

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AN ESSAY ON THE AIR FORCE NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM AND THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, recently, Mr. Brian L. Cornelius, a resident of Higginsville, MO, submitted an outstanding op-ed for the Higginsville Advance newspaper. The words composed by Mr. Cornelius are very meaningful and well written, and I wish to share them with all Members of the House of Representatives.

NOW MORE THAN EVER PRAYERS BETTER THAN PROTESTS

(By Brian L. Cornelius)

In May of 2002, I had the distinct privilege of attending the 49th Annual National Security Forum (NSF) at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. I attended this event on the nomination and request of Congressman Ike Skelton. The National Security Forum is held in conjunction with the Air War College of the Air Force and includes members of every branch of the U.S. Military.

As background, the primary purpose of the forum is a frank and candid exchange of views on national security matters among invited civilian guests, Air War College students, and senior military and civilian leaders. Over 130 civilian guests from the fields of business, education, government, law, media and medicine attended the National Security Forum.

The tragedies surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were still fresh in my mind when the 2002 National Security Forum commenced eight months later. I was in New York City ten days before the terrorist attacks of September 11th occurred. I stood and looked with awe at the World Trade Center. Our hotel was less than three blocks from the twin towers, and was later closed due to the damage it sustained when the towers collapsed.

The format of the NSF places all attendees in seminar groups with Air War College students (those in the military). Each day, all the seminar groups attend a morning and afternoon lecture together and then break out into their respective seminar groups to discuss the issues raised during the lecture. These lectures were presented by several people from both military and civilian life. The presenters list included the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Middle East editor for a national magazine, a national network news Pentagon correspondent, and other very impressive people from the media, think tanks, and military personnel. I have seen several of the presenters on national news outlets such as NBC, CNN and Fox News in the months since attending the National Security Forum.

The National Security Forum operates on a "non-attribute" method to encourage an honest and robust dialogue on the issues discussed. Therefore, anything said by anyone attending the Forum cannot be directly attributed to that person without the person's

consent. The only other request of civilian attendees to the National Security Forum is that we share what we learned with our local communities.

With the above background, I would like to share with my community a bit of what I learned while attending the National Security Forum last May. It is particularly relevant while the war with Iraq is on going.

I went into the National Security Forum with a bit of skepticism and a healthy dose of intimidation. While my father was a veteran of World War II, I knew little of military protocol, and I wondered why the military would want the opinion of a common guy from Lafayette County. I was also a little bummed that I had to travel on Memorial Day and be away from my family. I was intimidated by the thought of staying on a military base for several days, especially after the events of the prior September.

Once the NSF began, and I entered the room where my seminar group met, my skepticism and intimidation turned into complete respect, and the deepest feeling of privilege and honor I have experienced. The military members of my seminar group caused this metamorphosis.

While the vast majority of Air War College students are officers in the United States Air Force, all other branches of service are also represented. Officers from foreign militaries also attend this year-long advanced training. I was told that it is more difficult for an officer to gain acceptance into the Air War College than it is for a Lieutenant Colonel to be promoted to full Colonel. Each and every military member of my seminar group was of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel.

The military members of my seminar group were the most impressive people I have ever had the privilege to meet. While I wish I could tell you about all of these people serving our great country, I will confine this article to two representative samples.

Air Force Colonel Tony Hinen sat next to me for most of the week. While he has served in various capacities, I was most interested in his experience as a pilot of the huge tankers that refuel fighter jets and other planes during long missions. Colonel Hinen, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, is a dedicated Christian, husband and father. He has a keen insight into our world today, and was in training in Afghanistan when the September 11 terrorist attacks occurred.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Eddiy Daly sat across from me in our seminar group. An Airborne Ranger, Lt. Col. Daly made a combat jump in the Panama Canal campaign. Like local hero Stanton Thompson, Lt. Col. Daly received the Army's highest award for action taken in a non-combat or civilian situation. While piloting a plane for a civilian parachute jump club, Lt. Col. Daly climbed in and out of the plane, while flying it, to free the last jumper off the plane whose parachute gear had become hung up on the plane. After several attempts, Lt. Col. Daly finally cut the jumper free of the plane. The jumper safely parachuted to the ground and Lt. Col. Daly safely pulled himself back into the plane, by the pilot's seat belt, and landed the plane. Lt. Col. Daly is also a dedicated husband and father.

It was a very humbling experience for me to be in a room full of these very impressive men and women serving our country. Their grasp of our security issues was only equaled

by their desire to serve their country to the best of their abilities.

National Security Forum seminars included topics such as "Lessons Learned or Unlearned—Enduring Freedom and Beyond", "Middle East Challenges and the U.S. Security Policy", and "The Changing Security Environment and U.S. Military Strategy".

Of the daily seminars that all NSF attendees were required to attend, the environment in the Middle East was often a topic. The speakers on Middle East challenges were civilian experts from a national news organization and a research think tank. Many other speakers during the week also talked about the situation in the Middle East.

While I am not allowed to directly quote anyone, I distinctly remember that each and every presenter at the National Security Forum was certain that Iraq, and Saddam Hussein, possessed weapons of mass destruction. Most, if not all, of these experts also felt that it was not a matter of "if", but "when" these weapons would be used.

Various positions and arguments were made for what the United States should do, if anything, in regards to Iraq. One speaker eloquently pointed out that the world is in a place that it has not been in since the Roman Empire. One country dominates the world in military and economic might for the first time in centuries. With the end of the cold war and the dismantling of much of the old Soviet Union, our United States of America is the dominant military and economic power in the world.

The consensus during the NSF seemed to be that the United States would end up having to deal with Iraq, in one way or another. The only debate was whether we, as a nation, should deal with Iraq before a crisis situation arises or in response to a crisis situation. In other words, do we try to prevent a potential crisis by taking a preemptive action, or should we wait to see when and/or if a crisis event occurs to react?

I went into the National Security Forum as a "hawk". That is, I thought it to be the responsibility of the United States to use its economic and military assets to right the wrongs committed across the globe and to work to protect all people from tyrants, terrorists, and corrupt regimes. If not us, I thought, then who? I supported President Clinton's military decisions on Bosnia and Somalia, just as I supported former President Bush's decision on the Gulf War.

After attending the National Security Forum, I believe I am still a "hawk". However, now that I personally know members of our military who very well could come directly into harm's way, I am less hawkish than before. I watch the reports on the war in Iraq with a much deeper anguish and a much greater appreciation for our military personnel. These men and women are regular folks like you and me, who have to perform extraordinary duties, under extreme circumstances, because it is their duty.

I am certain that it has been that way throughout history. Whether it be my dad, Walter Cornelius, who was a bombardier on a B-29 in the Pacific Theater, or my uncle Bud Bramblett who served in the infantry in the Korean War, or Gary Evans who served in a combat outfit in Vietnam, or Darrell Jeffries who is a veteran of the Gulf War, or Stanton

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Thompson who has served through several conflicts and crises, or a host of others I do not know or have the room to remember here, the members of the United States Armed Forces are just regular people who in normal everyday life are mothers, fathers, neighbors, friends, businessmen, teachers, or just plain old folks like me.

These ordinary folks are called upon to do extraordinary duties during a time of war or crisis. They are not allowed the luxury of protesting a war. In fact, they are called upon to put their very life on the line in order to protect the right of the protester or to bring that right to the oppressed.

Attending the National Security Forum was a very humbling and very rewarding experience. If I learned anything while there, I learned that those serving in our military are an extremely impressive group of people. They do not take their duty lightly and they are very aware of all the costs of war and conflict. I also learned that our elected and military leaders know a lot more about our world and the perils we face than I do.

Wars have probably always been debated. While I believe the United States has a responsibility to the global community, I am not absolutely sure of what that responsibility should be. However, I trust our leaders to make the correct decisions based upon the evidence they face. I realize that I know little about world affairs or the evidence that brings our leaders to a decision to take military action. Only as our present circumstance with Iraq becomes history will we know the outcome. While I hope that history will show that the outcome was very positive, I cannot know that to be the case today.

This, however, I do know: I am certain that once a military action ensues, our leaders and the men and women of our military deserve our prayers, not our protests. There will always be time to debate the war. Now, however, more than ever, our leaders and especially those serving in the military deserve our prayers. But for the extraordinary circumstance they have been put into, these great Americans who are serving our country in the combat zone are just regular folks like us. They need us to lift them up in our thoughts and our prayers. In my opinion, through their personal sacrifice and service, these servants have earned it and they deserve it.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT NO. 44 OF MAR-
QUETTE, MI, RECOGNIZING THE
SUCCESS OF THEIR POPPY SALE
FUNDRAISING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker; I would like to recognize a group in my district whose volunteers put in hundreds of hours every year to raise money for local veterans while encouraging public remembrance of veterans on Memorial Day.

The Richard M. Jopling American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette recently donated \$3,500 in proceeds from its annual poppy sale to the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette. This money—a truly remarkable sum—will let the Jacobetti Home purchase two portable WelchAllyn machines, used to monitor a patient's vital signs and provide an extra margin of safety for patients needing that support.

There could be no better time than the present, when the welfare of all our veterans and military personnel are in the minds of every American, to recognize the contributions of the Marquette American Legion Auxiliary No. 44. In these times of tight budgets, the efforts of these sterling volunteer service organizations are also critical to meeting the needs of our nation's veterans.

The sight of the Auxiliary's red crepe-paper poppies signals the arrival of spring in Marquette and also reminds the public of the sacrifices our veterans have made to protect our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette also sponsors birthday parties for residents of the Jacobetti Home every month of the year.

In addition to the poppy sales and the birthday parties, the Auxiliary supplies gifts for the Jacobetti Home Christmas "Gift Shop" and sponsors a ladies friendship group at the veteran's facility.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a better place thanks to groups like American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette. I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAINE
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITU-
TION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 24 exceptional students from the 9th Congressional District are ready to compete against the smartest and the brightest from around the country in the National finals of the We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution. The 24 students, all seniors from Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL, have recently won the Illinois State competition and will represent our great State in the national finals.

What does it take to make it into the finals of this prestigious contest? What does it take to make it this far? The answer is clear: Dedication, hard work, and countless hours reading, researching, and studying the great document that is the foundation of our democracy: the Constitution of the United States of America—the symbol of personal freedom and protection.

Each year, the "We the People" foundation hosts district, state and national level congressional-style hearings on the history and principles of Constitutional democracy in the United States. Participants are tested on their knowledge of the Constitution and its foundations and applications to our country.

The "We the People" contest is an invaluable learning experience for Maine South high school students and other students from around the country. The program helps promote democracy and encourages civic participation in the issues of critical importance to our freedoms by young men and women and I am hopeful they will carry those lessons with them into the future.

I would like to commend the students of Maine South High School's Constitution Team and their academic advisor Dan States for their hard work and great scholastic achieve-

ment, and I wish them the best of luck in the National Finals.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF PLEASANT
RIDGE, MICHIGAN ON THEIR
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the City of Pleasant Ridge, its residents and its elected leadership, on the anniversary of the city's 75th year of incorporation.

The City of Pleasant Ridge is a beautiful bedroom community located, just north of the City of Detroit, in south Oakland County. With tree-lined streets, warmly cared for yards, and historic brick homes, the City of Pleasant Ridge is truly a "jewel" in the metropolitan area.

This settlement began in 1913 when Burt Taylor subdivided the Mayday farm. The settlement was incorporated as a village in 1921 and as a city in 1927. This city is now home to over 2,500 individuals and 1,000 families.

The City of Pleasant Ridge has a sense of community that can be seen at the bustling community center where they hold a variety of community events and classes, through the numerous community organizations and wide-ranging activities like the garden tours, auctions, scholarship grants to graduating high school students, active participation in the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise and so many other wonderful community-wide activities.

The city has also had an impact beyond its borders in the Michigan community. Ashton Berst, an early City Administrator, was one of a dozen local government officials instrumental in forming the Michigan Municipal League. Pleasant Ridge is also the hometown of a former Member of Congress, and Governor of the State of Michigan, James Blanchard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending every good wish to the City of Pleasant Ridge on their 75th anniversary. Indeed, they have much to be proud of. My heartiest congratulations to the residents, the community activists, and all of the members of the city administration. I look forward to many more years of working together, and being part of the fabric of this important community.

HONORING TERI JACKSON FOR
HER 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE GRAND PRAIRIE CITY COUNCIL

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Teri Jackson of Grand Prairie. Teri has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and today I wish to honor her for her 17 year commitment to the City Council and the citizens of Grand Prairie.

A life long resident of Grand Prairie, Teri began her service on the City Council in the

mid-1980s. She has guided the city through some very important milestones, including negotiations for a Class I horse racetrack, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. During these negotiations she was able to secure property for the Grand Prairie Tourism Information Center. The center was able to realize a prime location much sooner than anticipated thanks to the donated property and funds saved.

A Council Member since 1986, Teri has also served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1994–1995, Secretary on the Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corporation since 1993, and as Finance and Government Committee Chairwoman since 1990. In addition she has also held advisory positions on the Regional Transportation Council, EMS task forces, and Compensation Negotiations Committee.

Mrs. Jackson is a graduate from the Prestigious Leadership Texas program for outstanding women in leadership roles. On a national level, she has served on the National League of Cities policy steering committee.

During her years of service to the city of Grand Prairie, Teri has been recognized with numerous awards. She earned the 1994 Athena Award and 1995 Chairman of the Board Award from the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and the 1996 Woman of Distinction from Soroptomist International. On three different occasions she has received the MAP Award for outstanding performance from her employer.

