBO estimates that preparing and completing the report would cost less than $100,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Direct spending and revenues

The NCUA, the OTS, and the OCC charge fees for their administrative costs; therefore, any additional spending by these agencies to implement the bill would have no net budgetary effect. That is not the case with the FDIC, however, which uses deposit insurance premiums paid by banks to cover the expenses it incurs to supervise state-chartered institutions. (Under current law, CBO estimates that the direct costs of the FDIC for thrift institutions insured by the FDIC would not pay any premiums for most of the 2002-2003 period.)

The bill could cause a small increase in FDIC spending but would not affect its premium income. In total, CBO estimates that H.R. 21 would increase direct spending and offsetting receipts of the NCUA, OTS, OCC, and FDIC by less than $500,000 a year over the 2002-2006 period.

Budged effects on the Federal Reserve are recorded as changes in revenues (governmental receipts). Based on information from the Federal Reserve, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 21 would increase such revenues by less than $500,000 a year.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under the bill are subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. Any additional collections are likely to be negligible because of the number of cases involved. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the amount of fines collected (with a lag of one year or more), the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

Estimated impact on state and local governments: Although H.R. 21 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit card payments and other bank instruments from gamblers who bet illegally over the Internet, the bill would not create a new intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA. Under current federal and state law, gambling businesses are generally prohibited from accepting bets or wagers over the Internet. Thus, H.R. 21 does not contain a new intergovernmental mandate relative to current law and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated impact on the private sector: H.R. 21 would impose a new federal mandate on the private sector. The bill would require designated payment systems to establish policies and procedures designed to identify and prevent transactions in connection with unlawful Internet gambling. Designated payment systems are the bill to include any system utilized by businesses such as creditors, credit card issuers, or financial institutions to effect a credit transaction, an electronic fund transfer, or other transfer of funds. Information provided by representatives of the financial services industry indicates that such transactions can currently be identified through the use of codes. Most financial institutions are currently able to identify and block restricted transactions by using the coding system. Thus, CBO estimates that the costs to comply with the mandate would be small. There also could be direct savings to those entities subject to the mandate as the bill limits their liability arising from noncompliance with the requirement. CBO estimates that the total direct costs for private-sector mandates in this bill would fall well below the annual threshold ($67 million in 2003, adjusted annually for inflation) established in UMRA.

Although section 3 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit card payments and other bank instruments from gamblers who bet illegally over the Internet, those provisions would not create a new private-sector mandate under UMRA. Under current federal and state law, gambling businesses are generally prohibited from accepting bets or wagers over the Internet. Thus, there does not contain a new mandate relative to current law.

Estimated impact on health insurance: The estimated impact on health insurance would not exceed $200 million over the 2002-2006 period. The cost of implementing H.R. 21 would be offset by additional revenue from fines collected. The CBO report on this estimate did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the bill.

Estimated impact on the federal budget: (Cost estimate for H.R. 21 transmitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the bill. This cost estimate was based on the preceding study.) The bill would create a new intergovernmental mandate; Ken Johnson and Mark Hadley; federal revenues: Mark Booth; impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Victoria Hedd Hall; impact on the private sector: Cecil McPherson.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

BOUNDARY COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY IN BONNERS FERRY, ID

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the distinguished accomplishments of the Boundary County District Library in Bonners Ferry, ID. Under the leadership of Director Sandy Ashworth, the Boundary County District Library received the 2002 National Award for Library Services. The Institute of Museum and Library Services and First Lady Laura Bush bestowed this well-deserved honor upon the library at a White House ceremony.

Established in 1956, the Boundary County District Library was the first countywide library district in the State of Idaho. The library is dedicated to using innovative collaborations in raising both the quality and quantity of library resources while helping to overcome the rural isolation of Boundary County's residents.

The Boundary County District Library is a model for the community and the State of Idaho, as well as for other libraries trying to meet increasing demand for services with less money. The library and the community work together toward the common goals of providing excellent service and improving the quality of life in northern Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to nominate the Boundary County District Library for this special award. Furthermore, I am very proud of the independent nature of Boundary County, ID, and citizens, whose hard work and sense of community should serve as an inspiration to us all. I wish to convey a special thanks to the Boundary County District Library for leading that effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHIP WEB-BASED ENROLLMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a piece of legislation that will provide an e-government solution to the complicated process of signing kids up for health insurance, the SCHIP Web-Based Enrollment Act of 2003. This bill provides a simple, targeted method for expanding access to children's health care by giving States the flexibility they need to implement web-based enrollment programs for SCHIP.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a program that allows States to cover uninsured children in families with incomes that are above Medicaid eligibility levels. Like Medicaid, SCHIP is a Federal-State matching program, but spending
Legislation to Establish an Office to Oversee Research and Compliance within the Veterans Health Administration

Hon. Steve Buyer
Of Indiana
In the House of Representatives
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to establish an office to oversee research compliance and assurance within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am pleased that this legislation has bipartisan support, including Chris Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; Representative Lane Evans, Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee; Representative Terry Everett, the former chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; Representative Michael Bilirakis, Vice Chairman, Veterans’ Affairs Committee; Representatives Morgan Griffith, Bob Filner, Michael McNulty, Bob Beauprez, Jeff Miller, John Boozman, Cliff Stearns, John Sweeney, Jack Quinn, Henry Brown, Ginny Brown-Waite, and John McHugh.

The VA has made tremendous contributions in the field of medical research. I think we all recognize the many accomplishments made by the VA in discovering new drugs and developing medical devices that have benefited not only veterans but all Americans. For instance, the VA invented the implantable pacemaker, performed the first successful liver transplant, and assisted in the development of the first oral vaccine for smallpox.

The intent of this legislation is to ensure that all research funds are directed with focus and accountability. We must ensure that the VA is continuing with the research it conducts.

Before I summarize the bill, I want to provide some pertinent background information as to why this legislation is necessary. In April 1999, the Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing to examine violations of human research protections that occurred in the West Los Angeles and Supulveda Veterans Affairs medical facilities that resulted in the shutdown of all research activity at those two facilities. These violations were traced as far back as 1993 and came to light in 1998. The subcommittee’s hearing reviewed what happened and what was being done to correct the situation.

At the hearing, the VA announced that it had created a new Office of Research Compliance and Assurance (ORCA). Then-Under Secretary for Health Kenneth Kizer stated at the April 1999 hearing, “I want to emphasize that this new Office of Research Compliance will be an independent, objective, and unbiased entity in its compliance and oversight activities.” Dr. Kizer also said, “By placing the Office of Research Compliance outside of the Research Office, and directly reporting to top management within the Veterans Health Administration, it is my intention to minimize any real or perceived dependence of the type.” In subsequent hearings, Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, who succeeded Dr. Kizer as Under Secretary for Health, and Dr. Robert H. Roswell, the current Under Secretary both echoed the sentiments expressed by Dr. Kizer in his April 1999 testimony.

ORCA served as the primary advisory component for the Under Secretary for Health on all matters affecting the integrity of research in the protection of human subjects and welfare of laboratory animals, promoting enhancements in the ethical conduct of research in cooperation with regulations and policies and investigating any allegations of research improprieties and scientific misconduct. ORCA’s major responsibilities included providing direction, guidance, and oversight to its field offices that perform their delegated roles and responsibilities, in promotion of the office’s mission.

ORCA conducted a follow-up review of the Greater Los Angeles Health Systems Research Program and recommended lifting its prohibitory status. The review also made recommendations for improvements for the research programs. ORCA oversaw the implementation of these recommendations.

Further oversight hearings conducted by my subcommittee produced GAO recommendations on necessary VA actions to strengthen the protection of human research subjects. GAO recommended that VA identify adequate funding levels needed to support human subject protection activities at medical centers and ensure an appropriate allocation of funds to support the activities.

The VA’s Office of Research Development also provided preliminary guidance to VISN Directors on the needed Independent Review Board, IRB, staffing levels. The IRBs approve and monitor research protocols for all projects at the facility level.

In January 2003, it came to the committee’s attention that the VA intended to combine the oversight responsibility for all human and animal research within the Office of Research Development, ORD, the very body it was supposed to oversee. I, along with several other members of the Oversight Subcommittee, including Representative Lane Evans, strongly objected to the proposal and requested the Department review its decision and brief the subcommittee before any further action was taken.

The move to combine ORCA with ORD came after a report of alleged research misconduct involving human subjects at the VA medical center in Albany, NY. My colleagues and I want to insure that oversight of human subject research remains truly independent.

The bill I am introducing would:

First, create an independent office to oversee research compliance and assurance.

Second, require that the new office have a director who reports directly to the Under Secretary for Health.

Third, provide that the missions of the new office be to offer regular counsel to the Under Secretary for Health on all matters related to the protection of human research subjects, research misconduct, laboratory animal welfare and bio-safety; to promote and enhance the ethical conduct of research; to investigate allegations of research impropriety and misconduct; to suspend, restrict, or modify research to prevent mistreatment of laboratory animals used in research; and to assure compliance in the conduct of research.

The bill would require that the director of the office conduct periodic inspections at research facilities; observe external accreditation site visits; investigate allegations of research improprieties, research misconduct, and non-compliance with research policies and regulations. The bill would also require the immediate notification of the Under Secretary for Health when endangerment of human research subjects is evident or suspected and requires that Congress be notified when impropriety of misconduct of research conducted by the Department has been found.
WHERE THE AMERICANS COME, THEY MAKE ORDER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the March 31, 2003, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News entitled "Unharned."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains critical to Slovenia and other countries who until recently suffered under the yoke of tyranny. Such countries have made difficult, immediate sacrifices to gain the long-term protection which NATO membership provides.