Mr. Speaker, Teri Jackson exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service as both an employee public servant and citizen of Grand Prairie, Texas. I know my colleagues will join me today to honor her.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker; thousands of former servicemen and servicewomen in five states are currently prohibited from receiving state-financed home mortgages backed by the sale of federally tax-exempt bonds. That is why Congressman HERGER and I, along with 36 of our colleagues, are introducing the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act. This legislation is similar to bills we introduced in the 104th, 105th, 106th, and 107th Congresses.

In order to help veterans own a home, Congress created a program where states could issue bonds exempt from federal income tax in order to raise funds to finance mortgages for owner-occupied residences. Five states—Wisconsin, Alaska, Oregon, California, and Texas—implemented such a program for their veterans. Under a little-known provision in the 1984 tax bill, Congress limited the veterans eligible for this program to those who began military service before 1977.

As a result of the 1984 tax bill, veterans who entered military service after January 1, 1977 are prohibited from receiving a low-interest mortgage financed by federal tax-exempt bonds. This means veterans who served honorably in Panama, Grenada, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and now Iraq cannot

benefit from this partnership between the federal government and these five states. Are those who began serving our country after January 1, 1977 any less deserving than those who served before?

This arbitrary cutoff was created to raise additional revenue in the 1984 tax bill by limiting the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. When this provision was enacted, post-1976 veterans were a small percentage of all veterans, without much voice to protest this discriminatory change. But, over two decades later, there are thousands of veterans who have served our nation honorably.

Mr. Speaker, as time goes by, this legislation takes on increasing importance. The State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has informed me that if the cap on veterans bonds is not lifted, the State will be forced to disband the program because too few veterans are eligible for the program.

This legislation would simply eliminate the cutoff that exists under current law. Under our proposal, former servicemen and servicewomen in the five states who served our country beginning before or after January 1, 1977 will be eligible to qualify for a low cost mortgage financed by federal tax-exempt bonds. This legislation does not increase federal discretionary spending by 1 cent. It simply allows the five states that have a mortgage finance program for their veterans to provide mortgages to all veterans regardless of when they served in the military.

There is no justification to allow some veterans to qualify for these home mortgages while others cannot. Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to help those veterans who have served after January 1, 1977 to own a home and pass this important legislation into law.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD GERTH

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man with a truly distinguished career in academia. To say that Dr. Donald Gerth has made an indelible mark in higher education would only begin to skim the surface of the many wonderful contributions that he has made as an educator since he took his first teaching job in 1947 as a substitute high school math teacher. After more than a half-century of outstanding public service, Dr. Gerth will soon retire from the post of President of California State University, Sacramento. As his family, friends, colleagues, and admirers gather to celebrate Dr. Gerth's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento most outstanding citizen leaders.

Dr. Gerth earned his Bachelor's of Arts, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in Political Science at the prestigious University of Chicago. Upon completion of his education, Dr. Gerth applied his great expertise in Asian political systems by serving as an Air Force Intelligence Captain from 1952–1956. After his stint in the Air Force, Dr. Gerth joined the staff of his alma mater, University of Chicago.

In 1958, Dr. Gerth and his wife, Ms. Beverly J. Gerth, moved west to California and began his forty-five year association with the Cali-

fornia State University system. From 1958 to 1963, Dr. Gerth served as Associate Dean of Students and member of the Department of Government from 1958–1963. In 1964, Dr. Gerth accepted the post of Professor of Political Science at California State University, Chico in 1964. During his twelve-year tenure at California State University, Chico, Dr. Gerth also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1970–1976. In addition, Dr. Gerth also lent his valuable services to the university through his roles as Dean of Students, Coordinator of the Institute for Local Government and Public Service and Public Administration, and Co-Director of a Danforth Foundation Research Project on improvement of undergraduate teaching. Dr. Gerth's willingness to tackle a variety of challenges is a testament to his steadfast commitment to bring about positive changes in higher learning.

In 1976, Dr. Gerth was appointed the President of California State University, Dominguez Hills, a post that he would hold for eight years. In July of 1984, Dr. Gerth was named the President of California State University, Sacramento. California State University has experienced significant increases in enrollment and number of degrees awarded under Dr. Gerth's stewardship. California State University, Sacramento is now the sixth largest campus in the twenty three-campus California State University system. In recent years, California State University, Sacramento has initiated many new opportunities for learning such as some year-round programs, evening and weekend offerings, offcampus sites, and technology-based classes via computer or television. It is evident that Dr. Gerth's leadership has played an instrumental role in making California State University, Sacramento one of the most important universities in the state of California.

In addition to his duties as President of California State University, Sacramento, Dr. Gerth is also one of the most influential policy leaders in higher education. Dr. Gerth is the past President of the International Association of University Presidents from 1996–1999. He also served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Higher Education to the Director-General and as a member of the seven-person Steering Committee for the World Conference on Higher Education held in 1998. Dr. Gerth was recently appointed by the U.N. Secretary General and the Director-General of UNESCO to a six-year term on the United Nations University Council, the governing board of the United Nations University is headquartered in Tokyo. It gives me great comfort to know that Dr. Gerth will continue to share his wealth of knowledge and experience in higher education with the world in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr Gerth's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. Dr. Gerth's continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. If a template for commitment to education could be made, it would surely bear the resemblance of my dear friend Dr. Donald Gerth. Although his tenure as university President may soon be over, his involvement in community service and education is, fortunate for us, far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Donald Gerth continued success in all his future endeavors.

TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to emphasize the need to revitalize the telecommunications industry. In February, the FCC voted by a three to two margin to allow state regulators to decide how much competitors should pay for leasing networks.

Is this fair? Should long-distance companies be allowed to piggyback on the hard work and investments of other companies? How will this ruling affect consumers? Phone companies will not have any additional incentive to invest in new networks. This ruling will stifle technological change and hurt an industry that already suffered an 11 percent decrease in capital spending last year.

When the FCC issued new regulations in mid February to promote competition, it failed miserably. It missed an opportunity to create jobs in the struggling telecommunications industry. The FCC also missed an opportunity set a national policy to promote facilities-based competition that would have encouraged investment.

As evidence of the weak policy adopted by the FCC, on that day when the FCC issued its decision, the telecommunications industry lost \$15 billion in worth. The move to shift decision-making to the States regarding Unbundled Network Elements will only create a quagmire of regulations that will not encourage investment and the creation of jobs.

The people who will suffer the most are the hardworking men and women who depend on this industry. As the Communications Workers of America state, there needs to be a Federal telecommunications policy that will boost the telecommunications industry and national economy.

The FCC missed their opportunity. I hope my colleagues in Congress will revisit this issue in the future.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SKELTON Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that Betty Ruth Lewis Horine of Warrensburg, MO, has been named "Mother of the Year" by the American Mother's Association. Mrs. Horine has demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to her family.

Betty Horine was born in Annapolis, Missouri, in 1931, to Issom and Ruth Lewis. She was a first generation college graduate, earned her Master's degree in Education and went on to teach for twenty-seven years.

Betty Horine has not only served her community as a teacher but she has volunteered in many different organizations such as teaching church school, helping with Meals-on-Wheels, assisting with the Food Chest, and leading the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H. She is also a member of the PEO, Retired

Teachers, United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Friends of the Library, and teaches in the Adult Literacy Program. Betty has also been recognized twice for her volunteer work, receiving the Missouri Association of Rural Educators Award for Top Volunteer for Missouri and second she received the Methodist Women Special Mission Recognition Award.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Horine has distinguished herself as a fine educator, community leader, and mother. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Betty Horine and her family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO GARY QUICK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who is a longtime activist in labor and community service in the Upper Peninsula. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend, Gary Quick of Kipling, Michigan.

This is not the first tribute I have done for Gary, but his election to the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame is an appropriate time to once again reflect on Gary's devotion to his country, his union and his community.

Gary Quick was born in Eagle, Michigan in 1940 and soon moved with his family to Rapid River, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After graduation from Rapid River High School, he began working as a sub-assembler at the Harnischfeger Corp. plant in Escanaba.

His leadership potential surfaced quickly, and within just a few years Gary's co-workers at United Auto Workers Local 632 elected him as a steward of the Local. In 1967 he was elected Local 632 Vice President, and in 1969, he was elected Local President.

Between 1966 and 1983, Gary Quick served as a delegate to the UAW's constitutional conventions and was involved with UAW matters at the national level. He also served as a delegate for the Delta County, Michigan, Trades and Labor Council from 1975 until 1984.

In April 1984, Gary's national work with the UAW earned him an appointment as an international representative for the Region 1-D UAW office in Escanaba. In that role, he successfully negotiated union contracts in many employment settings, including health care, education, automotive and aerospace industries. He retired from the UAW in June 2002.

Gary Quick also served his country and his community. He was a United States Army Reservist from 1963 to 1969. He served on the Delta County Road Commission from 1977 to 1982, and was a member of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Advisory Board, the Labor-Management Board, and the Private Industry Council.

Mr. Speaker, Gary has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a public servant. His work for the labor movement, for his union colleagues and for his community have been an inspiration to all who worked with him in these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2003, at a ceremony in Marquette, Michigan, the Upper Pe-

ninsula Labor Hall of Fame will induct Gary Quick as a member in recognition of his many accomplishments and long years of service. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting him on this well-deserved honor.

MEDIA DIVERSITY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for media diversity and localism. The Supreme Court has maintained that the First Amendment is designed to achieve "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources." Media ownership diversity is critical to ensuring that we protect the First Amendment. Over the years, the courts have supported the belief of Congress that independent ownership of media outlets results in more diverse media voices, greater competition, and more local content.

A free and open media is central to our democracy. It promotes civic discussion, encourages public participation in policy debates, and ensures representation of ideological, cultural and geographic diversity. I cannot overstate the importance of the FCC's review of media ownership rules in deciding whether the principles of the First Amendment will be embraced in every day reality, or only in theory. Clearly, this is the most important telecommunications issue of our time.

The FCC has announced that it will release a proposal on June 2nd to possibly eliminate or weaken rules that would have major impact on television broadcast ownership concentrations. The rule that bars NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX from merging with each other and the rule that limits one company from owning broadcast stations that reach more than 35 percent of households nationwide could disappear.

The FCC is also examining rules that apply to local markets, including the rule that limits companies in the same market from owning two or more broadcast TV stations; the rule barring an entity from owning a local newspaper and television station in the same market; the rule capping the number of radio stations that an entity is allowed to own in a market at eight; and the rule restricting a single entity from owning more than one television and radio station in the same market, unless it is proven that there is sufficient diversity in the market.

I am adamantly opposed to the FCC relaxing existing rules to allow greater media concentration. Existing rules have been put in place to ensure that local communities have access to varying viewpoints on local issues. These rules must be maintained and should be strengthened, instead of weakened. Nothing at all should be done until the public and members of Congress have a chance to evaluate and comment on any specific proposals to change the current media ownership rules. In my view, that requires ample opportunity to consider and prepare comments, as well as a sufficient number of local hearings to allow all constituencies and all parts of the Nation to voice their views.

Over the last few years, we have seen considerable ownership consolidation in the

media; while at the same time we have seen important public interest protections eliminated. For the first 50 years after enactment of the 1934 Communications Act, people had a right to petition the FCC if they found coverage to be one-sided. The "fairness doctrine" required broadcasters to cover issues of public importance and to do so fairly until, in 1987, under immense pressure from the media, it was eliminated. The loss of the fairness doctrine—a major blow to consumers—was supposed to be alleviated by a blossoming of independent, local outlets that would expand diversity by increasing competition. In other words, consumers would no longer be able to use the fairness doctrine to ensure that their views were represented on a specific media outlet but would be able to present those views through competing media in the same market. Unfortunately, the public is now faced with increased concentration—not increased competition—and no longer has the fairness doctrine to fall back on.

In the last 25 years, the number of TV station owners has declined from 540 to 460 and the number of TV newsrooms has dropped by almost 15 percent. Three-quarters of cable channels are owned by only six corporate entities, four of which are major TV networks. Seventy percent of all markets have 4 or fewer sources of original TV news production. In 1975, there were 860 owners of daily newspapers. There are less than 300 today. My constituents and many constituents across the Nation are frustrated that they are unable to hear different viewpoints and, increasingly, that they are unable to get their own viewpoints to others because of barriers to the visual and print media. I believe that there is significant argument for the FCC to recommend reinstatement of the fairness doctrine. At the very least, they should not allow even more ownership concentration that makes the loss of the fairness doctrine even more onerous.

Greater media ownership concentration limits the public's access to diverse viewpoints. Radio provides an example of what can happen when media ownership rules are abolished. In 1996, Congress eliminated the national ownership caps for radio. The result has been greater consolidation in the radio industry. In 1995, Clear Channel owned 1.3 percent of radio stations; today it owns 20.2 percent. In almost half of the largest markets, the three largest corporations control 80 percent of the radio audience. This has made it harder for diverse opinions to be heard. Just last month, Clear Channel refused to air an advertisement in which Congressman DANNY DAVIS and I expressed our opposition to waging war in Iraq. Clear Channel refused to put the advertisement on the air. Fortunately, several independent stations did.

Clear Channel, which owns 1200 stations across the country, has refused to air songs by the Dixie Chicks who have spoken against war in Iraq, it has put out a recommended "do not play" list that includes John Lennon's "Imagine" and 150 other songs, it has actively worked to support pro war rallies, and it has refused to play paid ads that do not reflect its own views. This is what happens when a few companies control the airwaves. The owners' bias is reflected in what they choose to put on the air and listeners are limited in what they are able to hear.

Part of the problem is that many entities that own media outlets are more focused on their

bottom line than the public good and the public's right to hear and express diverse views. The founder and CEO and Clear Channel said in a recent Fortune Magazine article, "We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well researched music. We're simply in the business of selling our consumers products." I appreciate Mr. Lowry's candor and I do not dispute his right to pursue profits. However, his statement clearly illustrates the problem. Greater media ownership concentration will hurt our democracy.

We must maintain media diversity and localism. We cannot allow information to be monopolized, rationed or censored because a free and open media is absolutely critical to the functions of a democratic society. The stakes are high and the threat to free speech is all too real.

I urge all the FCC Commissioners to hold and attend more public forums across the country on any specific proposed changes to existing rules, as a major part of their decision-making process.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD T. THOMPSON, CHANCELLOR OF OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable individual, Richard T. Thompson, Chancellor of Oakland Community College (OCC) upon his retirement from this outstanding five-campus institution.

Beginning his OCC career in 1996, Mr. Thompson was a member of the English, Social Science and Counseling faculty at the Highland Lakes Campus. He also served as Academic Dean and Campus Provost at that campus until 1975.

After 1975, Mr. Thompson held various positions, including Provost of the Orchard Ridge Campus, and College District Vice President for academic and student affairs in 1984. He was promoted to Vice Chancellor of academic affairs in 1988, and served as OCC's Interim Chancellor. In 1995 he was appointed Interim President of Auburn Hills Campus.

On March 19, 1996, Richard T. Thompson assumed the Chancellorship of OCC, as its sixth chief executive officer. This appointment marked the first time in history of the college that an OCC academician was chosen to head its five-campus institution.

Professional and community activities are also a significant part of Mr. Thompson's life. The Providence Hospital Community Board, the Educational Advisory Board, the Oakway Symphony and the Better Business Bureau are some examples of the wide range of interest and service he has provided.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard T. Thompson for his dedication and devotion to Oakland Community College, an outstanding institution of higher learning, and for the high quality of education and the inspiration he has provided for its students during his tenure.

I wish Richard, and his wife, Nancy, good health and happiness in whatever paths they choose to take in retirement.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations bill, yet express my sincere disappointment that the amendment offered by Representative OBEY to increase funding for our homeland security needs was defeated on a party-line vote.

I support our troops in the field, and believe it is the responsibility of Congress to provide our armed servicemen and women with the resources they need to achieve victory in Iraq and return home quickly and safely to their families. Just as important, however, is the responsibility of Congress to ensure the safety and security of our hometowns. Representative Obey's amendment would have added \$2.5 billion for homeland security needs, including \$150 million for State public health and environmental laboratories to deal with chemical weapons attacks, \$800 million for the equipment and training needed to let local fire, police, and medical personnel meet the difficult challenges a terrorist attack would entail, and \$66 million to help the Reserves train and relocate deployable military hospitals. This amendment would have taken a significant step to protect American communities and neighborhoods.

By rejecting this amendment, the House missed an opportunity to address pressing unmet needs for protection of the American people from terrorist attacks. I am concerned that the failure of the amendment to be made in order will delay for months and perhaps longer the implementation of numerous simple, straightforward steps that we should be taking to prevent future catastrophic attacks against the United States.

For the RECORD, I submit a copy of a letter I received from Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Rich Stanek, urging support of additional funds for homeland security in the supplemental to assist Minnesota's rising homeland security needs. Representative Obey's amendment would have gone a long way toward meeting this need, but unfortunately the Republican Party in Congress said "no" to Minnesota and "no" to this new funding.

Protecting our homeland is a nonpartisan issue. Nothing is more important than the security of our hometowns and our families. As this bill moves to conference with the Senate, I hope we can agree that homeland security needs must be above party-line politics.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT

OF PUBLIC SAFETY

St. Paul, MN, March 28, 2003.

Hon. BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCCOLLUM: As the United States continues military action to

disarm and liberate Iraq, Minnesota's Office of Homeland Security has taken a number of security measures to assess any potential risks and to ensure the safety of Minnesotans throughout the state.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEPC) was partially activated at the onset of military action and was fully activated at 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2003. The SEOC remained fully activated until 11:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2003 and partially activated until 8:00 a.m. on March 24, 2003. In addition, the Minnesota State Patrol was deployed on March 17, 2003 for security purposes to the Flint Hills Oil Refinery, Ashland Oil Refinery, Prairie Island and Monticello Nuclear Plants, and the Minneapolis and St. Paul Water Treatment Facilities. On March 19, 2003, the Minnesota National Guard relieved State Patrol troopers and continued to provide facility security until 7:00 a.m. on March 26, 2003.

State cost estimates to activate the SEOC and to provide facility security total approximately \$463,000. The major costs incurred by the state were the facility security costs: Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota National Guard (\$368,000) and Department of Public Safety, Minnesota State Patrol (\$65,000). There were also just over \$30,000 in costs to activate the SEOC which include some operating and overtime costs for other state agencies. These costs do not include any costs at the local level to provide security or to prepare and respond to potential threats.

The cooperation and coordination at the state level has gone very well, and I am pleased that Minnesota has no incidents to report. In a conference call with the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Ridge assured states that every attempt would be made to seek reimbursement for costs to provide heightened security at critical infrastructure sites. As Congress prepares to act on a supplemental appropriations bill, any funds you can secure for Minnesota's extraordinary costs, particularly in light of the state's budget crisis, will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

RICH STANEK,
Commissioner.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay Federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of gov-

ernment "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes. What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government.

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 123, on the motion to recommit H.R. 1036 with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THEIR FOURTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team, who defeated the University of Tennessee Volunteers 73-68 to win the NCAA tournament on April 8, 2003.

I would like to offer special congratulations to Head Coach Geno Auriemma who won his second consecutive national title. After losing four senior starters last year, junior Diana Taurasi took control of the team and led them to victory, scoring 28 points.

Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary young women do not need me to tell them that they are champions, or that their accomplishments are appreciated. This year was supposed to be a year of rebuilding, but the Huskies were not going to rest on their laurels. Over the past 2 years they have only lost one game.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that although they are young adults themselves the outstanding achievements of the this team offers a fine example to our nation's young people. I applaud them for all of their achievements both on and off the court.

IN MEMORY OF CDR WILLIAM W. COBB

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of CDR William W. Cobb of Atlantic Beach, FL.

CDR Cobb was born in Lexington, MO, on November 7, 1920. He was raised in Lexington and Long Beach, CA, and attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington. CDR Cobb was a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was immediately ordered to sea duty in the Pacific. He saw combat action during several battle campaigns on the USS *Indianapolis* and the USS *Wasp*.

After World War II, CDR Cobb completed flight training in 1947 and went on to his first squadron tour in VP-26 from 1947-1949. He subsequently was assigned as Executive Officer and Instructor, NROTC at the University of Missouri in Columbia, before returning to flight duty as the Deputy Director of Plans and Operations, 1503rd Air Transport Wing in Tokyo, Japan. CDR Cobb assumed duties as the Assistant Operations Officer, NAS Moffett Field, California, and from 1958 through 1960, he was assigned duties as Senior Pilot and Patrol Plane Commander in Airborne Early Warning Squadron Three, based in Aguna, Guam.

CDR Cobb reported to the Pentagon for duty in the office of the Chief of Naval Information after a tour as a student at the Army Language School in Monterey, CA. He served under Admiral J.S. McCain, the father of Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

CDR Cobb retired from the Navy in July of 1964 after 24 years of honorable and dedicated service. He had a second career in sales and as a realtor in McLean, VA. He resided in Alexandria, VA, from 1961 to 1990. After a second retirement, CDR Cobb and his wife, Jean, also a former Lexington native, moved to Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach, FL. His wife, a former Miss Lexington and runner up in the Miss Missouri pageant, passed away in 1999. They were married for 56 wonderful and productive years.

Mr. Speaker, CDR Cobb was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son Rear Admiral William W. Cobb, Jr.; a daughter, Susan E. Cobb; a sister, Mrs. C.C. Shannon; a grandson, granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY D. LYNCH IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE ON BEHALF OF MICHIGAN VETERANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Jerry D. Lynch, State Commander of the Michigan American Legion, for his tireless service on behalf of all veterans and active duty military personnel through the nation's largest wartime veterans' organization, the American Legion.

I have known and worked with Jerry Lynch for more than a dozen years, both during my time as a Michigan State Representative, and as a U.S. Representative. He has been a champion of veterans' causes for all of those years, and for many years before.

He is devoted to his community. It is no surprise to me that Jerry's first official act as Michigan State Commander after being elected by delegates at the American Legion State Convention in 2002 was to lead his home town Fourth of July parade in Daggett, Michigan.

Jerry knows that bringing the ideals of the American Legion and its goals and values back home to each community in Michigan is critically important to making sure that the contributions of our veterans and our active duty military men and women are honored in every day life. He is a shining example of those ideals.

When our fighting men and women have been performing so valiantly in Iraq and the welfare of all our veterans is on the minds of every American, it is particularly important to recognize the ideals of the American Legion as exemplified in Jerry Lynch.

State Commander Lynch, a Vietnam era veteran of U.S. Navy service, has been active at many levels of the American Legion. He has held positions at the state level, including Zone Commander, Membership Director and has served on the Americanism and New Posts Committees. Prior to that, he served as Commander of the Upper Peninsula Association, was a District Committeeman, and held several offices at Stephenson, Michigan Post 43, including that of Commander.

Jerry's lovely wife Judy is now the Legion's "First Lady" and will contribute her own special brand of activism and support to Legion causes. The Lynches have three children, Kim, Kelly and Donald.

Jerry's talents for leadership and service have been his great gift to the American Legion, and to Upper Peninsula veterans in particular. No task was too small—or too big—to get Jerry's attention, if it needed doing. He always comes through.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today asking that you and our House colleagues join me in relaying our respect and our appreciation to Jerry D. Lynch, who exemplifies the American Legion ideal, but more importantly, who is a perfect example of the human ideals of service to his fellow man and remembrance of those who have served before him.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LAWLOR
QUIGLEY

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who dedicated his life to ensuring that the veterans and working men and women of our country had access to the best quality health care available. He was an individual of the highest integrity and character. Sadly, he passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2003, after a long illness. Hailing from Mashpee, Massachusetts on Cape Cod, his was a life devoted to his fellow men.

John Lawlor Quigley was born on April 29, 1922. He was married to Jean Regan and

leaves three children—Jan, Kristen and John. He was also the proud grandfather of nine grandchildren.

He served his country honorably as a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War Two, and earned the Purple Heart for being wounded on Iwo Jima in 1945. After the war, he returned to Massachusetts, determined to become a positive force in his community. He graduated from Georgetown University and Boston College Law School with a law degree before making a run for Massachusetts House of Representatives. Though unsuccessful at his first run in politics, it may have been a blessing in disguise as his work then focused exclusively on veterans and health care issues.

John's commitment to America's veterans and to equal healthcare access for working families was instilled in him from an early age. His father, Lawrence F. Quigley, an 11 term mayor of Chelsea, Massachusetts, was the Commandant of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, a state facility for homeless veterans as well as those with medical conditions necessitating long term care from 1934 to 1948. John succeeded his father and oversaw the Home for over 3 decades, from 1948 to 1980. The Quigley legacy over the last 7 decades is such that the Home's hospital has been renamed after John's father and in a sense it is fitting that John's final moments were spent in a place that he had nurtured and had truly become part of the fiber of his being.

He also was heavily involved in health care issues nationally. He served as President of the Massachusetts Hospital Association from 1961–62, Director of the American Hospital Association's Region 1 and President of the New England Healthcare Assembly. Membership in these organizations enabled John to tackle the many varied and constantly evolving issues in the healthcare industry. It was a platform he used to good effect. The loyalty of his peers, employees and fellow veterans is proof of that.

In addition to his many personal and professional responsibilities, John also made the time to be an active member of his community through involvement in a number of civic organizations. He lived his life with a concern for his fellow man and genuinely cared about the future of America. John Quigley is an example for all of us and as he looks down on us today, I want to add my voice to the chorus of accolades he has earned many times over for his devotion to veterans, love of country and dedication to family. I salute you and may God bless you.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
DIEGO F. RINCON

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to give some remarks about one of those noble heroes who gave his life, Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon, who is from my 13th Congressional District in Georgia, whose funeral will be held today in just a few hours from now at 2 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church located in my district in Conyers, GA.

As we see on television the joyous faces of Iraq who have been liberated we must never forget the precious price that was paid by our brave and courageous soldiers who gave their lives so that Iraq could be free.

In his last letter to his mother, dated February 22 and received by his family on March 22, Private First Class Diego Rincon wrote:

Hola, Mother,

How are you doing? Good, I hope. I'm doing OK, I guess. I won't be able to write anymore starting the 28th of this month. We are moving out. We are already packed and ready to move to a tactical Alpha-Alpha (in Iraq). Once that happens, there will not be any mail sent out. We will only receive mail that is less than 12 ounces. At least that's what they said.

I'm not sure where exactly we're going [to] be yet, but it is said to be a 20-hour drive in the Bradleys [fighting vehicles].

So I guess the time has finally come for us to see what we are made of, who will crack when the stress level rises and who will be calm all the way through it. Only time will tell. We are at the peak of our training and it's time to put it to the test.

I just want to tell everybody how much you all mean to me and how much I love you all. Mother, I love you so much! I'm not going to give up! I'm living my life one day at a time, sitting here picturing home with a small tear in my eyes, spending time with my brothers, who will hold my life in their hands.

I try not to think of what may happen in the future, but I can't stand seeing it in my eyes. There's going to be murders, funerals and tears rolling down everybody's eyes. But the only thing I can say is, keep my head up and try to keep the faith and pray for better days. All this will pass. I believe God has a path for me. Whether I make it or not, it's all part of the plan. It can't be changed, only completed.

"Mother" will be the last word I'll say. Your face will be the last picture that goes through my eyes. I'm not trying to scare you, but it's reality. The time is here to see the plan laid out. And, hopefully, I'll be at home in it. I don't know what I'm talking about or why I'm writing it down. Maybe I just want someone to know what goes through my head. It's probably good not keeping it all inside.