Unharned Slovenia's vote indicates NATO not harmed by war on Iraq

Critics of Bush administration policy have feared, that the war in Iraq and U.S. unilateralism might damage critical alliances like NATO. From tiny Slovenia—population 1.9 million—comes heartening evidence that this may not be so. Slovenia's leadership and foresight in understanding that NATO membership has real obligations, feared the effect of the war on that vote. In the end, two-thirds of the voters approved:

"An economist, Milan Cadez, gave the New York Times a reassuring reason why as he left a polling place: 'Only America is capable of doing anything for peace. The E.U. is not capable of doing anything. They watched the crimes in Bosnia and when the Americans come, they make order.' And, it should be noted, are still there to help maintain order."

The Slovenes might have doubts about the war in Iraq, but they have few reservations about the benefits of the U.S.-led military alliance.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF CHAUNCY FLOYD SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Master Sergeant David L. Benson. Originally from Chittenango, NY, Chief Benson enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1952 and subsequently has spent over 38 years with New York Air National Guard. Chief Benson has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and soldier.

Chief Benson's career began as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas. Soon after he was assigned to the 4626th Support Squadron, Sage, Air Defense Command at Topsham Air Force Station in Brunswick, Maine. After completion of his four year tour of duty, Chief Benson was granted his release from active duty and became a member of the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York National Guard. Here he performed duties as an Aircraft Crew Chief at the F–86H Sabrejet Fighter Aircraft and the A-37B Dragonfly. He was also an Egress Shop Chief and Accessories Element Supervisors. Concluding his career, Chief Benson served as a Non-commissioned Officer In-charge of the Component Repair Flight.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Benson has served our nation proud in many military arenas. He has been deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Persian Gulf War and once again to the Middle East during Operation Northern Watch as part of contingency operations enforcing the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq. He also participated in Operation Noble Eagle after the September 11th attacks.

During these times and throughout his career, Chief Benson has displayed honorable character and service to the 174th and our country. His military decorations include the
Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to one of Knoxville, Tennessee's finest citizens. Many in this body and around the Country will not recognize his name, but when Mr. Robert Coultier "Dink" Eldridge, Sr. passed away at the age of 85 on February 21, 2003 this Nation lost a great American. Many Knoxvillians join me in mourning his death.

Dink Eldridge graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1940. During his final years at the University, he managed the Volunteer Football team as they went undefeated in regular season play and participated in the Orange Bowl, the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. More than victory marked his time with the Volunteers however. Those who knew him at this time also remember his dedicated leadership and desire to see every athlete reach his fullest potential.

In addition to his time managing the Volunteers, Dink managed the East Army All Star football team at Yale University with the great General R.R. Neyland. In 1942 Dink Eldridge was called to serve his Nation in the United States Army where he served with distinction as a second lieutenant in the Tank Corps. Here again, Dink proved his willingness to serve his fellow man and was awarded both a Purple Heart and Bronze Star medal for his efforts. After a brief period away from the military, Dink was called on again, this time in the Korean War.

During his professional career, Dink demonstrated a deeply held commitment to excellence. Following his early days as a lineman for Bell Systems, Dink steadily rose in his career. While his supervisory work for Bell took him to cities across the State, Dink was eventually able to return to Knoxville where he served as District Engineer until his retirement in 1971.

Like many leaders, Dink was unable to remain retired for long. In 1986, he was named president of the Concord Telephone Exchange. Dink provided steady leadership to this organization during a period of tremendous growth and remained president until his second retirement in 1993.

With this said, Dink is possibly best known to the people of East Tennessee for his dedicated work in the community. His generosity of time touched countless lives. Through his work on the executive board of the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America and as President of the Bearden Little League Baseball league alone, Dink Dink Eldridge for his many years, but I am even more proud to have called Dink Eldridge a personal friend.

To his wife Anna Yvonne I say thank-you for being such a supportive and loving part of his life and to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Only time will continue carrying the banner of service your father and grandfather held so high.

I commend the Huntington Historical Society for their dedication to the historical preservation of the great town of Huntington, and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

HONORING HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Huntington Historical Society.

The Huntington Historical Society was founded by the local community as an outgrowth of the collection of artifacts gathered together in 1903 for exhibition at the celebration of the Town of Huntington's 250th anniversary. The exhibition was so well received by the community that the exhibition committee decided to keep its collection together and founded a society whose mission would be to preserve the heritage of the Town of Huntington, by maintaining museums, collections and a research center, by educating the public about Long Island's regional history, and by promoting the preservation of historic buildings and sites.

The society serves the dual role of being a repository for the treasures of Huntington's founding families while also reaching out to the community to provide a sense of place and identity in a rapidly changing area proud of its deep historic roots. In addition, the Huntington Historical Society is distinguished as one of the oldest repositories of local history in the New York metropolitan area.

HONORING HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to acknowledge and welcome the March 14th statement of the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, pledging his commitment to religious freedom for all Georgians and promising the punishment of individuals complicit in mob attacks on religious minorities. (I am submitting the statement for the RECORD below.) President Shevardnadze made this pledge during an ecumenical service in Tbilisi's Evangelist-Baptist Cathedral Church, attended by leaders of the Georgian Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Baptist churches and many individuals from the diplomatic community.

The service was initially planned for late January, but defrocked priest Basil Mkalavishvili and his crowd of thugs assaulted worshipers and clergy an hour before it was scheduled to begin—and doing so with impunity since 1999. Individuals were beaten as they tried to leave, with rocks and stones being reportedly thrown. While President Shevardnadze quickly condemned that attack, ordering the Interior Minister, the Prosecutor General, State Chancellery Head, and the Security Council Secretary to investigate and punish the perpetrators, no arrests or prosecutions followed.

Despite Georgia's appalling record on religious tolerance for the last few years, I hope President Shevardnadze's speech at the Baptist church signals a new determination to arrest and aggressively prosecute the mob leaders and their henchmen. He promised that "as the President of Georgia and a believer, I shall not restrict myself only to a mere expression of resentment. I do promise that the President and the Authorities of Georgia will do their utmost to grant every person freedom of expression of faith." Driving home the point further, Mr. Shevardnadze declared, "the state will exert its pressure on whoever comes in defiance of this principle. You may stand assured that the aggressors will be brought to justice."

As Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, over the past three years I have watched with increasing alarm the escalation of mob violence. On September 24th I chaired a Commission hearing focused on this disturbing pattern. The Jehovah's Witnesses have borne the brunt of attacks, along with Baptists, Pentecostals, Adventists and Catholics. Most disheartening has been the government's indifference; victims throughout the country have filed approximately 200 criminal complaints, without one criminal conviction.

Despite a series of statements by President Shevardnadze, Georgia's Minister of Interior
and Prosecutor General appear unwilling to effec-
tively enforce the rule of law, refusing to ar-
rest mob leaders like Mkalavishvili and Paata
Bluashvili and not attempting serious prosecu-
tions. For example, the trial of Mkalavishvili
has dragged on for more than a year, without
a single piece of evidence considered yet. I
would have thought adequate security, visi-
bile security, which took months to organize,
will continue and that the prosecutor will begin
his case shortly. Also, the inauguration of trial
proceedings against Bluashvili in Rustavi is
positive; I trust the delays and shenanigans
seen in Mkalavishvili’s trial will not be re-
peated there. I also urge the Government of
Georgia to arrest and detain Mkaleishvili,
Bluashvili and other indicted persons who con-
tinue to perpetrate violent criminal acts against
religious minorities.

Undoubtedly, President Shevardnadze’s
presence at the March 14th service and his
statement illustrate his personal commitment
to religious tolerance and basic law and order.
Yet, while I appreciate his gesture, it is time
for real action. If the attacks are allowed to
continue, we could lose these people and the
peaceful medium that they bring to the table.
Ironically, I believe that minorities religious
communities are freer to profess and practice
their faith in regions of Georgia not under the
rule of law. And, of course, we must not forget
positive; I trust the delays and shenanigans
which I already made a mention.

Representatives of all religions and na-
cernment of Georgia will actually arrest the per-
acutely interested in seeing whether the Gov-
in the Organization for Security and Coopera-
tional commitments as a participating State
fulfill his most recent commitment to punish
their wish but to express a deep sense of regret,
even resentment at the gross infringement of
our unity, mutual respect and freedom of
faith by some of the aggressors.

As the President and the people and a believer,
I shall not restrict myself only to a mere ex-
pression of resentment. I do promise that the
President and the Authorities of Georgia will
do their utmost to ensure that every person
freedom of expression of faith.
The state will exert its pressure on who-
ever comes in defiance of this principle. You
may stand assured that the aggressors will
be brought to justice.

I would like to greet you once more and
wish you happiness and advancement of the
country of various religious confessions, my
wishes are for joy, happiness and prosperity.

MEDICARE OUTPATIENT CO-
PAYMENT REDUCTION ACT OF 2003
HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003
Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with
my colleagues, Representatives MCDERMOTT,
DOOLEY, FRANK, FROST, JACKSON-
LEE, McNULTY and ABERCROMBIE to introduce
legislation to expedite the timeframe for redu-
cing to 20 percent the coinsurance amounts
that Medicare beneficiaries are required to pay
for hospital outpatient services. I’m honored
that this bill has the support of the National
Commission to Preserve Social Security and
Medicare and Families USA.

For most Medicare services, beneficiaries
are required to pay 20 percent of the allowed
amount, and Medicare pays 80 per-
cent. However, for outpatient services,
Medicare beneficiaries are required to pay
much higher co-payments—up to 55 percent
for some services.

This is an anomaly due to an error in legis-
lative drafting many years ago. Based on ear-
lier legislation I helped enact into law, Con-
gress has already taken some partial steps to
correct this wrong. Under current law, hospital
outpatient co-payments will reduce to 40 per-
cent by 2006, but they will not reduce to the
usual 20 percent level until 2029. We didn’t
solve the full problem because Congress
wasn’t ready to take the necessary steps.

The Medicare Outpatient Co-payment
Reduction Act of 2003 will speed up this reduc-
tion process by decreasing beneficiary coin-

HONORING BEN BERLINGER
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003
Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to
take this opportunity to recognize Ben
Berlinger of La Junta, Colorado. Ben has
worked with the Natural Resource Conserva-
tion Service for over 25 years, and I would like
to recognize his accomplishments before this
body—with incomes too high to qualify for
Medicaid or the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary
or QMB program, but with incomes too low to
able to afford supplemental insurance. This
lack of proportions is unnumbered.

Furthermore, coinsurance amounts are
much higher for certain services than others.
Those with the highest coinsurance are the
“high-tech” services, such as radiology serv-
cices and cancer chemotherapy services. Thus,
high coinsurance greatly limits affordable ac-
cess to these life saving services for many
Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Outpatient Co-
payment Reduction Act of 2003 is a simple
bill. We’ve charged seniors outrageous
amounts for too long already for hospital out-
patient services. Seniors shouldn’t have to
wait another 26 years before they are fairly
charged for outpatient services. This is an
incremental approach that lowers the co-pay-
ment level to 20 percent by 2010. It’s a small,
but important step to improve health care ac-
cess for seniors. I look forward to working
with my colleagues to enact it as soon as possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003
Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker,
on roll call No. 100, I was unavoid-
ably detained. Had I been present, I would
have voted “no.”
Mr. Speaker, rangerangel management is a significant challenge facing the West and Ben Berlinger has tackled that challenge head-on. He has done much to promote awareness of conservation issues and to promote good stewardship of Southeastern Colorado's grazing lands. His dedication is an inspiration to others and an immense benefit to his community. I thank him for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of George E. Ledford, United States Veteran, beloved husband to the late Marjorie Jean; dedicated father, grandfather, educator, community volunteer, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Ledford's life reflected a true example of an outstanding citizen—he lived each day with a consistent and deep commitment to his family, his community and to his country. He was an inspiring teacher for many years, and later, he was an effective and dedicated high school principal.

Mr. Ledford graduated from the Merchant Marines Academy in 1946. After serving in WWII, Mr. Ledford served for many years as a reservist in the United States Navy, and remained committed to the Marines throughout his life. Beginning in the nineteen seventies—and continuing after his retirement as an educator—Mr. Ledford volunteered his time and expertise in the role as admissions officer with the Merchant Marines Academy.

In that capacity, Mr. Ledford hosted informational “College Nights” for students considering a career in the military and also volunteered a significant amount of time that focused on outreach work for military families. And for decades, Mr. Ledford represented the Merchant Marine Academy at the annual Military Academy Service Days, held at the Congressional District office. Mr. Ledford's kindness, honesty, openness, and willingness to share his personal experiences provided local students with a realistic glimpse of life in the military, and assisted them in making a sound decision regarding their future.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of George E. Ledford, an outstanding American citizen whose integrity, warmth, wit and concern for others have served to uplift our entire Cleveland community. I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Ledford's cherished daughters, Barbara and Cathy; cherished son, David; and also to his beloved grandchildren, and extend family members and friends. Although he will be deeply missed, George E. Ledford's spirit will live on in the hearts and memories of everyone he loved and inspired—especially his family, students, and closest friends—today, and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair, balanced bill. It gives claimants under R.S. 2477 ample opportunity to come forward with their claims, and secures those claims upheld, with an opportunity to seek ultimate redress from the courts if necessary. At the same time, it gives the American people—the owners of the Federal lands—and private property owners assurance that the time will come when they will own what they own, without having to worry about new R.S. 2477 claims being made against their lands.

In my opinion, such legislation is long overdue, and deserves the support of every Member of Congress.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a brief outline of the main provisions of the bill.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILL DEALING WITH CLAIMS FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY UNDER R.S. 2477**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to establish a process for orderly resolution of one of the most important problems associated with management of the Federal lands—claims for rights-of-way under a provision of the Mining Law of 1866.

That provision was later embodied in section 2477 of the Revised Statutes, and is usually called R.S. 2477. It granted rights-of-way for the construction of highways across Federal lands not reserved for public use. It was one of many 19th-century laws that assisted in the opening of the West for resource development.

More than a century after its enactment, R.S. 2477 was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, often called “FLPMA,” and was replaced with a modern and comprehensive process for establishing rights-of-way on Federal lands.

However, FLPMA did not revoke valid existing rights established under R.S. 2477—and, unfortunately, it also did not set a deadline for people claiming to have such rights to file their claims.

As a result, there is literally no way of knowing how many such claims might be filed or what Federal lands—or even lands that once were Federal but now belong to other owners—might be subject to such claims. But I have no doubt that potential claims under R.S. 2477 could involve thousands of square miles of Federal lands, not to mention lands that now are private property or belong to the states or other entities.

This is obviously a serious problem. It also is the way things used to be, with regard to another kind of claim on Federal lands—mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872. However, that problem was resolved by section 314 of FLPMA, which gave people 3 years to record those claims and provided that any claim not recorded would be deemed to have been abandoned.

The courts have upheld that approach. I think it should have been applied to R.S. 2477 claims as well. If it had been, R.S. 2477 would have been a subject for historians, not a nightmare for private property owners.

I think that now, finally—more than a quarter of a century since it was repealed—the time has come to let R.S. 2477 sleep in peace.

And that is the purpose of the bill I am introducing today.

My bill is based on legislation proposed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in 1997, but is somewhat broader because it would apply not just to States or their political subdivisions with R.S. 2477 claims, but also to those individuals now able to assert such claims. It follows the same sound example of FLPMA by providing that any R.S. 2477 claim not filed with the government within 4 years will be considered abandoned.

I think this is more than reasonable, because there is no way of claiming rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 already have ample time to decide whether they want to file a claim.

The bill also recognizes that as things stand now, R.S. 2477 claims are a potential threat to the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, units of the National Trails and National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, designated wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas as well as to lands that the United States has sold or otherwise transferred to other owners. It specifically addresses this threat by providing that any claim for such lands will be considered to have been abandoned when the lands were designated for conservation-purpose management or when they were transferred out of federal ownership unless a claimant can establish by clear and convincing evidence that there was a well-established right-of-way whose use for highway purposes was intended to be allowed to continue.

The bill also spells out what information must be included in a claim, how claims are to be considered administratively, and the rules for judicial review of administrative decisions about the validity of R.S. 2477 claims.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair, balanced bill. It gives claimants under R.S. 2477 ample opportunity to come forward with their claims, and secures those claims upheld, with an opportunity to seek ultimate redress from the courts if necessary. At the same time, it gives the American people—the owners of the Federal lands—and private property owners assurance that the time will come when they will own what they own, without having to worry about new R.S. 2477 claims being made against their lands.

In my opinion, such legislation is long overdue, and deserves the support of every Member of Congress.
lands in conservation, wilderness study, or inventoried roadless areas or for lands not owned by the Federal government are presumed to have been abandoned unless a claimant can show that continued use of a right-of-way for highway purposes was clearly intended to continue after conservation designation or transfer of title by the United States.

Subsection (b) specifies what information must be included in a filing by a claimant. Subsection (c) specifies procedures for review of claims by federal officials. Subsection (d) requires reviewing officials to consult regarding pending claims. Subsection (e) provides for issuance of a draft claim's validity, followed by a period of public comment. Subsection (f) provides for issuance of a final decision on a claim within one year after receipt of the draft decision. Subsection (g) requires a lawsuit challenging a final agency decision on a claim to be filed within 3 years after the decision and limits judicial review to review of the administrative record. It also provides that the Federal Government can decide to purchase a right-of-way that a court determines to be long abandoned.

Subsection (h) requires a successful claimant to file information about the right-of-way with BLM and the relevant State within 5 years, and specifies that a failure to do so will constitute abandonment of the right-of-way.

Subsection (i) provides that the Federal government may choose to purchase a right-of-way determined to belong to another party.

Section 5 specifies that administrative decisions about claims are to be based on federal law and state laws that are consistent with federal law. It also provides that prior adjudications of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way are to be respected.

Section 6 provides that nothing in the bill will affect provisions of FLIPMA or the Alaska Lands Act related to rights-of-way.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO CLEMENTE

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Roberto Clemente, an outstanding athlete and a very successful baseball player. Thirty years ago, in 1973, the National Baseball Hall of Fame held a special election for Roberto Clemente, who had died on New Year's Eve, 1972, while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. He was the first Latino elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Born on August 18, 1934 in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente Walker's pride and humanitarianism won him universal admiration. Despite an unorthodox batting style, the Pirates' great won four batting crowns and amassed 3,000 hits. He was equally brilliant in the field as well as the area's high-profile criminal cases.

In 1971, the Pirates again won the World Series. The year 1960 was the year Roberto Clemente was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1966, he won his first National League batting title and a Gold Glove for his outstanding fielding right fielder.

The next season Clemente won the National League batting title and a Gold Glove for the bestfielding right fielder. In 1966, he won his first MVP award.

In 1971, the Pirates again won the World Series again with Clemente finishing the season with a .414 batting average and several spectacular catches. In 1972, he had another great season. During the season, he hit his 3,000th career hit. Only 10 players before him had done that.