I just hope that you're proud of what I'm doing and have faith in my decisions. I will try hard and not give up. I just want to say [I'm] sorry for anything I have ever done wrong. And I'm doing it all for you, Mom. I love you.

Tuesday, I talked with Diego's father, George, on the telephone and I expressed all of our feelings as a grateful Nation when I assured him that his son's contribution will forever be remembered. In addition, we would present him with the RECORD of this tribute to his son along with a U.S. flag that is flying over the Capitol today—the day of his son's funeral. This father of this genuine American hero was touched and moved and we both were in tears and he said, "Thank you, Congressman SCOTT." I said, "No, thank you, Mr. Rincon, we thank you. The Nation and the world thank you and your son because your son gave us the greatest gift of all, which is this: The gift that someone would lay down his life for his friend and those friends we see joyously celebrating their freedom on television today; friends who are thankful and grateful to 19-year-old Private First Class Diego Rincon."

Rincon fought the good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith, and most assuredly

for Private First Class Diego Rincon there is waiting for him an extraordinary crown of righteousness. Rincon has been awarded posthumous U.S. citizenship and I am proud to cosponsor pending legislation that will grant automatic citizenship for all foreign-born soldiers killed fighting for the United States.

God Bless Diego Rincon and God Bless America.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD CARSON

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1036) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others:

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 1036, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

As my esteemed colleagues have discussed, H.R. 1036 would prohibit civil lawsuits from being brought against gun manufacturers by parties that have been injured by the unlawful use of firearms.

Mr. Chairman, I am a great believer in personal responsibility. It is one of the key principles upon which America was founded. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act would strengthen this great notion.

Imposing liability on an entire industry for harm caused solely by the unlawful actions of others is an abuse of the United States legal system—it undermines public confidence in our judicial system and threatens the viability of law-abiding companies.

Frivolous lawsuits against the firearm industry are nothing more than an attack on the Second Amendment. It seems a logical anti-gun tactic to me, if you can't lawfully prevent the sale of guns, then you go after the people who sell guns and make them afraid to sell their lawful products for fear of incurring substantial financial liability. Thus far, these frivolous and merit-less lawsuits have had little success in court. Their only success is in placing an enormous financial burden on gun manufacturers. However, these litigation costs are then passed onto consumers and makes it more difficult law-abiding citizens to own guns. In the end, the ones who suffer the most are law-abiding consumers.

H.R. 1036 would help protect our second amendment rights by protecting legitimate businesses that comply with Federal, State and local gun laws. It is time to stop these frivolous lawsuits that threaten to bankrupt a responsible American industry by blaming the firearm industry for the actions of criminals. I urge my colleagues to support the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be here today during National Crime Victims' Rights Week with this outstanding coalition to support what I consider to be one of the most important legislative efforts in the 108th Congress—the Crime Victim's Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I'd like to start off by thanking the original cosponsors, some of whom are here. I'd also like to thank Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN for their leadership in the Senate and Attorney General Ashcroft for his continued support of this much needed amendment. And most importantly, I would like to thank the representatives of the victims groups who will speak shortly. Thank you all for coming today to show your support for the Victims Rights Amendment.

Many of the people here today know all too well that violent criminals damage or destroy the lives of innocent victims. According to the Department of Justice, in the year 2001, there were almost 1.5 million violent crimes committed in the United States. On any day, on any street corner, a mother, father, son or daughter can become the next victim of a rapist or murderer. For too many years these victims' voices have been silenced in a criminal justice system that recognizes only the rights of the accused. Thankfully, that is all beginning to change.

Currently, 32 States, including my home state of Ohio, have passed victims rights amendments to their constitutions. We have also enacted Federal victims rights statutes. Unfortunately, these laws have not been consistently applied, and many victims still are not treated with dignity and respect.

A constitutional amendment is absolutely needed to help facilitate a balance between the rights of victims and those of defendants. Only through an amendment to the Constitution can victims receive the justice they deserve.

This amendment would empower crime victims by allowing them to confront their assailants in court and at sentence or parole hearings. It would protect victims by requiring that they be notified about the release or escape of the perpetrator from custody and by requiring that the victim's safety be considered in determining a release from custody. Finally, the amendment would restore victims by guaranteeing them the right to seek restitution from their attackers.

These rights, like others guaranteed in our Constitution, would become fundamental, and citizens of every state would be protected.

I want to stress that nothing—I repeat, nothing—in this amendment will undermine or weaken the long-established rights of defendants under our Constitution.

For far too long, victims of crime in this country have had to stand on the courtroom steps with meaningful justice right beyond their reach. Not allowed to view proceedings in person. Not permitted to speak out on behalf of a murdered loved one. Not even notified when a violent abuser is turned loose.

Crime victims deserve to be treated better. They deserve to be treated with dignity in our criminal justice system. In the last Congress, I introduced this amendment in the House. And working with Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN and Attorney General Ashcroft, I think we made great progress in raising awareness of this critical issue. This year, I believe we can do even better. With the strong support we have received from President Bush, I am hopeful that we can pass this amendment and fortify an important truth: that victims must have their own inalienable rights under our Constitution.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit the words of my constituent, Jessica Mattiace of Moravia, NY, for submission into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Jessica was chosen as the winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars broadcast scriptwriting contest for 2003.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, of the United States and the Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio/essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for the 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "Freedom's Obligation."

I applaud the VFW for continually providing this outlet for young people to share their personal views and coordinating this worthy competition each year. I also congratulate Ms. Mattiace on her achievement and wish her best of luck in her future educational ventures.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By New York Winner—Jessica Mattiace)

It echoes through our courtrooms, sings in our churches, whispers in our hearts—freedom, the very lifeblood of America, the very marrow of our homeland. For this right our fathers fought, and for it they died. So that you and I might say we truly are free, a life was yielded, a heart ceased to beat, a soul, enflamed with the ardent desire to be loosed from the bounds of oppression and persecution, was severed from its mortal frame. How often is such a blessing taken for granted! How often is it abused! How often is it reduced to a right to do whatever one pleases. But this is not what so many men and women gave their lives for. They sought to create a land where all would be granted equal rights, but not where liberty would be considered license for immorality. In our quest to protect and preserve the freedom that has been endowed to us by God, and guaranteed to us by the blood of our fathers, we have created another sort of enslavement, the enslavement to such false ideas of freedom. Freedom has not been granted to us for nothing, and it is our duty to defend it at every moment.

Although as humans "Endowed by our Creator," as we are told by the Declaration of Independence, "with certain inalienable rights," these have not been given to us without responsibilities. There exists in this country especially, a legacy of liberty which has been passed on from generation to generation, safeguarded and sustained by its citizens. But this freedom is not immutable. We, as Americans, must rise to the responsibilities that face us. When not backed by people, by Americans motivated with the same passion and fervor as the founders of this land, our freedom is but a feeble idea quickly whisked away.

Has it become this today within our very borders? Although it must still be protected from outside threats, the real threat, the real danger is right here. It is threatened every single time a human life is disregarded or disrespected. With every unborn child prevented from ever taking its first breath, freedom is stifled and its very heart violated. With every hateful word or deed against a person's race, consent is given to forfeit the liberation of an entire country. It truly is a dreadful form of poverty when such crimes against life are committed. How can a man stand upon his feet and proclaim his freedom, when he holds the stolen liberty of another in his hands? How can he defend the very thing that he has denied to others? No, it is not possible to secure for oneself what has been usurped from others. When the value of freedom is overlooked in a single human form, it is overlooked for all of humanity. Without compromise, this freedom must be defended and all obstacles and impediments standing before it must be defeated.

Our obligation to protect freedom begins within our homes, in our day-to-day life choices which affect others. What we value shows in our daily lives, and is reflected in our government. We are under a government put in place by ourselves and for ourselves. What is allowable, what is just, what is humane is before us to decide. We make the decision not merely by how we vote, but by how we speak, how we act, how we live.

In our refusal to forfeit human rights and dignity through our every action, we become a powerful testament to true freedom and liberty for all. To act in this way is our obligation; this is what we have been called to do by those who first ensured for us our freedom. We must live as free people, people valuing the liberty of all. Only then shall we truly be free. Only then shall this freedom be our possession, and only then will we be able to defend it from those who might attempt to snatch it from us.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA
ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the state of Pennsylvania's Collegiate Academy High School Academic Decathlon team as they prepare to conquer the championship title for the 2003 United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Competition.

Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team is comprised of students and coaches from the Collegiate Academy High School, located in the 3rd Congressional District. The Collegiate Academy team has already found victory in the local, regional and state USAD competitions and is anxiously awaiting the final national competition scheduled to be held at the end of April in the school's hometown of Erie, Pa.

I'd like to take the time today and recognize these talented students and their coaches, who have mentored and inspired the students throughout the entire school year.

The 2003 members of Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon Team include: Joshua Cohick, Mara DiTullio, Jarrod Fedor, Noelle Lucas, Brian McNair, Andrew Narusewicz, Eden Roseborough, David Tran and Gregory Stachelek. The team's coaches are Carolyn Huzinec and Paula Lucas.

For more than 20 years, the USAD National competition has brought high school students together to challenge their intellects on various levels and provide an advanced educational opportunity. In the pursuance of academic excellence, academic decathlon teams must vigorously prepare to compete in ten different categories. The winning team will be recognized as the most prestigious high school in the nation.

I believe this scholastic competition to be a grand endeavor for high school students across America. Its continuous success is a prime example of our nation's enthusiasm for education. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District's own Collegiate Academy High School will represent the state this year in the national competition and I wish them the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team and their coaches as they compete to become America's most prestigious high school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, During Rollcall vote No. 122 on the Meehen Amendment to H.R. 1036, the Gun Manufacturer's Liability Act, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE W. HINDS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a leading citizen of Trumann, Arkansas. I am proud to recognize Wayne W. Hinds in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his community, his state and his Nation.

Wayne was born and raised in Trumann, Arkansas, and even starred on the football team at Trumann High School. During his senior season in 1955, he set an Arkansas state high school football record for the most touchdowns scored in a single game. After graduation in 1956, Wayne decided to remain close to home and attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, where he majored in business administration.

On November 14, 1959, Wayne married Glenda Moye. He and Glenda had two daughters, Tamara Taylor and Misti Sims and are the proud grandparents of Raven Dawn Taylor, Brett Taylor, Mackenzie Sims and Bailee Sims.

In August 1967, Wayne began the job that has become the symbol of his commitment to his community. That year, Wayne was appointed Superintendent, Drainage District Number Seven. This jurisdiction covers 190,000 acres, 300 miles of channels and 65 miles of levees along the St. Francis River and Right Hand Chute of Little River. In February 1978, Wayne was elected General Manager and Executive Secretary of Drainage District Number Seven and since then has led the effort to protect the valuable waterways of Poinsett County.

In addition to his remarkable service in his professional career, Wayne has also been an important leader in his community. Wayne is a member and past president of the Trumann Booster's Club. He also served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Trumann Lions Club.

As children, we all learn the importance of "remembering where you came from". Wayne not only remembers . . . he serves. He embodies the old fashion values of service, leadership and commitment to his community that have made our State and our Nation great. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to Wayne Hinds for his tireless service and unwavering commitment to the people of Poinsett County, the people of Arkansas and the people of the United States.

THE STOP TAKING OUR HEALTH
PRIVACY ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, the Bush Administration's modifications to the Federal medical privacy rule will be in effect. Federal medical privacy protections are important for protecting the integrity of our health care system. Many Americans have been taking counterproductive steps, such as giving inaccurate information to their physicians or

avoiding health care altogether, because of medical privacy concerns.

The medical privacy rule issued by the Clinton Administration in December 2000 established a sound foundation for addressing the complex issues relating to medical records privacy. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's changes to the rule opened up significant loopholes in medical privacy protection. The Bush Administration eliminated the rule's requirement that individuals must provide consent before their personal health information can be used for treatment, payment, and a broad category of activities called "health care operations."

The Bush Administration also decreased privacy protections relating to marketing activities by removing privacy protections for activities that most consumers consider to be marketing. In addition, it changed the rule to allow disclosures of health information without patient consent to drug companies and other entities regulated by the FDA for a wide range of purposes. The December 2000 rule, in contrast, allowed such disclosures only for a narrowly defined list of health-related activities such as reporting adverse events associated with drugs.

That is why I am joining my colleagues Reps. MARKEY, DINGELL, and ROHRBACHER today in introducing the Stop Taking Our Health Privacy Act of 2003. The STOHP Act would: (1) reinstate the December 2000 rule's patient consent requirement for treatment, payment, and health care operations while ensuring that this requirement does not undermine essential health care activities such as filling prescriptions and making referrals; (2) strike the Bush Administration's definition of "marketing," thereby ensuring that the rule's privacy protections apply to activities consumers consider marketing; and (3) eliminate the broad exemption the Bush Administration created that would have allowed disclosure without consent to drug companies, while ensuring that disclosures essential for public health purposes are allowed.

I am pleased that this bill has bipartisan support. Medical privacy should not be a partisan issue. I hope to continue to work with both Democratic and Republican colleagues to remedy the harm done by the changes to the rule and to promote vigilant enforcement by the Administration of the privacy protections that remain. I will also continue to press for additional protections to ensure appropriate disclosure and use of individuals' health information.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER BOB WALES, CITY OF
RIVERSIDE, CA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. The community of Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Bob Wales is one

of these individuals. On Thursday, April 10, 2003, Bob will be honored at a retirement reception in recognition of his contributions as the Riverside Assistant City Manager.