In December 1972, a massive earthquake struck the Central American country of Nicaragua. An estimated 7,000 people were killed, and thousands of people were left without food, shelter, or water. Nicaragua badly needed help. So Clemente was asked to be an honorary chairman of the Puerto Rican Earthquake Relief Committee, and he immediately agreed.

He started to raise money as fast as he could. Contributions of food, money, clothing, and medicine poured in and were sent to Nicaragua. However, some of the supplies were being stolen and sold for high prices. When Roberto heard what was going on he was furious, and decided to accompany the next plane load of supplies to Managua to supervise their distribution himself.

On December 31, 1972 at 9:22 p.m., the old DC-7 rumbled down the runway and took off. Before long, there was no plane. One of the engines exploded so the pilot turned the plane around and started heading back. However, there were more explosions and the plane went down in the Caribbean Sea. Unfortunately, Roberto Clemente was not rescued and didn't survive.

Through his dedication, discipline, and success in baseball, Roberto Clemente served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who dream of succeeding, like him, in the world of baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Roberto Clemente for his contributions and dedication to baseball, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and the U.S.A.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT OGBURN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Ogburn and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to both the 12th Judicial District of Colorado and the greater San Luis Valley. Judge Ogburn officially retired from his job as a District Judge in January after more than twenty-six years on the bench. Today I would like to honor Judge Ogburn's long and distinguished career of service to his community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Judge Ogburn began his legal career in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Office. In 1966 he entered private practice and later served as a District Attorney. Judge Ogburn was appointed to the bench in 1976, at the same time taking over duties as District 3 Water Judge. The longest tenured judge on the 12th Judicial District bench, Judge Ogburn presided over many of the major San Luis Valley water cases in the past quarter century, as well as the area's high-profile criminal cases.

In addition to his work on the bench, Judge Ogburn has offered his time and talent as a teacher at the National College of Court Trial Judges in Reno, Nevada and at Adams...
Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent, Anastacio A. Cisneroz, who celebrates his 100th birthday on April 15, 2003 at Pico Adobe Historical Park in Missal Hill.

Born in Purandido, Michoacan, Mexico, Anastacio and his family fled to the United States in 1918 to avoid the hardships caused by the Mexican Revolution and to find a better life. Anastacio was 15 years old, and the hunger and suffering endured by his family reigned fresh in his mind.

During their journey to the San Fernando Valley, Anastacio’s mother, Refujio Armenta, and youngest brother, Perfidio, died of a particularly virulent strain of influenza which also killed millions of others. His father, brother, and he continued by train through Ciudad Juarez to El Paso on December 25, 1918. In 1932 he married Jessie Menjares and purchased a home in San Fernando where he lives to this day. He has nine children, 31 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren—5 wonderful generations.

Because of his determination, work ethic, and spirit, Anastacio thrived in the United States even though things were not always easy. In 1942, he began working for Lockheed. The hours were long and the work was hard, but Anastacio took pride in his efforts and was extremely successful. He retired with the respect and admiration of his peers and supervisors after 27 years of service. Today, Anastacio likes to travel, work in his vegetable garden, shop in supermarkets and walk to the barbershop. He attributes his longevity to hard work, good food, sleeping well and never smoking or drinking. He says that the secret of his long life is “living with common sense.”

We respect and honor Anastacio and hopefully, we will all learn from his wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Anastacio Cisneroz on his 100th Birthday.
the country who could benefit from enactment of this legislation.

In short, while my bill would make only a relatively simple change in the tax laws, it has the potential to help many people and cut a lot of red tape at the same time. I greatly appreciate the Taxpayer Advocate’s bringing it to our attention, and I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the benefit of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an excerpt from the report of the Taxpayer Advocate that explains the recommendation upon which my bill is based.

EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATION

The National Taxpayer Advocate recommends that Internal Revenue Code section 761(a) be amended to allow husband and wife co-owned businesses to elect out of Subchapter K—Partners and Partnerships. At this time, we recommend that the election be made available only to married couples who file joint income tax returns. By making the election, the business would be exempt from the application of the complex rules of Subchapter K and the husband and wife would be entitled to file a Schedule C instead of a Form 1065-U.S. Return of Partnership Income). Internal Revenue Code section 761(a) already allows certain categories of taxpayers to elect out of Subchapter K, so there is precedent for this approach.

Amending IRC §761(a) to allow a husband and wife co-owned business to elect out of Subchapter K would not require an additional amendment to Internal Revenue Code section 6031 regarding filing partnership returns. Treasury Regulations currently state that a taxpayer who has made an election to be exempt from Subchapter K is not required to file a partnership return except in the year of the election. In the election year, the taxpayers would only need to file a partnership return with the election statement. All income and deductions would then be reported on a Schedule C in the election year and for all subsequent years.

If this proposal is enacted into law, we recommend that the IRS design a form to supplement Schedule C for married co-owners who wish to opt out of Subchapter K. It could be called Schedule C-MC (for “Married Couple”). The business entity’s income and expenses would be reported on Schedule C without any deduction or allocation and then be allocated between the husband and wife on Schedule C-MC.

The supplemental form would serve three important purposes. First, the amount of income allocated to each spouse—and thus carried to separate Schedules SE—would be shown on the form.

Second, the form could be used to record each spouse’s respective interest in the business. This could become important if, for example, one spouse dies and the value of his or her interest must be determined for purposes of computing the estate tax.

Third, the form could be designed to allow the business to make certain tax elections that are not available at the individual level. This issue arises because even if a business co-owned by a husband and wife is excluded from the definition of a partnership for purposes of the business income tax, it remains a partnership for all other purposes of the Code.56 The principal significance of partnership classification outside the context of Subchapter K is that a partnership may make certain tax elections available only to an entity and not to individuals. For example, a partnership may make an election to expense dividends to shareholders or business assets. We see no reason to prohibit husband-and-wife-owned partnerships that elect out of Subchapter K from making tax elections of this nature.

In sum, our legislative proposal would reduce the tax compliance burden on many husband-and-wife-owned businesses, would facilitate the coverage of both spouses under the Social Security and Medicare systems and, depending on state law, could facilitate more equitable divisions of property in the event of divorce. The revenue impact of the proposal should be negligible. Regardless of how the net earnings from the business are reported—either as a flow-through item from the partnership return or as net earnings from Schedule C—the income tax liability of the husband and wife generally will be the same. Social Security and Medicare receipts generally will also be the same.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE COORS—PART I

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Joe Coors—a man of unmatched dedication to his family, his community, and his beliefs. Joe died recently at the age of 85, and as his family mourns this loss, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Joe is a legend in my home state of Colorado and indeed across America. His grandfather, Adolph Coors, founded the Coors brewery in 1873. Joe began his career as a chemical engineer when his grandfather’s company in Golden, Colorado was a small operation producing 300,000 barrels a year. He returned to Golden to begin working at the brewery in 1946, helping to develop the signature Coors cold-filtration process and eventually pioneering use of the aluminum can and the nation’s first large-scale recycling program. When Joe took over as chief operating officer in 1988 after 41 years of service, Coors had grown into the nation’s third-largest brewer.

In addition to his role as a business leader, Joe was an active American citizen. In the 1970s he helped to found the Heritage Foundation, an influential think-tank and actively participating officer in 1988 after 41 years of service, Coors had grown into the nation’s third-largest brewer.

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and forty-five minutes in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean a mile north of Puerto Rico. Roberto lived 38 years, 4 months and 13 days.

That’s how long it took him to become a Hall of Famer, a better person and a legend. In honor of Saint Wendelin Parish, HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH OF OHIO

I am introducing the Passenger Van Safety Act of 2003, legislation to enhance the safety of large passenger vans, which are highly susceptible to rollovers and have been associated with more than 500 fatalities since 1990.

In the last Congress, I introduced the School Bus Safety Act which had been designed to prevent schools from taking advantage of a loophole that allowed them to purchase used 15–passenger vans even though it was illegal for them to purchase new 15–passenger vans because of safety issues. The bill I am introducing today goes farther and addresses the safety of these vehicles.

I became aware of the safety problems of these vehicles when a church group from Westminster, Colorado rolled the 15–passenger van they were driving 2½ times en route to a religious retreat. This tragedy resulted in four people dying. I found out later that these vans were notorious for getting out of the control and were highly susceptible to rolling. These kinds of accidents seem to be symptomatic to these kinds of vehicles. Early last summer another one of these vans, full of firefighters, rolled over numerous times killing four of the passengers in western Colorado. Accidents will happen, but I believe if these people had been in different vehicles their deaths may have been avoided.

When these vans are fully loaded they become highly prone to rollovers. In 2001, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published a study that demonstrated the dramatic increase in rollovers when these vehicles carry increasingly large loads. A fully loaded van has a rollover risk that is six times higher than if there are only five people in the van.

The bill I am introducing today would require NHTSA to include 15–passenger vans in their Dynamic Rollover Testing Program required by the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, which currently does not include these vehicles. It does not make a lot of sense to me to exempt them from the same safety standards that NHTSA will apply to other passenger cars and sport utility vehicles. This information will give drivers information they need in order to safely operate certain vehicles under different conditions.

This legislation would also require 15–passenger vans to be included in NHTSA’s New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). NCAP provides consumers information on how different vehicles withstand crashes, and was recently expanded to include rollover risk. Currently, NCAP does not do rollover testing for vehicles that carry more than 10 people.

In addition, the bill requires NHTSA to work with van manufacturers to evaluate and test the potential of new technologies to help drivers maintain control of their vans. Specifically, NHTSA would look at Electronic Stability Control (ESC) systems that some SUVs are already equipped with and rear-view mirror-based rollover warning systems. These kinds of innovative technologies could significantly reduce rollovers and save lives.

“Fifteen-passenger vans were initially designed to carry cargo, not people. But now these vans are widely used by airports, hotels, and other commercial interests to transport customers from one location to another. People using these vans may not realize that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCA) has not completed rulemaking on Federal motor carrier safety regulations for 15–passenger vans that are used for commercial purposes. This bill would require the FMCA to complete their rulemaking, which began in 1999, to ensure that all passengers get to their destinations safely.

This bill was built on the foundation of my School Bus Safety Act of 2001 and it still addresses the van loophole created in 1974 when organizations were banned from purchasing new 15–passenger vans to transport school age children but were allowed to purchase the vans used.

This legislation removes this nearly 30-year-old loophole in the Federal regulations and extends the ban to include leasing, renting, and buying of these vans, thereby making the buyers accountable, as well as the seller. These changes will insure that the intent of the 1974 law is finally realized. The bill would also strengthen the penalties on those who violate this important safety provision.

The legislation raises the prescribed penalty for breaking this law from “not more than $1000” to “not more than $25,000,” thereby giving the enforcement agencies something to make it worth their while to pursue. This provision is important because from 1974 until 1997, NHTSA, which had responsibility for administering the law, did not initiate a single enforcement proceeding in the entire country.

Safety transcends party lines. Senator Snowe and I have had tragic events take place in our states that have unfortunately made us very aware of the dangers of 15–passenger vans. Last year there was a tragic accident in the State of Maine that cost the lives of 14 forestry workers who were killed when their 15-passenger van rolled off of a bridge, killing all but one. This was the single worst motor vehicle accident in Maine’s history. So we are introducing identical bills in the House and the Senate. With bipartisan support we hope to end these kinds of needlessly tragic accidents.

Mr. Speaker, one of the government’s roles is to ensure the safety of its citizens. This legislation gives consumers the information they need to know about the safety of these vans and it eliminates a loophole that allows people to get around a child safety law. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this common sense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

In the House of Representatives Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week the San Fernando Cathedral celebrated the completion of its renovation. Today I am introducing a resolution honoring the San Fernando Cathedral—the oldest cathedral in the United States and the oldest standing structure in my district of San Antonio, Texas. I and my colleague from San Antonio, Ciro Rodriguez, want to pay tribute to this exquisitely built building, and the great history and culture that it embodies.

San Fernando Cathedral is both literally and figuratively the geographic centerpoint of San Antonio. This cathedral is not only revered by the people of San Antonio, but by all the people of this Nation, who remember the strength and sacrifice of those who built this country. As I mentioned before, just last week, the renovation of this magnificent building was completed. I hope you will stand here today to mark this achievement.

The San Fernando Cathedral is a grand structure, rich in its history and meaning. Like
INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a critical and comprehensive initiative—the United States International Leadership Act of 2003—aimed at strengthening American leadership in international alliances and at other international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, let me first express my sincere gratitude to the bill’s cosponsor, the distinguished Chairman of the Rules Committee, and a dear friend from my home state of California, Congressman DAVID DREIER.

Many of the ideas for our bill came from a Council on Foreign Relations report that Chairman DREIER co-authored last year with our former International Relations Committee Chairman, Lee Hamilton.

The report, “Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations,” focused attention on a critical problem in American foreign policy—our inability consistently to promote our interests and values in multilateral fora such as the UN. It also offered concrete steps to rebuild our influence.

The United States International Leadership Act builds on the Dreier-Hamilton report and is designed to give our diplomats the tools they need to ensure that America once again punches at its weight in the UN.

Specifically the bill:

- Creates a Democracy Caucus at the UN to encourage other democracies to join us in promoting positions at the UN that support freedom and oppose tyranny and hatred.
- Requires the State Department to pay high level visits each year to key countries to make sure that their leaders understand that support for our positions at the UN is critical to their overall relationship with us.
- Directs the President to use U.S. influence to reform the criteria for leadership and membership at the UN to ensure that rogue regimes and authoritarian governments cannot continue to thwart the noble purposes that each body was created to advance.
- Provides increased training to our Foreign Service Officers to help them develop the skills they need to conduct effective diplomacy at the UN and other multilateral organizations.
- Affords Foreign Service Officers—for the first time ever—an opportunity to advance their careers by undertaking assignments to represent the U.S. to the UN and to other multilateral institutions.
- Creates a new Office on Multilateral Negotiations to be headed by a Special Representative with the rank of ambassador who has the responsibility to make sure that we have the resources and the strategies needed to prevail in each critical negotiation and decision we face at the UN and in other multilateral negotiations.
- Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable fact of life that our participation in the UN and other international organizations is critical to achieving our foreign policy goals. Right now the UN is helping us to advance our war against terrorism by obligating all countries to freeze the assets of terrorist groups. UN treaties and inspectors are also an important part of our effort to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. UN agencies are also critical in spearheading the fight to combat the ravages of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and now the terrifying new sickness, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

Despite these and many other examples of critical benefits we obtain from our engagement at the UN, the U.S. has often been blocked in its attempts to take action in these institutions to advance its goals and objectives. A recent example is the United Nations Human Rights Commission, where Libya—a gross human rights violator—was elected chairman, and the United States temporarily lost a seat. Another was the UN’s World Conference Against Racism, where rogue regimes successfully hijacked a critical forum on race and turned it into an ugly anti-Israeli and anti-American circus.

A big part of the problem is that decisions at many international organizations, including membership and leadership, are made by regional groups where there is intensive cooperation by repressive regimes. The International Leadership Act, by building a Democracy Caucus and by developing expertise in the United States Government in the area of multilateral diplomacy, represents the beginning of what will be a long effort to rationalize and strengthen the UN, and other international organizations, by systematically redressing the leverage of repressive regimes and ensure that these organizations serve rather than thwart U.S. national interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this measure will be quickly enacted and signed by the President, so that we can begin this critical project.
bravely for freedom’s cause. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this young Marine and his family. 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 against a new and emerging threat. Marines like Randy embody America’s determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Marine Corporal Rosacker’s devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

We, who live in our Nation’s Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that is denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for a spouse and his or her children, Lesbian and Gay Americans are entitled to the same rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for their life-partners.

I remind the House that we have the ability to correct these inequities: passage of the “No Taxation Without Representation Act” and the “Permanent Partners Immigration Act.”

In conclusion, I ask this House to join me in welcoming the members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to Washington, DC.

**Smallpox, Emergency Personnel Protection Act of 2003**

**Speech of Hon. Dennis Moore of Kansas in the House of Representatives Monday, March 11, 2003**

Mr. Moore, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to H.R. 4613.

It is imperative as we prepare our communities for biological and chemical warfare that we do all that we can to encourage health professionals to vaccinate those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and service for biological and chemical warfare that most of them are eager to provide. As the husband of a nurse, I understand the commitment that health care professionals have to their patients and their communities.

As the husband of a nurse, I understand the commitment that health care professionals have to their patients and their communities. I know that most of them are eager to provide the expertise to help protect their neighbors should the unthinkable occur. It is unreasonable and unfair, however, to ask them to risk their lives to be health care professionals without their families, without guaranteeing that the federal government will take care of them in the event of an adverse event. Health care professionals are anxious about taking the vaccine—and for good cause. The smallpox vaccine has a long record of negative side effects to both vaccinated individuals and those who received the vaccine. It is absolutely essential those individuals who are vaccinated understand the risks of the vaccine and have confidence in their government to care for them should they become ill or die—this is the least we can offer them.

H.R. 1463 includes an unacceptable lifetime cap on wage replacement and fails to ensure that funds will be available in the future for the compensation fund. It does not guarantee that states will have the money to implement the program. The legislation will not be paid—instead, this legislation forces these health care workers to fight for funds each year in the appropriations process. It is unfair and insulting to ask them to compete each year with other national spending priorities and our ever-growing national debt.
rapid growth because it is at the edge of the Southern California urban area. Community leaders are working hard to maintain their small-town community even as they plan for growth that is expected to nearly double the population of 26,000 by 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the citizens and leaders of San Juan will help their town continue to be a warm and welcoming place that combines a respect for the history of California with an eye to the state's booming future. Please join me in congratulating them on their 115th birthday, and wish them well in the years to come.

HONORING LULAC

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of United and Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and in particular the local Monterey County LULAC Council 2055

LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic community organization in the United States. LULAC Council 2055 reflects that tradition and has enjoyed a distinguished 25-year history of community service.

LULAC Council 2055 has worked cooperatively and collaboratively with a wide array of people, organizations, and businesses to promote and advance the economic, educational, political, and civil rights of the Latino population of my Central California district. Mr. Speaker, as many people from my district and in this body are aware, I am a firm believer in the power of collaboration to achieve great ends.

I believe that LULAC Council 2055’s continuous activism and partnership with other neighboring organizations is one example of the power of teamwork.

For the past 5 years LULAC Council 2055 has raised more than $100,000 in scholarship money for deserving high school students. In November 2002, the League worked to pass several important local school bond measures that will bring $30 million to middle schools in Salinas, California. In the upcoming years, middle students will learn in new, renovated, and modernized classrooms. This will mean great progress in relieving student overcrowding. Along the same lines, LULAC Council 2055 helped pass a bond measure to renovate Hartnell Community College, which serves the people of the Salinas Valley.