Bob received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1962. Upon graduation, Bob was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served honorably as a First Lieutenant in Orleans, France until joining the California Division of Highways in 1964. Bob obtained his license as a Professional Engineer from the State of California in 1969. Bob's accomplishments include the design of the 2/210 freeway interchange as well as the design of numerous bridges throughout California.

Bob began his career with the City of Riverside as an Associate Engineer in the Public Works Department in August of 1969. Over the following eight years Bob served as a Senior Engineer and a Principal Engineer.

In 1977, Bob was named Public Works Director and continued in that position for ten years until he was later appointed Assistant City Manager of Development. His duties included the oversight of the Public Works, Planning, Airport and Development Departments, as well as negotiating agreements with private developers and ensuring expeditious processing of key economic development projects.

In 1986, Bob was appointed Executive Director of the Riverside Redevelopment Agency in addition to his other duties. In that position he has contributed to all facets of redevelopment in the City's six project areas. Under his exemplary leadership, the Agency has been involved in hundreds of projects worth millions of dollars including the reopening of the historic Mission Inn, the construction of a California State office building, the redevelopment of a major portion of the east side of Riverside with two large scale retail/entertainment projects and the creation of a Justice Center in the downtown area which brought in a State Court of Appeals, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court, a U.S. Federal District Court and a County Family Law Court.

Bob's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many of the redevelopment projects and the vision of the future for Riverside and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

INTRODUCING THE AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROL SYSTEM INTEGRITY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have joined with Congressmen LOBIONDO, DEFAZIO, and QUINN to introduce the Air Traffic Control System Integrity Act of 2003, a bill to ensure that functions relating to the air traffic control system continue to be carried out by the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the Bush Administration's recent attempts to inch its way towards privatization or corporatization

of our air traffic control system. First, on June 4, 2002, the President signed Executive Order 13264 to delete a phrase in Executive Order 13180 stating that air traffic control is an "inherently-governmental function."

More recently, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) placed air traffic controllers on its 2002 Commercial Activities list, which is an inventory of activities performed by government personnel that should be subject to the forces of competition. Although FAA Administrator Marion Blakey testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee that ATC is in a protected class of the OMB Commercial Activities list, there is nothing that prohibits the Administration from re-categorizing ATC in the future.

The National Air Space system is not one well-defined piece of equipment. It is a complex, integrated arrangement of thousands of distinct systems, as well as regulations, procedures, and people, all interfacing with one another to accomplish one of the most intricate missions in the world—ensuring our country's ability to safely and efficiently move over 600 million passenger a year.

On September 11th, we learned just how efficiently our 15,000 air traffic controllers and 6,000 technicians do their jobs. On that fateful day, at 9:45 a.m., the Department of Transportation gave the order to ground all aircraft in U.S. airspace immediately—an operation that controllers and technicians had neither been trained nor tested to accomplish. Within the space of two hours, the FAA's air traffic controllers safely landed 4,482 aircraft; 3,195 commercial, 1,122 general aviation, and 165 military—without one operational error.

Following September 11th, our FAA technicians worked with the Department of Defense to staff Long Range Radar sites throughout the country as well as to provide additional radar surveillance data and voice communication capability to the military in support of "Homeland Defense." The dedication and professionalism of all of our highly skilled government employees is unparalleled.

Operation of ATC requires the cooperative, coordinated efforts of many divisions in FAA including those responsible for ATC services, facilities and equipment, safety certification and regulation, airport development, research and development and law. All of these divisions are required by law to have safety as their highest priority.

Any plan to privatize or corporatize the ATC system contemplates that system users, principally the airlines, will be saddled with a fee structure to pay for the corporation. This means that the ATC system will be an expense for airlines, affecting their profit and loss. At the same time, airlines will play a role in setting policies for the new corporation and deciding how much the corporation will spend, and, very likely, deciding who will be winners, and who will be losers.

Do we really want to have a relationship between airline profitability and ATC spending and other decisions affecting safety or security? To be blunt, when airline profit margins start to influence ATC practices, the safety margin may be eroded, and that would not serve the public interest.

One of the main justifications advanced in support of an ATC corporation is that it would produce a system that is more responsive to airline concerns and would reduce airline costs. However, two of the most prominent

countries that have privatized their ATC systems—Great Britain and Canada have had numerous problems. Both countries' systems are financially distressed and suffering from performance setbacks. The perceived gains by privatizing the ATC systems in these countries—lower fees and increased efficiency—have actually translated into higher fees, numerous flight cancellations, delays, and very recently, a \$250 million bailout of no privatized company by the British government. This is not a model that the U.S. wants to emulate.

In the existing ATC system, the FAA and the Congress make decisions on safety issues in the overall best public interest, with input from system users. If there is any move towards privatization or some form of government corporation, how will the public be assured that ATC operations will be managed with a primary goal of protecting the interest of airline passengers and ensuring safety and security?

The basic question that needs to be asked is whether we should risk the uncertainties of creating a new system to promote ATC safety and security when we already have in place a system with an outstanding safety record. The answer is simple: No.

That is why we must act now to halt any efforts to privatize or corporatize our nation's air traffic system functions. This bill prohibits the Department of Transportation from authorizing the conversion of any FAA facilities, or the outsourcing of any work currently performed by FAA employees (including air traffic controllers, systems specialists, and flight service station employees), in the ATC system to private or public entities other than the U.S. government. Importantly, however, this bill would not impact the contract tower program, the safety benefits of which have been well documented.

This bill would guarantee the continued integrity of our nation's air traffic control system. I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CRAIG SWALLOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Craig Swallow, of the Green Valley High School. Mr. Swallow has been selected as a Semifinalist of the National Council of Economic Education (NCEE)/Nasdaq National Teaching Awards. This achievement recognizes high school teachers for their originality, creativity, and effectiveness in furthering students' awareness of financial markets, the process of capital formation, principles of investment, personal finance, entrepreneurship, and the operation of market economies.

This recognition, and Mr. Swallow's place among the twenty finest high school educators in this field, gives credit not only to this fine teacher's outstanding capabilities, but also his dedication, in equipping his students for success in a highly-competitive, economically-complex professional environment. This achievement demonstrates Green Valley High School's commitment to provide our students with the comprehensive and rigorous curricula

that will ensure the achievement of their future goals.

Mr. Swallow's teaching abilities are an example to all parents, teachers, and students. By gaining this prestigious professional accolade, Mr. Swallow becomes an example of the potential towards which all teachers can strive as they impart the most beneficial forms of knowledge to our children. I am proud to represent teachers like Mr. Swallow, whose dedication and knowledge, guarantee the future success of Green Valley High School, Henderson, Clark County, and all of Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA—A 21ST CENTURY ANTHEM

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a truly stirring song, "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem." Written by Ann Miller and performed by her son, Ted Maliaris—both from South Florida—this song serves as an inspiration for all Americans during the war on terrorism.

"A Tribute to America" was written with the hopes of uniting the country after the attacks on September 11, 2001. The purpose of the song was to heal the emotional wounds received that September day. The song continues to accomplish just that.

From Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner" during the War of 1812 to Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" during World War I, history provides examples of how music contributes to the steadfastness of America in the face of adversity. Even as we sang "God Bless America" on the Capitol steps just one day after the terrorist attacks, the United States regained its resolve to defeat terrorism wherever it rears its ugly head.

Please join me in recognizing the help that "A Tribute to America" has given in the healing process, and in thanking Ann Miller and Ted Maliaris for providing "A Tribute to America."

UNIVERSAL SERVICE

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, just as railroads brought prosperity to small towns in rural America during the Industrial Revolution, glass fibers and silicon wafers are driving today's Information Age. Data is the commodity in this new economic revolution, and it can travel at the speed of light.

Through E-commerce, rural America can again be revitalized. But this train is bypassing some parts of the country, especially rural areas—some of which I represent. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must favor policies that foster real competition and promote consumer choice, not bureaucracy and regulation. FCC policies should not create disincentives for companies to deploy new fiber solely because they may have more resources and greater expertise than some of

their competitors. Such policies breach the basic principles of the free market: that true competition naturally encourages development of cheaper services and better technologies. True competition can never exist if regulators insist on creating competitive parity in the industry at the expense of advancing technology.

Mr. Speaker, as we examine the development and deployment of high-speed communications technologies, we must ensure the existence of true competition, we must restore consumer driven integrity to the market, and we must not stifle progress.

IN RECOGNITION OF KYRIAKI S. CHRISTODOULOU AND THE WOMEN'S ISSUES NETWORK OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Women's Issues Network (WIN) of the Pancyprian Association of America on the occasion of their annual dinner dance. An outstanding community service organization in my district, WIN is dedicated to the education, health, and a better quality of life for the Astoria community. This year they will be honoring Kyriaki S. Christodoulou, for her invaluable service and commitment to the community.

Kyriaki S. Christodoulou was born in Klirou and raised in the suburb of Agios Dometios, Nicosia, the second of four children of the Christodoulou family. Ms. Christodoulou's, parents instilled in her and her siblings the value of education and hard work. Ms. Christodoulou and her siblings attended the Grammar School (Gregoriou) in Nicosia, now under occupation. During her high school years, she was very active in the Debating and Literary Societies and was twice awarded for here creative writing by the Pancyprian Youth Artistic Group (KLON). Following the invasion in 1974, she came to the United States to further her education.

Ms. Christodoulou attended Hunter College and earned a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a Master of Science in Social Research. During her studies, Ms. Christodoulou worked with a variety of international organizations including the Consulate General of Cyprus in New York, the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations, the International Labor Organization Liaison Office in New York, the United Nations Division of Palestinian Rights, the Greek Tourism Organization and the National League for Nursing.

Since 1993, she has directed the Cyprus Children's Fund, a not-for-profit organization established in 1974 following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus to aid enclaved and needy Cypriot children. The Cyprus Children's Fund also administers annual scholarship awards.

Ms. Christodoulou's spirit of volunteerism has led her to active participation in several community organizations. She has held the positions of General Secretary for the Pancyprian Association Dancing Division, the Pancyprian Association Women's Issues Network (WIN), and the Panaphian Association

of America. She served a 4-year term as the General Secretary of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization representing Greek Cypriot associations and brotherhoods throughout the United States.

In addition, Ms. Christodoulou, who has a 14-year-old son, was President of the Parent-Teacher Association of the Greek Afternoon School of St. Demetrios and is currently serving on the School Board of the St. Demetrios Greek American School.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christodoulou and the Pancyprian Association's Women's Issues Network, for their passion and commitment to the betterment of the Astoria community.

TRIBUTE TO THE PLEASANTON
RAGE UNDER-12 GIRLS SOCCER
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a very talented group of young women in California's 11th District. The Pleasanton Rage Soccer Team has won the 2003 Under 12 Girls Cal-North Snickers State Cup Championship and will now advance to the Far West Regional Championship in Hawaii this June.

On the afternoon of Sunday March 2, 2003, the Rage beat the Bay Oak Bombers of Alameda 2 to 1 in the final game of the championship at Lucchesi Field in Petaluma, California.

This is the first time in 13 years that an Under-12 girl's soccer team from Pleasanton has won this title of State Cup Champions.

The team of 16 girls has been working extremely hard—training three days a week since last July and attending tournaments to prepare them for this prestigious title. In January, the team played their first round of games for the State Cup Tournament in Morgan Hill, California. They played against teams from a pool of 51 in their age group from clubs in the Cal North district which stretches as far south as Bakersfield and all the way to the Oregon border in the north. Through their first six games in the State Cup Tournament, they shut out every opponent. They entered the finals with an amazing record of 17 goals for and 0 goals against.

Impressively the only goal they gave up came in the first minutes of the Championship game on a penalty shot. After adjusting to the artificial grass surface, the Rage came back to seal the win with 2 consecutive goals for the biggest win of their lives.

Each player was given a 1st place medal and the team was awarded a large trophy for their accomplishment. Parents were on hand to give out Hawaiian leis while many fans with blue and white hair and face paint were there to show their support of this amazing young Rage team. The Pleasanton Rage Girls U-12 team is currently ranked #1 in the State and #12 in the Nation.

They have earned the right to represent California in the Far West Regional in Hawaii from June 23–June 28th, 2003. In the week

long tournament they will compete against teams from Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado.

The Championship Rage players are Michelle Avendano, Krista Bormann, Sammy Cloutier, Marisa Fraticelli, Tanya Hanson, Stacey Hildebrand, Claire Kennedy, Olivia Klei, Ashley Loughmiller, Amanda Luxford, Ashlyn Mazur, Rachael McGlinchy, Sophie Metz, Carlee Payne, Katie Voss, and Kim Zetterlund. They are coached by Gary Oetman and Paul Ratcliffe and trained by Phillippe Blin.

The team is to be congratulated for their remarkable performance and provided with the best wishes of everyone in California's 11th District as they continue to compete at the national level.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act became law, and the United States affirmed its friendship with the people of Taiwan.

That friendship remains a cornerstone of America's vision for a free, secure, and prosperous Asia at peace with itself and the community of nations.

The TRA requires the United States to provide Taiwan sufficient arms to defend herself and demands a peaceful resolution to its dispute with Beijing.

Under the TRA, the Taiwanese are assured the United States will not allow bullying or blackmail across the Taiwan Strait.

Today, its 24th anniversary, this historic legislation is even more relevant than at its enactment.

Though Taiwan is one of America's largest trading partners, our friendship is much deeper than an economic partnership. Our two nations are bound by common values of self-determination, freedom, and economic opportunity.

We are also bound by a common resistance to the efforts of any regime to repress man's God-given human rights.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," Thomas Jefferson said.

Free men and women in Taiwan, whose neighbors on the mainland suffer under the boot-heel of Communist tyranny, have no choice but to live that sentiment every day.

Taiwan is a free nation, and must remain so. Her open and tolerant society should be seen by Beijing not as a threat, but a model for progress.