LULAC Council 2055 continues to work with various civil rights organizations such as the American Liberty Liberties Rights Coalition; Coalition of Minority Organizations; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom; Salinas Action League; and the United Farm Workers of America to achieve equality, justice, and peace for all people.

Furthermore, LULAC embraces diversity by organizing social and cultural events for the Latino community such as the Orgullo Latino Festival, Cinco de Mayo, 16-de septiembre, and Teatro Campesino night.

I applaud the efforts of LULAC and those who support their mission to advance and maintain the rights of the Latino community as well as others. Mr. Speaker, I hope that all my colleagues will join me today in applauding the 25 years of public service that LULAC Council 2055 has brought to the community.
Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the shock of the hot war now raging in Iraq has traumatized many Americans who oppose this war and are ready to fight harder for peace. The dogs of war are growing louder as they seek to intimidate peace seekers with charges of treason. The warmongers charge that those of us who oppose the war are abandoning our troops in the field. On the contrary those of us who oppose the war value all human life greatly including the life of each American soldier. We support the troops and we want to see them return home as soon as possible not in body bags but smiling on their own two feet. Although we are presently in the minority, the advocates for peace are the Americans with the correct vision and the right blueprint for the future. Despite the world outcry against it, the U.S. has launched the war in Iraq. Peace at this moment is not possible; nevertheless, the struggle to return to a state of peace as soon as possible must continue. Without a doubt, the U.S. military will overwhelm the Iraqi military and the long occupation will begin. The challenge for peace advocates is to make the occupation not a continuation of the evils of the war. A strong peace movement in America has the potential to turn the occupation of Iraq into a major component of a larger world peace blueprint. Instead of allowing the Iraq of today to be plundered and divided among the oil barons of the world, peace advocates must build a multilateral alternative governing structure to confront the U.S. master plan for looting. In the long term war for a world peace Iraq will be only a starting point. There will be no rest for those who dare to stand up to the architects of a new world order which camouflages dominance by a new world elite of the greediest. Peace advocates must conjure up the same fervor and determination as our adversaries. We must plan, work and act with relentless vigilance. This is an army of “fanatics for peace”. The following Rap poem sets forth the credo of the Fanatics for Peace.

**TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SHANNON**

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

**OF WISCONSIN**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, April 3, 2003**

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dorothy Shannon, one of Wisconsin’s most passionate peace leaders and a model of civic activism. For over 50 years, Dorothy Shannon was one of the founders of the Wisconsin Council for a World Peace Movement, a leading member of the Wisconsin Peace and Justice Network, and a tireless supporter of progressive candidates. Dorothy Shannon was the epitome of civic participation, it was Dorothy Shannon sitting in the front row of nearly every political debate, every community forum, and every Democratic Party event. She cared so deeply about public affairs—whether they involved local or global issues. If ever there was an embodiment of civic participation, it was Dorothy Shannon.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the House of Representatives to express my respects to a renowned international educator, Mr. Raja Roy-Singh, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. As a member of the House Committee on International Relations and as a former Co-Chairman of the United States Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the United Nations, I can attest that improving the quality of education in the world is a prerequisite to the establishment of effective cooperation and mutual understanding in the international community. In this context, the career-long dedication of Mr. Roy-Singh to international education deserves the attention of Congress.

Raja Roy-Singh was born on April 5, 1918 in Pithoragarh, a remote town in the Himalayan foothills near India’s frontier with Nepal and Tibet. One imagines that the young Roy-Singh was inspired by panoramic views of snow-topped mountains that framed the beautiful valley of his birthplace. These same mountains were the source of many streams and rivers that flowed southward onto the plains of India. Perhaps as he walked the long mountainous paths to school he wondered where those rivulets and mountain streams flowed and dreamed about following them one day himself.

His father was a Methodist preacher who worked in a number of mission assignments along the Himalaya territory almost 250 miles from end to end. His mother’s Rajput forebears worked in a number of mission assignments and their paths flowed and dreamed about following them one day herself.

Mr. Roy-Singh attended the district school by day and read by kerosene lamp at night. Under the watchful eye of his mother and Mary Reed, a dedicated Methodist missionary from California, he won a series of district scholarships that sent him off to college at Agra and finally to Allahabad—a sacred place for Hindus and Buddhists at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Saraswati Rivers.

Achieving distinction in philosophy and English, with a particular interest in T.S. Eliot, Mr. Roy-Singh took his bachelor’s and master’s degrees as the convulsions of the Second World War began. Placing high on the civil service exams, he entered the Indian Administrative Service in 1942 and was assigned to Agra where he met his wife Zorine Bonifius. In the vibrant period immediately following Indian independence his civil service postings took him to Kanpur, Bombay,
and with international organizations. His life to local governments and education ministries encouraged cooperation between national and the Asian region. 

Mr. Roy-Singh was appointed education advisor at the Federal Ministry of Education where he served from 1957–1964. In a period of changing demands on education in India, Mr. Roy-Singh focused his energies on developing new ways to harmonize educational activities between the Federal and the state governments. This effort led to the establishment of the Counsel of Educational Research and Training, a network of educational institutions for research, training and service. Several prominent U.S. educators were closely associated with its planning in the founding years, notably the Teacher’s College formed under the direction of Columbia University. In the last four decades, the India Council of Educational Research and Training, which Mr. Roy-Singh provided leadership, has played an innovative role in advancing education and educational opportunity in India.

Another significant program he helped to found was the Science Talent Search begun in 1959. Boys and girls ages 15–17 with high science aptitudes were identified through specially devised tests and awarded full scholarships through their entire schooling, including higher education. In its early years, there was close technical collaboration between this India program and similar ones in the United States funded by the Ford Foundation. From a modest but promising beginning the program greatly expanded in subsequent years and substantially increased the number of science teachers and the quality of science education in India.

Mr. Roy-Singh was invited to join UNESCO in 1964. For the next 20 years, he served as UNESCO’s Regional Director of Education in Asia and later as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Asia and the Pacific. In 1985, after completing his service with UNESCO, he retired to the United States, taking up permanent residence in Evanston, Illinois.

At UNESCO Mr. Roy-Singh’s principal responsibility was to coordinate the educational agenda in member Asian countries. The Asian and the Pacific region is extensive and diverse. It comprises 30 countries extending from Iran and Afghanistan in the west to Korea and Japan in the east, to Mongolia in the north and Australia and New Zealand in the south. Mr. Roy-Singh’s strategy was to manage this far-flung region by focusing on common problems and fostering inter-country cooperation. He carried out this strategy by recognizing the unique cultural differences within and between countries yet encouraging each to share educational experiences and expertise. This approach found its full expression in the Asian and Pacific Program of Educational Cooperation initiated by India.

Mr. Roy-Singh will be remembered as a pioneer in the educational field in Asia having encouraged cooperation between national and local governments and education ministries and with international organizations. His life to date has spanned two major wars and several continents. His career has brought him into contact with heads of government as well as with educators throughout the world.

In the course of his career Mr. Roy-Singh has authored numerous publications including Education in Asia and the Pacific (UNESCO/UN) (1966), Asia and the Pacific as an Educational Process (Internal Bureau of Education, Geneva, 1990), Educational Planning in Asia (UNESCO—Internal Institute for Educational Planning, Paris, 1990).

Of particular interest to the body is his educational philosophy. In “Changing Education for a Changing World” (1992), Mr. Roy-Singh outlined how we might prepare young people for life in an ever-changing world:

There are two universes of change. One is change in the world of objects, externality. Science and technology and socio-economic organizations are examples of externality. The truths of the external world are non-cumulative; a new discovery may wipe the slate clean of all that went before. Continuity in this kind of “universe” is fortuitous and certainly minimal. The other kind of change is change in the individual or group. Change in the interior ‘universe’ of human existence is cumulative; it is expressed in culture, in the quest for knowledge, and in the striving for heightened moral awareness.

What could change and what has to continue and what in change are issues of judgment and discernment. This is where education has a role.

The Asian societies in transition have found themselves in a path which does not traverse the wasteland of rootless modernism on the one hand and mindless conservatism on the other. The best in the living tradition of Asia and the Pacific Fad is an awareness of their moral loftiness, their universality and their profound insights into human nature, may provide the continuity in the flux of change that must necessarily come in the wake of science and technology and the liberating human spirit.

Change is a dominating force in the world. Some welcome it and see it as an opportunity. Others fear change because it threatens the established order. Like a powerful rush of water crashing down a mountainside, the force of change can wash away all living things in its path. To survive we all need strong roots with which to cling. It allows us to harness the creative energy of change by instructing us what to keep from the past, what to undertake in the present, and what to seek in the future.

All societies have strengths and weaknesses in their education systems. The need for self-examination and improvement is a constant. But as the anarchy of terrorism has demonstrated, no country is an island, invulnerable to the frustration and despair of those who are not provided the ability that education provides. To do this requires a commitment to advancing change in the world: a decent and universal concern for educating every generation in every society.

For his dedication to international education and for his wisdom of purpose we thank Mr. Roy-Singh and congratulate him as well on reaching the ripe age of 85.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E. 681

April 3, 2003

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

These children’s families qualify for Even Start because they are low socioeconomic families who may also be English learners. Program liaisons work with the families from the children’s infancy until they are in school. Even Start funds approximately 1,400 programs and serves approximately 50,000 families across the Nation.

Without this existing William F. Goodling Even Start—Family Literacy Program the children would arrive for their first day of school without the literacy skills to compete at that starting line. They are unlikely ever to catch up, even if they are able to be served in the Head Start program before actually entering school, unless the adults who work with them in these critical early years learn literacy teaching skills and learn to value the role of education.

Over 86 percent of parents in the Even Start program have not completed high school upon entering the program (compared with 27 percent of Head Start parents). Eighty percent of participants have a family income below $15,000 and over 40 percent have income below $6,000. This is clearly a high-needs population.

What the program offers is both literacy-training classes for the children and family literacy programs for the parents. Children participating in Even Start are provided with age-appropriate educational services to ensure that they will achieve at a level similar to that of their age peers who come from socio-economically enriched backgrounds.

Liaison advisors work with each family to promote strong literacy support experiences, to help parents learn ways they can develop their own reading and writing skills, and to provide support groups for parents to share the challenges and skills of parenting.

In developing their own literacy, adults in these family literacy programs tend to participate longer than those in regular adult education programs because they can link their literacy growth to that of their children. They not only see benefits in improved literacy skills but also reduced dependency on federal/state assistance programs and enhanced employment opportunities. Most importantly, they are empowered to be successful as their child’s first and most important teacher.

This bill will set aside funding to establish nationwide programs to assist in the training of program directors and facilitators in recently developed, research-based literacy training skills.

President Bush has declared his support for helping parents, day-care centers, and preschools teach more learning skills to children before they get to kindergarten. Even Start offers a program for parents to develop the literacy skills that enable them to perform this task. Because of new legislation, particularly the new qualifications for personnel, performance objectives, and “scientifically-based reading research” requirements for instructional programs, local Even Start programs also need to benefit from this type of high-quality training.

I have requested an evaluation to provide a longitudinal look at the achievement of children assisted by the program because I believe that evaluation must be embedded in all such programs.

It is overwhelming to hear heartfelt appreciations of the program and its leaders when I have visited Even Start programs. Adults marveled at the change in their children’s feeling about reading and learning when they were able to make reading together a daily activity. One mother told me how she thought she couldn’t help her 5 year old with reading, but, thanks to the program, she realized that reading together further enabled them to help each other with the words each didn’t know.

All children deserve an even start. This bill will assure that Even Start facilitators will be well-trained to help parents learn the skills that enable their children to be competitive at the starting line.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SWIM TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last week the Auburn University swim team dominated the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships by winning the men’s national title. The Tigers routed their nearest competitors by 196.5 points and qualified 11 swimmers for the championship finals and four more for the consolation finals. This was the men’s team third national title ever.

But the men were diving on the heels of the Auburn women’s swim team, who during the previous week, won their first-ever National Championship.

Mr. Speaker, these young men and women symbolize the strength of the human spirit and the joy of achievement. Let us congratulate them for their victories by acclaiming together in the House: "WAR EAGLE!"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration of these Americans. As a tribute for the families of these proud young men and women, please enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Auburn University Men’s Swim Team: Lyle Babcock, Chad Barlow, Seth Barry, George Bojorquez, Fred Bouquet, Matt Brandt, Matt Brickert, Kurt Caday, Patrick Calhoun, Justin Caron, James Galloway, Mark Pangalloff, Caesar Garcia, Derek Gibb, Joseph Gonzales, Andrew Haidinyak.

Auburn University Women’s Swim Team: Jenni Anderson, Maggie Bowen, Sally Brown, Demeara Christianson, Eileen Coparropa, Kirsty Coventry, Lauren Duerk, Magda Dyszkiewicz, Erin Gayle, Margaret Hoelzer, Kelly Jones, Heather Kemp, Jana Kolukanova, Rachel Korth, Alessandra Lawless, Leslie Lunsman, Cassidy Maxwell, Jeri Moss, Keisha Patterson, Ashley Rubenstein, Becky Short, Laura Swander, Erin Volcan, Amy Wheatley.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abductions, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in relevant support of H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. I support H.R. 1104 reluctantly because while the resolution improves upon the AMBER Alert system, it is not a clean AMBER Alert Bill.

The provisions of H.R. 1104 that improve the AMBER Alert system are critical steps in making America safer for children. The AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104 direct
HONORING PAUL BETANCOURT

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Betancourt, who is being honored as the outgoing president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, FCFB. Paul Betancourt has spent more than a decade serving my district through his activities with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, which represents over 6,000 members, produces more than 300 crops and grosses more than $3.2 billion annually. Paul Betancourt has set an example through his dedicated commitment to our community.

Since completing his 2-year role as president of the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt continues to serve on the FCFB Executive Committee and was recently appointed to serve as the Industry Representative on the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's Citizens Advisory Committee. Before serving as FCFB President, Betancourt also served as the FCFB secretary-treasurer and second and first vice presidents.

In addition to all of his work with the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt has served in a number of various community activities. Through his Farm Bureau activities, Mr. Betancourt served on the board of directors of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and represented FCFB at many industry and community forums and events. Mr. Betancourt currently serves on the Kerman Unified School Board of Trustees, and is involved in the Fresno Area Collaborative Regional Initiative. Additionally, Mr. Betancourt is a noted columnist for a local business publication and he teaches Sunday school at the Kerman Covenant Church.

Mr. Betancourt currently farms more than 750 acres of cotton and almonds in Fresno County, where he has also grown crops such as tomatoes, sugar beets, cantaloupes, barley, and cattle. Paul Betancourt’s intimate knowledge of farming issues and his dedicated commitment to farmers and Fresno County residents as a whole should serve as an example of leadership and dedication in the Central Valley of California.

Mr. Betancourt has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Paul Betancourt on his retirement as president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HARRY B. NISLEY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harry B. Nisley, a local hero in my community who has dedicated over 50 years of his life to educating and inspiring our students.

Mr. Nisley worked as a tennis coach for the El Monte Union High School District from 1946 until his retirement in 2001. Over the course of his career, he has received numerous honors, including the San Gabriel Valley Administration Association’s Service Award and the California Interscholastic Federation Award. But most enduring is the imprint he has left on the lives of hundreds of students, athletes, and peers. Mr. Nisley’s enthusiasm, caring and dedication is exemplary of a great educator.

Mr. Nisley went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that students were given every opportunity to excel. Every spring, he hosted the Keeley Tennis tournament to help pay for student competition entry fees and often used his own money to help those students with financial hardships. Mr. Nisley’s enthusiasm was only surpassed by his desire to enhance each student’s life. He strived to instill in his students a strong and positive sense of self worth.

Earlier this year, a former student and professional tennis player, honored Mr. Nisley by organizing an event commemorating his contributions. During the event, numerous former students and athletes praised him with kind words and fond memories.

Mr. Nisley is now 90 years old. At the request of his students, colleagues, friends and family who wanted to recognize his numerous contributions, the community of El Monte recently nominated him for induction into the California Interscholastic Federation Hall of Fame. Not only is the number of years he taught at the El Monte Union School District already a state record, but his commitment and selflessness is immeasurable.

I would also like to join the community of El Monte in showing my appreciation for Mr. Nisley by asking Congress to recognize his vast contributions to our youth, and outstanding dedication to service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation directing the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

According to the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas are places that are federally designated to preserve an important aspect of America’s past and share it with visitors. They are generally started at the grassroots by community members who envision places where the best of the past becomes part of a sustainable future.

National Heritage Areas are not living theme parks seeking to freeze places in time. They seek instead to conserve their special natural spaces and historic places as part of their communities’ social and economic futures. The successful melding of past and future is the National Heritage Area challenge.

The unique natural, historic and cultural resources of the island of St. Croix represent distinctive aspects of American heritage that are in our view, worthy of recognition and provide outstanding opportunities for recreational and educational opportunities.

In introducing this bill I hope to utilize our spectacular natural and historic resources to spur economic development on my home island, which badly needs it. Interior Secretary Gail Norton noted during her visit to St. Croix: “We certainly want to protect the wonderful environment here and to match that great environment with a thriving economy. Heritage tourism might be one option for St. Croix.”

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 23 existing national heritage areas across 17 states. As the Ranking Democrat on the House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, I can confirm that heritage areas are just one of a number of innovative, community-based conservation strategies that have developed in recent years to identify, preserve, and interpret resources.
I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this legislation to provide for a study to determine the sustainability and feasibility of the island St. Croix becoming the 24th National Heritage Area.

GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOts
ISSUES
HON. ROBERT WEXLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat on the Europe Subcommittee, I believe my colleagues in Congress will be interested in the following letter sent by the Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktas to the Greek Cypriot Leader Tassos Papadopoulos on April 2, 2003. I am hopeful that Mr. Denktas’s letter and its content will be a catalyst for renewed dialogue between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and a positive step toward a comprehensive resolution to their long-standing issues.

In this letter, Mr. Denktas provides a detailed proposal to lift all overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural activities from both parts of the island and restrictions on the movement of tourists to be lifted as well. His measures also include allowing Greek Cypriot refugees to return to the Turkish Cypriot sector of Famagusta. Finally, Mr. Denktas expressed his willingness to meet with Mr. Papadopoulos to discuss the core issues of a comprehensive settlement with the objective of reaching an agreement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

While I understand the long-standing Cyprus issue cannot be solved without great sacrifice by both sides, it is incredibly important that the United States and the international community work together to resolve this issue. Please know, I remain firmly committed to help both Greek and Turkish Cypriots overcome obstacles and bring about a lasting peace for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk with you the core issues of the comprehensive settlement and matters related to EU membership with the objective of reaching a mutually satisfactory conclusion. As you both are familiar the good offices mission, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the UN Secretary-General.

Sincerely,

RAUF R. DENKTAS.

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McNeil Nutritional, Splenda Plant, a revolutionary manufacturer located in McIntosh, Alabama.