I have traveled to Taiwan several times. Anyone who has can tell you it is home to a vibrant, modern nation of free and prosperous people, grateful for America's friendship.

It is now our responsibility to ensure that friendship grows even stronger. Our responsibility in such times is no less than to ensure the security of free men everywhere in the world.

The House of Representatives understands this responsibility, and has affirmed its support for Taiwan numerous times since TRA, including in its overwhelming passage of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act in February, 2000.

So, too, does the President. He has made it clear the United States will do whatever it takes to defend Taiwan. His Administration has provided Taiwan with essential weapons systems and continues to expand our economic partnership. The House will continue to work with the Administration to ensure Taiwan's security.

For 24 years, the United States has cultivated a relationship with Taiwan, whose roots run to the core of our shared love of liberty. Against the harsh winds of despotism, that relationship has bloomed, and through the eternal vigilance of our two nations, billions will one day enjoy its fruit.

HONORING FORMER PRISONERS-
OF-WAR

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

As others have said, America's former POWs are national heroes. Their service to our country placed them in dangerous situations and led to their capture and imprisonment.

Many suffered brutally at the hands of their captives. Many died.

During this time of hostilities in Iraq, we particularly remember the service members held prisoners there and ask for their humane treatment as we seek their immediate release. We also ask for an accounting of all the missing.

We take great pride in the successful rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch. We hope for her swift recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we shall never forget the tens of thousands of Americans who endured the hardship of enemy confinement—individuals like Bob Brigham of Torrance, California.

An Army private during World War II, Mr. Brigham was captured by the Nazis July 27, 1944 at St. Lo, France.

Nine months to the day, he was liberated from the camp at Memmingen, Germany, but not after hard labor digging air raid shelters under the camps railroad tracks.

Brian Ward of San Pedro was captured by the North Vietnamese when his F-4 bomber was shot down 2 days after Christmas 1972 while on a combat mission northeast of Hanoi.

Both he and his pilot suffered broken arms and back injuries as a result of their ejection. They were immediately captured, stripped of everything but their underwear, and transported to the "Hanoi Hilton". Two weeks later, they were transferred to a prison known as the "Zoo" a few miles southeast of Hanoi.

Mr. Ward was returned to the United States on March 29, 1973 as the next-to-last prisoner released from Hanoi.

There are other former POWs among the residents of my District. I salute them all. Their physical and emotional scars remain a reminder of the high price of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in remembering those whose fate in time of war remains unknown.

While patriotic ceremonies and speeches will commemorate this day, for the families of the missing, the war is never over. Their loved

ones are still unaccounted for. Their hearts have a very big hole that will never be filled.

The POW/MIA flag is posted in my federal offices and on the wall behind my desk. I am proud of the role I played in authoring legislation to require that flag to be flown at federal facilities on patriotic holidays.

POW families will not forget their loved ones. Nor will this Nation. Wherever it takes us, for as long as it takes us, we will work to bring them home.

REMEMBERING OUR FORMER
PRISONERS OF WAR

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here tonight to commemorate "National Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day."

Sacrifice. It's a word we all know. All of us have made some sacrifices in our lives. We make sacrifices for our family, for our close friends, even for our neighbors and coworkers.

Anyone who has ever served or is serving in our Armed Forces knows that military life requires many sacrifices. Over one million Americans have given their lives, the ultimate sacrifice, while serving in our nation's Armed Forces.

Throughout history, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have risked their lives. They have done so not merely for family or coworkers, but for a cause represented by the American flag—the freedom to choose and the liberty to succeed.

But no one knows the meaning of sacrifice better than America's former prisoners of war. All those who have been POWs know the true meaning of freedom. They have paid a tremendous price for the liberty we all cherish. Their service and sacrifice, and that of their fellow veterans, make our way of life possible.

Throughout the history of the United States, more than 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner. Each of these courageous men and women has experienced horrors unimaginable in the annals of civilized existence. Most have endured long-term deprivation of freedom and the loss of human dignity. Today, many continue to experience prolonged battles with various illnesses and other disabilities.

There are no words to adequately describe the sacrifices made by our former POWs. Humble words can never repay the debt we owe these brave men and women. However, special days like today provide us with the opportunity to reflect upon the terror that these great Americans endured in service to their country.

While we can never fully comprehend the suffering they experienced, we must respect their unwavering dedication to life. Without question, American POWs have demonstrated an unflinching devotion to duty, honor and country.

Their service helped preserve our freedom through two world wars and regional conflicts of the cold war era. Our former prisoners of war have given more than most Americans will be called upon to give for their country.

As we honor our former POWs tonight, we are reminded of our current prisoners of war being held in Iraq. We pray for their safe return and are working to secure their freedom.

"Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day" serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifice and commitment of all the American men and women whose patriotism has been tested by the chains of enemy captivity.

Their experiences underscore our debt to those who place their lives in harm's way and stand willing to trade their liberty for ours. As a nation, we must always remember the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING
SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN CUBA COM-
MITTED BY CASTRO REGIME

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Resolution condemning the arrest of Cuban political dissidents.

As the United States and the world's attention is focused on Iraq, Fidel Castro and his regime in Cuba have abruptly ended a perceived period of leniency and burgeoning democracy, by undertaking one of the harshest crackdowns against internal dissent. If the Castro regime believes that the arrest and conviction of 80 political dissidents in "kangaroo courts" for daring to advocate free speech and other rights for the people of Cuba will be ignored by the United States, Castro is greatly mistaken. My colleagues and I in the U.S. Congress have spoken in a unified voice condemning the unwarranted arrests of Cuban dissidents, and we will continue to aid Cuban people in gaining the basic human rights.

One individual to be tried in the "summary trials" which bear little semblance of justice is Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, a physician who has first-hand knowledge of Cuban prisons for his activism on behalf of human rights. In February 2000, he was imprisoned and tortured for hanging the Cuban flag upside down, an undeniable act of non-violent civil disobedience. Dr. Biscet's freedom in October 2002 was short-lived and within months, this supporter of Dr. King's and Thoreau's peaceful methods of political change, has again been arrested for political dissidence and now faces life imprisonment under the draconian "Law 91."

Sharing in Dr. Biscet's good intentions, and sadly his fate of imprisonment, is Raul Ramon Rivero, an independent journalist and leader of the Cuban newspaper service. He is another nonviolent activist who was arrested on preposterous charges and sentenced to 20 years in prison for the simple possession of a Sony tape recorder and a Samsung computer, universal tools for most reporters. As numerous members of the Cuba Society of Independent Journalists like Rivero have been arrested and imprisoned, information emanated to the Cuban people has been severely limited.

Marta Beatriz Roque, a Cuban economist, also faces 20 years in prison for political dissent. The Castro regime arrested Ms. Roque, and other economists like her, for speaking the truth about the failings of the Cuban com-

munist economy. As was true with the historically similar failing Soviet economy, Castro's silencing of all economic criticism will not prevent the Cuban people from knowing the reality of their impoverished economic situation.

Castro's arrest of these and other political dissidents, many of whom signed the "Joint Statement" highlighting the regime's failures, is a Stalinist tactic aimed at stifling popular unrest. This joint statement, published on March 9, 2003, reiterated the well-known facts that the regime refuses to "respect the internationally recognized human rights or accept the existence of legitimate political opposition." Castro's harsh tactics will only stall the inevitable, the establishment of a free and democratic Cuba. The people of Cuba are impoverished and oppressed, and they are no longer swayed by Castro's empty rhetoric of helping "the people."

Dr. Biscet's, Rivero's, and Roque's passion for democracy and human rights for the people of Cuba is both inspiring and contagious, and this is what Castro fears most. The tides are turning against the Castro regime. His recent assaults on his own people epitomize Castro's true nature, his inability to ever be anything other than a fear-driven, totalitarian despot. These arrests and amplified oppression stress his anxiety and his desperate attempts to maintain power. Only the strong and the courageous can affect change, and we in the United States will continue to stand with those who strive to bring freedom to Cuba.

HONORING THE DILLARD HIGH
SCHOOL BOYS, SOUTH BROWARD
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, AND DEER-
FIELD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS ON
THE OCCASION OF WINNING
THEIR RESPECTIVE FLORIDA
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-
SHIPS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to give national recognition to three phenomenal high school basketball programs in my district. The Dillard High School Boys and South Broward High School Girls Basketball Teams have accomplished what many would consider a miraculous feat: each school has won four consecutive Florida state basketball championships. The Deerfield Beach High School Girls Basketball Team is also to be honored for winning Florida's 2003 Class 6A Championship, the largest division in Florida high school sports.

We often associate good coaching with star athletes and great strategy. However, Darryl Burrows and Abby Ward, Dillard and South Broward High Schools' respective coaches, have shown much more than an ability to outwit the competition. Their teams have continually dominated the competition, and each team is considered one of the best in the country.

Additionally, Everett Jackson, Deerfield Beach High's coach, lead a team that overcame many obstacles in route to one of Florida's most prestigious high school championships. He and his players too are to be commended for a job well done.

Great high school sports programs promote character and leadership. The great accomplishments of these fine programs instill pride in their students and the entire South Florida community. Most importantly, these young student-athletes will carry with them the knowledge that they are champions, and they can be victorious over any challenge that life brings their way.

I submit for the RECORD the names of the coaches, principals, and athletes so that their incredible accomplishments will forever be documented by this body.

Dillard High School, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 6A Boys Basketball Championship, Principal, Rayfield Henderson, Coach, Darryl Burrows, Chris Johnson, Kevin Thomas, Johnny Williams, Marcus Edward, Joe McCray, Vincent Mosley, Micheal Reddick, Jermaine Haynes, Chris Rawls, Jimmy Tobias, Louis Holmes, Lavell Payne, Marcus Allen, Pat Sims, and Renarko Cunningham.

Deerfield High School, Deerfield Beach, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 6A Girls Basketball Championship, Principal, Kathleen Martinez, Coach, Everett Jackson, Kendra Goodley, Charnika Foster, Shuteamia Brayboy, Cristal Randolph, Chytearra Kintchen, Princess Stewart, Lakeena Gillion, Jessica Brown, Virginia Gregoire, Veronica Randolph, Kentrina Wilson, Ju'Erica Overstreet, Monteza Hepburn, and Chalice McMillian.

South Broward High School, Hollywood, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 5A Girls Basketball Championship, Principal, Steven Pomerantz, Coach, Abby Ward, Julia Noga, Domonique Thomas, Alysha Harvin, Keunta Miles, Brittany Washington, LaShaunda Slade, Krystle Stanley, Tonya Holmes, LaQuetta Ferguson, and Lamese James.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE JESSICA LYNCH ON NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's heroes on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

The holiday is all the more poignant this year. This year the world celebrated the rescue of POW Private Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital. This brave West Virginia woman fought capture as she watched her comrades die next to her. West Virginians are especially proud of the rescue of one of our own and proud of the troops, including some of West Virginia's own National Guard, who were involved in her return. This was a truly remarkable moment for West Virginia's service men and women.

We may never know all the details of the ordeal Private Lynch endured while held in Iraqi captivity. Like so many POWs before her, not only are there physical wounds to heal but mental and spiritual. As Americans, it is our duty to welcome back these heroes who fought for our freedom. We must give all of our returned POWs the support they require and deserve and share with them our pride in their sacrifice to the Nation. We give thanks to God for the return of our POWs and ask Him to watch over our soldiers and our Nation.

REMEMBERING IAN D.W. SUTHERLAND, LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES (RETIRED)

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, this week, as we watch the events unfolding in Operation Iraqi Freedom, our hearts go out—not just to the Iraqi people who we are liberating from tyranny and oppression—but to our dear brave friends, the men and women in uniform serving in the American Armed Forces.

The men and women of our Armed Forces have been on the front lines in Operation Iraqi Freedom and other conflicts throughout our country's history. Some of these men and women are easy to see. They are on television, in newspapers and some have even called in to talk to radio reporters about the latest happenings on the battlefield.

Others are not so easy to see, but their work does not go unnoticed. They are the Special Forces. This week, in Missouri's Boonville one of our own retired Special Forces was lost.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ian D.W. Sutherland passed away after a skydiving accident. Lt. Col. Sutherland was a longtime resident and friend to many in the Cape Girardeau County area. Raised in Tennessee, Lt. Col. Sutherland entered the U.S. Army in 1951. During his military career he was a member of the Old Guard—the Army ceremonial unit—and participated in the state funerals of President John F. Kennedy and Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

He served three tours of duty in Vietnam, was associated with the 82nd Airborne Division (Green Berets), and was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel from the Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. His service was recognized by many. He was the recipient of many awards including the Silver Star, two Legion of Merits, and five Bronze Stars.

But when he retired, he didn't simply sit back and enjoy watching life. Instead, he went on to law school and furthered his lifelong career in public service by serving as an assistant prosecuting attorney. At the time of his death, he was the First Assistant prosecuting attorney in Cape Girardeau County. In a 15-year career as a trial lawyer, he prosecuted thousands of cases and tried 123 jury trials.

Mr. Speaker, even though Lt. Col. Sutherland is no longer here, his work, his commitment and his love of God, country and service continue. And like so many who came before him and those who follow after, he served his country with distinction and honor—and that is how we in Missouri will always remember him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2003

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1712, the "Veterans Federal Pro-

curement Opportunity Act of 2003." This bill provides numerous checks and balances to assure that veteran small business owners receive appropriate consideration when pursuing Federal contracts. This measure also provides the mechanisms to achieve goals for awarding federal contracts to specified small business concerns already established by Congress. It further establishes a Development Program for Small Business Concerns Owned and Controlled by Qualified Service-Disabled Veterans; provides for a 3% Federal procurement participation goal for veteran-owned small businesses; increases the Government-wide Federal small business participation goal from 23 to 28 percent; eliminates double counting of small business categories; credits both prime contracts awarded to small businesses and applicable small business subcontracts awarded by prime contractors towards the achievement of an agency's small business participation goals; provides for a penalty to be assessed to prime contractors who fail to utilize small business firms outlined in subcontracting plans subsequent to a contract award; provides a restriction on the use of funds by an agency in the subsequent year after failing to meet its small business subcontracting goals; authorizes the appropriation of \$1 million annually for the National Veterans Business Development Corporation in fiscal years 2005 and 2006, and extends authorization for the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs through September 30, 2009.