Each year the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama honors outstanding manufacturers with their Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards. This year, McNeil Nutritional, Splenda plant, has received recognition as a Medium Manufacturer for excellence in leadership, performance, accountability and shareholder relations. McNeil was chosen based on its demonstration of superior performance in the areas of customer focus, employee commitment, operational excellence, continuous improvement, profitable growth and investment in training and retraining.

McNeil Nutritional manufactures Splenda, the only no-calorie sweetener made from raw sugar which is from 650 to 750 times sweeter than sugar. This product was introduced in
2001 and within one year achieved the number two market share in low-calorie sweeteners in the world. As a result, Splenda saw more than 100 percent profit growth from 2001 to 2002. Also in that year, McNeil Nutritional had a 110 percent sales growth from its base year and implemented "Six Sigma" quality projects that resulted in cost savings of $15 million.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me, the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama in honoring McNeil Nutritional, Splenda Plant, for its outstanding accomplishments. I also want to recognize and thank McNeil Nutritional for its contributions to the local economy and to the quality of life enjoyed in the State of Alabama.

PRESIDENTIAL GIFTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a revised version of my "Presidential Gifts Accountability Act." During the 107th Congress, I introduced an initial bill, H.R. 1081. Both versions of this good government bill establish responsibility in one agency for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

In January 2001, there were press accounts of President Clinton's last financial disclosure report, which covered calendar year 2000 and January 1–20, 2001. This report revealed that the Clintons chose to retain $190,027 in gifts, each over $260, during this period. In February 2001, there were press accounts of numerous furniture gifts to the White House residence, which the Clintons returned to the U.S. Government. These press stories led me to question how the current Presidential gifts system works and what legislative changes, if any, are needed to prevent future abuses.

I believe that the American people have the right to know what gifts were received and retained by their President. Additionally, I believe that donors should not receive an unfair advantage in the policymaking process or other governmental benefits.

To prevent future abuses, in March 2001, I introduced H.R. 1081, the "Accountability for Presidential Gifts Act," which had bipartisan support during the 107th Congress. The Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, of which I chair, spent nearly a year gathering the empirical data to support and improve such a legislative effort.

The Subcommittee found that several laws, involving six Federal offices and agencies, govern the current system. In February 2002, the Subcommittee released a 55-page document summarizing the Subcommittee's findings. The Subcommittee identified a host of problems with the Presidential gifts system, such as consistently undervalued gifts and questionable White House Counsel rulings. Since the current system is subject to abuse and poor administration, I believe that there is a need for centralized accountability in one agency staffed by career employees. My bill establishes responsibility in one agency—

staffed by career employees—for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

On October 28, 2002, my Subcommittee's analysis was presented in House Report 107–768. "Problems with the Presidential Gifts System." The Report summarized how the current system fails to make the President's investigation and findings, and recommendations made in my Subcommittee's hearing and a second hearing by the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations. The Subcommittee found:

- Non-Competitive Hiring of Political Appointee for Career Job, Some Gifts Over the Reporting Threshold Were Not Disclosed, Some Gifts Were Solicited, Some Gifts Were Undervalued, Some Gifts Were Not Included in the White House Database, Some Gifts Were Lost, Questionable White House Counsel Rulings, Some U.S. Property Was Taken, Most Furniture Gifts Were Coordinated, Some Gift Certificates Were Accepted, and Huge Gifts to the Presidential Library

- The total value of gifts retained by the former First Family over an 8-year period creates at least an appearance problem. The fact that so many gifts were undervalued raises many questions. The fact that gifts were misplaced or lost show sloppay management and maybe more. The fact that U.S. government property was improperly taken is troubling. And, the fact that, after the former First Lady's election to the U.S. Senate and before she was subject to the Congress' very strict gift acceptance rules, the former First Family accepted nearly $40,000 in furniture gifts and the First Lady solicited nearly $40,000 in fine china and silver is disturbing at best. Public servants, including the President, should not be able to enrich themselves with lavish gifts.

- The revised version of my bill, which I am introducing today, reflects several recommendations made by public witnesses at both hearings on the earlier version, these include the President of Common Cause and the Director for Public Service of The Brookings Institution stated, "In this moment of heightened public confidence in government, the presidential gift process offers the potential for staggering embarrassment and diminished accountability. The current fragmented process for logging, valuing, and mangling gifts to the president defies bureaucratic logic, and appears to frustrate accountability than enhance it. One could design a more unwieldy system if one started out do so." I agree with his assessment.

Sincerely,

DOUG OSE,
Member of Congress.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abduction, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1104 the Child Abduction Prevention Act. This legislation takes a significant step toward bringing child abductors to justice by aiding law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes against children. H.R. 1104 also provides families and communities with immediate and effective assistance to recover a
missing child through the AMBER Alert Network Plan. I believe it is important that the federal government send a clear message to child abductors that their actions will not go unpunished, and that we will take the appropriate measures to ensure the protection of our children.

I am disappointed, however, that the Republican majority chose to add a number of provisions to this legislation that I oppose, including an expansion of the death penalty, making it easier to authorize wiretaps against criminal suspects, and establishing mandatory life sentences for certain crimes. It is unfortunate that these failed, controversial provisions were added to such an important piece of legislation.

I will continue to support measures designed to keep child abductors off the street, and increase security for the children in our neighborhoods and communities. Furthermore, I remain opposed to the death penalty, expanded surveillance measures that violate our civil liberties, and mandatory sentencing guidelines that take away the discretion of a judge to decide a case fairly and justly. It is regrettable we could not pass a clean bill that reflects all of these ideas.

DENYING DEMOCRATS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 1599

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule. The rule waives all points of order against the Majority’s bill, while denying Democrats the opportunity to offer amendments.

Yesterday, during the meeting of the Rules Committee, my Democratic colleagues offered thoughtful amendments ranging from increasing funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adding $1.7 billion for health care, education, and infrastructure in the United States; yet none of my Democratic colleagues were granted waivers. I offered five amendments addressing our homeland security needs and mental health services. None of these amendments were granted waivers.

I believe that our domestic priorities and our first responders must not be overlooked as we consider this supplemental appropriations bill. The Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee offered an amendment to increase funding by $2.5 billion to Homeland Security programs. This was not accepted for a waiver.

These increases would have provided an additional $197 million to protect military facilities; $241 million for nuclear security (nuclear cargo detection, nuclear detection equipment, securing nuclear materials abroad and in the U.S.); $722 million for port and infrastructure security (Coast Guard personnel, port security grants, dam and bridge security, water and chemical plant security, rail tunnel security); and $1.2 billion for state and local first responders (state and local civil defense teams, firefight grants, state and local biotechnical response, military guard and reserves).

The Obey amendment, which I support, provides critical funding to Homeland Security programs. Under Article I, section 7, of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the power of the purse. We have an obligation to have an open and democratic debate on this supplemental.

With the United States now at war to disarm Saddam Hussein, some Republicans continue to question the patriotism of anyone who has the audacity to challenge the Bush administration’s foreign policy. All of us pray for a quick, successful conclusion to this war and for our troops’ safe return.

However, it is our duty as members of this august body of Congress to consider fully any funding that involves our military forces and funding that could help our domestic priorities. With the Republicans denying essential debate on this bill, we will not have full consideration of the supplemental, and this is an abomination on what should be a fair and open process.

This is a process far from what our Founding Fathers envisioned when granting Congress spending authority. I regret that we cannot have a serious Open Rule process and waivers for amendments that address this nation’s needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 31, 2003, despite all my efforts, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote Nos. 93 and 94 I would have voted the following way:

Roll Call Vote No. 93.—"Aye".
Roll Call Vote No. 94.—"Aye".

OUR MILITARY SURVIVORS DESERVE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY!

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill to restore equity to the survivors of our nation’s veterans, the Military Survivors’ Equity Act (H.R. 1592).

It is hard to believe that we continue to condone a system that penalizes the aging survivors, mostly widows, of the veterans of our country, but that is exactly what the Military Survivors’ Benefit Plan does! When a member of the military retires, he or she may join the Survivors’ Benefits Plan, known as the SBP.

After paying a premium for many, many years, the retiree expects that his or her spouse will receive 55 percent of the retired military pay if the veteran dies. But this is not the case!

As I said, most of the survivors who receive SBP benefits are military widows. You may not realize that when these widows who are receiving SBP benefits turn 62, a Social Security offset causes their benefits to be reduced from 55 percent to 35 percent of their husband’s military retired pay. This occurs even when the Social Security comes from the wife’s employment!

What does this reduction mean to our nation’s military widows? I have received many, many letters on this topic. Let me read from two:

My husband, who served in the Army for 20 years, was on Social Security disability because of heart problems and could no longer work. He died when I was 61 years old. I was doing okay, paying my monthly bills and having enough left for groceries, but when I turned 62, I was notified that my SBP was reduced from $476 to $302. What a shock! This was my grocery money that they took away from me.

And a second—

While my husband was alive, we worked out a budget for me in case he died. I felt secure in the knowledge that he had provided for me by joining the Survivors Benefits Plan. I could not believe it when I learned that I was not going to get the amount we were promised. I cannot believe that our government would do this to the widow of a veteran.

It is past time to change this misleading and unfair law. We must provide equity to the surviving spouses of our military retirees. My bill would fix this problem by eliminating the callous and absurd reduction in benefits and give what is expected and what is deserved: 55 percent of the military retired pay. To put it simply, no offset. A simple solution to a difficult problem, as equitable solution to a mean-spirited practice.

Colleagues, please join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1592, the Military Survivors’ Equity Act. Let us do this for our veterans and for their surviving spouses. Let us stop the pain and anguish that we are causing them.