Like our veterans of prior wars, our men and women in uniform have fought with courage and honor during the war to win freedom for the people of Iraq. As we have witnessed our servicemen and women prosecute Iraqi Freedom, we have watched our best and bravest confront the horrors of war to defeat the forces of evil. As a nation we are grateful and the men and women who so unselfishly serve this nation in our Armed Forces. We are thankful not only for today's soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, but for the veterans who have blazed the trail before.

Our servicemen and women have given much to this nation. We, in turn, as a nation have a profound obligation to them. We must provide the medical care our veterans need as well as promptly adjudicate their claims for service-connected disability. In addition, we should provide those veterans who elect to begin a business of their own with an opportunity to do so upon their return to civilian life. Our veterans have much to contribute to this nation following their service in uniform to this country. The time veterans have spent in service to this country, however, has competitively disadvantaged them in the marketplace relative to those not sacrificing a break in their careers in service to this country.

Veterans who have been inflicted with service-connected disabilities are placed at an even higher disadvantage. Service-disabled veterans may not be readily accepted into traditional employment, or their disabilities may be such that they are unable to adapt to a traditional 9-5 job. Despite their disabilities, these veterans continue to be both creative and innovative, and have much to contribute to this nation's productive capacity—"We owe them this chance!"

Our nation has not achieved its goals for contracting with requisite categories of small business concerns. For federal contracting

with service disabled veteran business owners, Congress established a goal of three percent, but this goal has not been achieved. Actual performance is much less. In fact, our government has not even achieved one-tenth of the goal for contracting with service disabled veteran business owners. For most other procurement categories, such as women owned businesses, the prescribed goal has also been missed. The checks and balances in H.R. 1712 provide both the mechanisms and the incentive to achieve small business contracting goals. They are very fair. They will provide the means to achieve the federal procurement goals Congress has established.

I urge my colleagues to help this nation actually achieve the goals established by Congress—in the process, you will be helping our veterans as they return home.

IN MEMORY OF LORI ANN
PIESTEWA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I rise to remember the life and sacrifices of Private First Class, Lori Ann Piestewa of the United States Army. Lori was a member of the 507th Maintenance Division working near Nasiriya, when her convoy made a wrong turn and was ambushed. Lori lost her life along with eight other American soldiers in the same incident. Lori became the first Native American woman to die in combat.

Lori was a dedicated mother of two young children, and leaves behind a closely knit group of family and friends in the Hopi Indian community in Tuba City, Arizona. Lori was a source of enormous pride for her family and the larger Hopi community.

Native Americans have a long and proud history in the United States military, with 12,000 currently serving. Hopi leadership has reported that approximately 56 tribe members are in the military, with an astonishing 48 now on active duty in the gulf region. Hopi/Arizona Tewa enrolled tribe members face many hardships: unemployment hovers near 27% and of the employed less than 40% have full-time jobs. Moreover, nearly 57% of Hopi tribe members live below the poverty line, with only small percentages of the Hopi population in need receiving public assistance or welfare resources.

Lori's children and family should know that in sacrificing her life for our nation in this war, she has become a great source of pride for all Americans, but particularly those of us who have served or who have family members who have served in this nation's armed forces. Lori will also stand as a symbol and poignant reminder of the many hardships and tremendous sacrifices that Native Americans in this nation continue to make for our country.

CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP BURTON
1926–1983

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize and remember Congressman Phillip Burton on this 20th anniversary of his death. Congressman Burton was a tenacious fighter for the poor, the workers, the elderly and all people who lacked a strong voice to defend their lives and dignity. Moreover, he worked tirelessly for the preservation of wilderness and parks throughout the country. In doing so, he mirrored his concern for underrepresented people by protecting the often forgotten urban parks as well as the more pristine areas. Appropriately, Congressman Burton's remains are interred in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area of San Francisco, one of the crown jewels of our vital urban parks system. If Congressman Burton were still with us, I imagine that he would be dismayed that the very environmental laws he struggled, and succeeded, to enact are now under constant and short-sighted attack in Congress. I also know that rather than give in to the forces of destruction, he would be fighting harder than ever to protect our lands, our health and our people. I hope that we have the courage and the conviction to carry on the great and noble legacy of Congressman Phillip Burton.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ARTHUR C.
GUYTON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi lost a research treasure last week with the passing of Dr. Arthur C. Guyton. His is a legacy of medical excellence going beyond Mississippi and beyond America to be recognized internationally for his gifts to science and education.

He began his life in Oxford, Mississippi, on September 8, 1919, born to the late Dr. and Mrs. Billy S. Guyton. His father—an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist—was also dean of the two-year medical school on the Oxford campus. His mother, Kate, had taught mathematics and physics as a missionary in China.

He graduated from University High School with the highest academic average in his class and entered Ole Miss in 1936, completed his undergraduate work in three years, and again graduated at the top of his class.

As a medical student at Harvard, his idea of creating a way to measure and differentiate ions in solutions resulted in a professor turning over an entire lab to the promising young scientist. His senior year in medical school, he and his future wife Ruth Weigle began a serious courtship which culminated in marriage on June 12, 1943.

He began a surgical internship at Massachusetts General Hospital shortly after his marriage. His training was interrupted by a call to serve in the US Navy at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and later at Camp

Detrick, Maryland, where his work earned him an Army Commendation Citation.

After World War II ended, he returned to Massachusetts General to complete his residency. Less than a year later, he was stricken with polio which would leave his right leg and shoulder paralyzed.

During a nine-month recovery at Warm Springs, Georgia, he designed a special leg brace, a hoist for moving patients from bed to chair to bathtub, and a motorized wheelchair controlled by an electric "joy stick." For these devices, he later received the U.S. Presidential Citation for the Development of Aids for the Handicapped in 1956.

In 1947, the Guytons moved back to Oxford where he taught pharmacology in the two year medical school. In 1948, he was named chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Modern research on and treatments of hypertension stand on the early work of Dr. Guyton. In the 50s, he described the "permissive" heart to explain cardiac output. The heart would pump only what was delivered to it through the veins. When body tissues need extra blood flow to carry required oxygen and other nutrients, the blood vessels in those tissues expand or dilate, to allow increased flow. The control of cardiac output, he decided, was vested in the periphery. This completely overturned the conventional wisdom that the heart itself controlled cardiac output.

A little later, he succeeded in measuring the pressure of the interstitium, the fluid between cells which makes up about one-sixth of the body. No one had been able to measure it before, and few scientists were ready to accept Dr. Guyton's finding of a negative, or sub-atmospheric, pressure. In 1966, an early computer model gave Dr. Guyton the answer to the question he'd been asking since he was a medical student. He wanted to show the effect of an increase in fluid volume and had predicted that the extra volume would cause an initial rise in pressure which would then fall back part way toward normal. That didn't happen. The pressure fell all the way back to normal. This led to the "infinite gain" theory which said that fluid volume control by the kidney can be so powerful as a longterm regulator of blood pressure that other systems can only regulate pressure short-term and will eventually be overpowered by the key controller. These revolutionary theories flew in the face of conventional wisdom, but time and the research of thousands, has vindicated Dr. Guyton.

His now famous and widely used textbook, *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, had its beginnings in Oxford. He decided that the text the students were using was unsatisfactory, and he began reading in diverse areas of physiology. In summarizing his reading, he wrote handouts for each section of the course and realized he had the core of a complete textbook. In the decades since, it has become the best selling physiology text in the world and quite possibly the most widely used medical textbook of any kind. In addition he has published hundreds of papers sharing the results of his research. And yet he always had time for students—for the medical students who had trouble understanding a portion of their lecture and for the graduate students who came from all over the world to study with the famous Dr. Guyton.

The legacy of Arthur Guyton goes beyond his contributions to science and mankind. He

and his wife reared ten children, all doctors: Dr. David L. Guyton, Professor of Ophthalmology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Dr. Robert A. Guyton, Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Cardiothoracic Division, Emory University, School of Medicine; Dr. John R. Guyton, Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University; Dr. Steven W. Guyton, cardiothoracic surgeon at Virginia Mason Clinic, Seattle; Dr. Cathy Greenberger, internist in Boston, Massachusetts; Dr. Jean Gispén, rheumatologist in Oxford, Mississippi; Dr. Douglas C. Guyton, anesthesiologist in Phoenix, Arizona; Dr. James L. Guyton, orthopedic surgeon at Campbell's Clinic in Memphis, Tennessee; Dr. Thomas S. Guyton, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Florida School of Medicine, Gainesville; and Dr. Gregory P. Guyton, resident in orthopedics at University of Iowa School of Medicine.

Over the past six decades, medical science has recognized the contributions of Arthur C. Guyton. Today, we mourn his passing but salute his many accomplishments. He is a Mississippi success story: born and educated in Mississippi, he returned to the Magnolia State to teach and research. The impact of Dr. Guyton's work on the present and future of Mississippi's health care community is immeasurable. Arthur Guyton was a blessing to Mississippi. He will be missed; but he will be remembered.

RECOGNIZING GINNY SIMMS FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ginny Simms, a community activist in Napa, California who is being honored by the Napa Sierra Club and Get a Grip on Growth with the Second Annual Earl Thollander Environmental Award.

Since moving to Napa in 1955, Ms. Simms has had a tremendous impact on the community. Her first activities were with the American Association of University Women and in various community projects. In 1967 she served as Secretary of the county Grand Jury and the following year she was appointed to the Napa City Planning Commission.

She also developed a life long interest in environmental issues and was instrumental in creating Napans Opposing Wastelands, Inc., an advocacy group that commented on city and county growth proposals. One of the group's most visible contributions was the development of the county's first bike trail.

In 1972 she was elected to the County Board of Supervisors and served through 1977. During this time, the county's new General Plan was adopted that limited residential growth to urban areas. She was later involved in successful efforts to protect agricultural lands.

She has also served on the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District, the Napa Valley College Foundation and the Napa County Land Trust.

In addition to her many hours of civic activity, Ms. Simms has remained a devoted wife,

mother and grandmother. She and her husband, Warren, have two children, Wendy and Doug, and five grandchildren, Chris, Clare, Gregg, Dillon and Allie.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and acknowledge Ginny Simms for her many contributions and for her dedication to Napa County.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RE-NEWED EFFORT TO FIND PEACEFUL, JUST, AND LASTING SETTLEMENT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 165.

I want to thank my good friend DOUG BE-REUTER, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Europe for his leadership on keeping the issue of Cyprus on the table.

With so much focus on Iraq, it would be easy to forget about other true multilateral efforts to support peace and stability in the world.

Mr. Speaker, some may wonder why the issue of peacefully re-uniting Cyprus (a nation divided for nearly 30 years) is important for Americans and for the world?

For many Greek and Turkish-Americans this international issue is deeply personal because it directly affects loved ones.

In spite of the recent setback, Cyprus does represent one of the better examples of how America and Europe, working in cooperation, can help resolve international disputes.

While we share the disappointment that the United Nations-led effort to craft a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus was not successful, it does not change the fact, that the effort itself represents a shining example of how important and relevant the United Nations truly is to pursuing peace and stability in the world.

Mr. Speaker, for smaller nations in the world, which don't have strategically important resources, and live next to more powerful states, who have even more powerful allies, the United Nations and international law represents one of their only shields of defense, one of their best pillars of stability, and a means by which their voice is heard in the international community.

House Resolution 165 allows this Congress to say to Americans, the citizens of Cyprus, and the people of the world that we stand with all those who wish for a re-united Cyprus that is prosperous, democratic and stable; and that global cooperation remains the best path for peacefully making that wish come true.

THE WORLD'S OTHER TYRANTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, morally and politically it is essential that the

United States show that our concern for human rights is truly universal, and is not a concept to be invoked when convenient to provide cover for geopolitical motives. In the New York Times for Sunday, April 6, Aryeh Neier noted the unfortunate tendency of the world to focus on one or two major crises to the exclusion of terrible problems happening elsewhere. Specifically, he deplored the fact that war in Iraq has contributed to a situation in which outrageous human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, Cuba, and Belarus have failed to receive sufficient attention. It is true that recently we in the House took an appropriate step of condemning the oppression by Fidel Castro, but more needs to be done to focus world outrage on the abuses of freedom committed not only by Castro, but by the brutal dictators in Belarus and Zimbabwe. Because of the importance of maintaining our commitment to human rights as a broad and universal principle, I ask that Aryeh Neier's important article be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 6, 2003]

THE WORLD'S OTHER TYRANTS, STILL AT WORK

(By Aryeh Neier)

With international attention focused on Iraq, despots are seizing the opportunity to get rid of their opposition—real or imagined. In Zimbabwe, Cuba and Belarus, independent journalists, opposition leaders and human rights advocates have been thrown in prison. Absent scrutiny, the leaders of these rogue regimes have been emboldened, aware that their actions are causing little more than a ripple of protest beyond their countries.

The outside world has ignored Zimbabwe, which is holding critical parliamentary elections whose outcome could help determine whether President Robert Mugabe will be able to amend the Constitution and handpick his successor. Since the start of the war in Iraq, Mr. Mugabe has intensified a campaign of intimidation, arresting more than 500 democracy advocates and opposition leaders, including Gibson Sibanda, vice president of the main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change.

The campaign of state-sponsored violence is not limited to the opposition leaders in Zimbabwe. A worker on the farm of a opposition parliamentary deputy died of injuries after being beaten by Mr. Mugabe's security agents for participating in a two-day general strike. Other farm workers have also been beaten by men in army uniforms who claimed that the farms were being used as staging grounds for opposition activities. Hundreds of people accused of taking part in the strike were treated for broken bones in private clinics, fearing more reprisals if they sought care at public hospitals. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe, once a breadbasket for southern Africa, falls ever further into poverty and famine.

In Cuba, the war is giving Fidel Castro cover for an unprecedented assault. Over the past two weeks in state security agents have arrested about 80 dissidents. Prosecutors are seeking life sentences for 12 of those detained and 10- to 30-year prison terms for the rest. They include the economist Marta Beatriz Roque, the poet and journalist Raúl Rivero and the opposition labor activist Pedro Pablo Álvarez.

The list of arrests reads like a Who's Who of Cuban civil society—with the obvious exception of those who were already in jail when the roundup started. They are the unsung heroes of a movement to liberate the minds of Cuba. But the names do not mean much to a world public now concentrated on becoming more and more expert on the latest in military equipment and on the geography of Iraq.

In Minsk, the capital of Belarus, the authorities last week detained 50 opposition protesters who had gathered for the 85th anniversary of the declaration of the short-lived Belarusian Democratic Republic. On Thursday, demonstrators supporting the Iraq war—which President Aleksandr Lukashenko opposes—were arrested. It seems clear that Mr. Lukashenko, Europe's sole remaining dictator, is intent on tightening his grip on Belarus.

Sadly, Zimbabwe, Cuba and Belarus are not alone. Other countries have used the Iraq war to step up human rights abuses. Vietnam's most renowned dissident, Nguyen Dan Que, a 60-year-old writer who is a physician by training, was arrested late last month. Hardly anyone protested. In Egypt, hundreds of war protesters were detained, with dozens beaten and tortured. In Thailand, the government has justified what appear to be summary executions in the name of a war on drugs. At least 1,900 people have been killed, including innocent bystanders. These crack-downs, too, all passed with little notice or comment.

That dictators move in times of world crisis comes as no surprise. The Soviets crushed the Hungarian revolution in 1956 during the Suez crisis. In 1968, when the Johnson administration was preoccupied with Vietnam, and Germany and France as well as the United States were convulsed in antiwar demonstrations, the Soviets moved into Czechoslovakia.

In January 1991, just as today, the international community was focused on a war in Iraq. As the Persian Gulf war was starting, the Soviet Army took advantage of the internal community's inattention to crack down on an independence movement in Lithuania. More than 200 people were wounded and 15 killed as Moscow seized control of the television broadcast center in Vilnius.

If we let tyrants escape the international condemnation that is often the only way to protect their critics against abuses, the brutal campaigns in Zimbabwe, the clean sweep of dissidents in Cuba, and the arrests of demonstrators in Belarus may have to be added to the list of unintended consequences of the war in Iraq.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in May 2002, the Shan Women's Action Network and the Shan Human Rights Foundation issued a highly disturbing report entitled *License to Rape*. The State Department followed that report with further investigation into the issue.

I traveled to the Thai-Burma border in January of this year and heard further horrifying testimonies about Burmese military regime's use of systematic rape against ethnic minorities. In addition, refugees and others shared personal experiences about watching the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) soldiers kill their families or neighbors in front of them. One eight-year-old orphan I met saw both parents brutally murdered while he watched. Other refugees reported the SPDC's use of ethnic minorities, including women and young children, as human landmine sweepers and as forced labor.

These human rights abuses MUST be stopped.

To add further proof to the myriad reliable reports by both local and international non-

governmental organizations (NGOs), Refugees International recently released a report further documenting the SPDC military's use of rape as a weapon of war against ethnic women. The new report is entitled *No Safe Place: Burma's Army and the Rape of Ethnic Women*. *No Safe Place* documents the SPDC's use of rape against women from the Karen, Karenni, Mon, Tavoyan and Shan ethnic groups and indicates that the rapes are "a pattern of brutal abuse designed to control, terrorize, and harm ethnic nationality populations through their women."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter a portion of Refugees International's report into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you.

NO SAFE PLACE: BURMA'S ARMY AND THE RAPE OF ETHNIC WOMEN

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Refugees International recommends that:

The United Nations

The UN Commission on Human Rights condemn rape and other forms of sexual violence against ethnic women and girls by Burma's military in its annual resolution on the situation of human rights in Burma.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ensure that any investigation of rape and other forms of sexual violence inside Burma conducted by UN officials is done by experts on sexual violence, with guarantees of full access, complete and ongoing security for all witnesses and victims and a follow up mechanism to verify compliance.

UNHCR assist the Royal Thai Government in providing a safe environment for Burmese fleeing human rights abuses with a special emphasis on women and children.

The UNHCR insist that women and girls fleeing rape and other forms of sexual violence in Burma qualify for protection and assistance in Thailand.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women request a special periodic report from the State Peace and Development Council focusing on the constitutional, legal, administrative, military, and practical measures taken to eliminate rape and other forms of violence against women. The Committee should convene a special session to engage in dialogue with the SPDC about this special periodic report.

The Royal Thai Government (RTG)

The RTG recognize women and girls fleeing rape in Burma who seek refuge in Thailand as legitimate refugees who have a right to protection and assistance, and not as "illegal migrants."

The RTG ensure that Burmese survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence in Thailand, whether in camps or working as "migrants," receive critical physical and mental health services, especially focused on gender-based abuses.

The RTG cease the practice of repatriating or deporting asylum seekers without prior screening to ascertain whether they have valid claims for asylum.

The RTG adhere to the definition of "refugee" according to the 1951 Convention on the Status relating to Refugees and the 1967 protocol—a definition that has attained the level of customary international law—and should not create a new standard for determining when those seeking refuge are entitled to enter its borders.

The State Peace and Development Council

The SPDC stop all military buildup and begin demilitarizing the ethnic areas promptly.

The SPDC fulfill its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms

of Discrimination Against Women (CEDWA), which it ratified in 1998. This includes ceasing all practices and policies which discriminate against women, including violence against women.

The SPDC ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

The SPDC fulfill its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which it ratified in 1991, which prohibits gender-based violence against children.

Governments

Governments demand that the SPDC demilitarize ethnic areas.

Governments maintain economic sanctions and withhold overseas development and loan or debt assistance until significant improvements in the human rights situation, including a decrease in violence against women, is independently verified.

Governments continue to pressure the SPDC to engage in meaningful, substantive discussions with the National League of Democracy and representatives of ethnic nationalities.

NGOs and International Organizations

Organizations lend support to the international campaign to stop rape and other forms of sexual violence by the Burmese military through public statements and advocacy.

International organizations conducting research on rape, other forms of sexual violence and other human rights abuses coordinate with grassroots, indigenous organizations to ensure the comprehensive and safe collection of information.

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) seek to build the capacity of indigenous groups to document abuses perpetrated against their own communities.

Organizations increase efforts to reach and assist displaced populations with critical needs.

III. INTRODUCTION

"I have waited many years to tell you this story," one Karenni woman lamented as she told of witnessing her thirteen-year-old sister's rape and then described how the Burmese soldiers beat and attempted to rape her. She is just one of countless women from Burma's ethnic minority groups, sometimes known as ethnic nationalities, with a chilling tale of abuse at the hands of her country's army.

In June 2002, the Shan Human Rights Foundation and Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) released a report, *License to Rape*, documenting 625 cases of rape and sexual violence. The report began a movement to focus on Burma's use of rape as a weapon of war, while also highlighting the relentless, ongoing campaign of human rights abuses against Burma's ethnic minorities. Based on interviews conducted by indigenous women's and human rights groups, and compiled and written by indigenous women, *License to Rape* provided credible proof of the brutality of the Burmese army, in the voices of those very women affected most by the brutalities.

Following the release of this important report, the international community expressed unprecedented but long overdue outrage. The U.S. State Department declared its indignation at the phenomenon documented in the report and called for an international investigation, while sending its own investigator to the Thai/Burmese border; members of the U.S. Congress and officials from other governments publicly condemned the Burmese military's actions. Pressure for the United Nations to investigate the prevalence and systematic nature of the rapes grew until the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma raised the issue with Burma's military regime, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Various governmental

officials, NGOs, and UN personnel began talking about the possibility and logistics of an independent investigation. Meanwhile, in Thailand, the Royal Thai Government (RTG), concerned that such an outcry would jeopardize its policy of engagement with the SPDC, ordered those NGOs that participated in compiling the report to close their offices indefinitely.

Although License to Rape has received a notable amount of attention, the international community, including officials from various governments, suggested to Refugees International that additional evidence could assist in generating further action. It is important to ask why. Some suggested that a report about the experience of indigenous women, compiled by indigenous women, could not be objective. Others proposed that the report, written by a small, unknown group, was not credible enough.

The authors of this report reject those propositions. Few are as well-qualified to document and describe rape as those women from the brutalized communities. International advocacy without grassroots knowledge, participation, and decision-making is of extremely limited use. Consequently, the purpose of this report is not to "bolster" the claims contained in License to Rape. Rather, the purpose is both to support and build on the movement and activity generated by SWAN, and to expand the scope of understanding regarding the brutal phenomenon of rape in Burma to include a broader profile of ethnic nationalities. License to Rape documented the widespread use of rape against Shan ethnic women. Rape is not confined to Shan State or to Shan women. The Burmese military uses rape against many ethnic nationalities for the express purpose of brutalizing "insurgents," quashing ethnic dissent, and demoralizing and destroying ethnic communities.

Refugees International decided that our approach would be to broaden the scope of the Shan report by investigating the prevalence of the Burmese military's use of rape against other ethnic groups. RI's field mission focused the research on the Karen, Karenni, Mon, and Tavoyan ethnic groups. In applying our expertise in international advocacy on behalf of war-affected populations, RI sought to examine the extent of the use of rape against a variety of Burma's ethnic nationalities and determine if the abuses were widespread and/or systematic.

Karen, Karenni, Mon and Tavoyan women and men, as well as several Shan individuals, were courageous in sharing their personal stories and observations. From the 26 individuals interviewed, 43 rapes or attempted rapes were described, 23 of them confirmed by victim or witness testimony or physical evidence. Stories of rapes and other human rights abuses and the resulting mental and physical ailments dominated the interviews. Individuals still in pain from torture and beatings talked about the violations suffered by them and their families and friends. For many, the decision to leave Burma was clearly tied to the rape and other abuses they and their family members had experienced. One survivor spoke for many when she said, "To this day, I cannot sleep at night thinking about what happened." The time is ripe for the international community to hear their voices and take action.

SAN BENITO MARINE PFC. JUAN GARZA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier who grew up in San Benito, Texas: Marine PFC Juan Garza, who we learned yesterday was killed in action by sniper fire as his unit was taking and holding the Baghdad airport.

The price we are paying as a Nation is high in terms of loss of life in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Already, sons of South Texas have been killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, with another still unaccounted for in the Iraqi theatre. PFC Garza was the most recent loss for our community.

Garza, who served with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines Regiment, was killed Monday evening by enemy sniper fire while patrolling the Baghdad airport just outside the Iraqi Capital. His mother said he was shot in the chest and died instantly. PFC Garza was based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was an expert marksman and broke shooting range records there in boot camp.

PFC Garza was always a sportsman, competing in football and track. His friends and family remember him for his humor and his target practice. He always aspired to be in the military, and probably got the bug for service from watching the military movies he loved. He was also inspired to join the service by his grandfather, who served in the United States Army.

He grew up in San Benito, but moved to Michigan to live with his aunt and uncle. After graduating from Summerfield High School in Temperance, Mich., Garza enlisted in the Marines and was stationed at Camp Pendleton.

He loved his country and he loved the Marines. Like most people who join the service, he wanted to help people, to make the world a better place. The world is lonelier today without Juan in it, but the work he did will indeed make it a better place.

On the day after Christmas, 2002, he married his sweetheart, and was deployed to the Middle East the next day. This was a tragedy on so many levels. PFC Garza is survived by his young wife, Casey; his parents, Mary Ann and Juan Guadalupe Garza; his baby half-sister, Stephanie Rae Castillo; and his aunt, Jodi Bucher of Temperance, with whom he lived in Michigan.

I ask my colleagues to remember Juan Garza's family today, to pray for them as they absorb this enormous personal loss. I also ask that we all continue to pray for the safety of the men and women we have sent to do this dirty, difficult task of ridding Iraq of dangerous weapons of mass destruction.

ADDRESS OF DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI TO THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an excel-

lent speech given a few days ago by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, my colleague, friend and neighbor in California. Her address was given at the recent Conference here in Washington of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, an organization of Americans who see strong American ties with the State of Israel as a vital element in our nation's vital interest.

Mr. Speaker, Leader PELOSI's position on terrorism was clear and unequivocal: "There is no place in the civilized world for terrorism. Not now. Not ever. . . . No injustice, real or imagined, can ever justify, and no future can ever be built upon, the calculated slaughter of innocents." She was emphatic: "The world must never accept in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or Haifa what the world would not tolerate in London, Washington, New York, or San Francisco." These words must be the basis of our country's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Congresswoman PELOSI understands that peace cannot come through "lowering the threshold for the cessation of violence" and any roadmap for peace in the region must, in her words "be based on real change on the ground, not artificial dates on the calendar."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to read Congresswoman PELOSI's excellent address.

ADDRESS OF DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI TO THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Good morning. My, how this group has grown. Congratulations.

Cissie Swig, thank you so much, first for that warm introduction, but more importantly for your friendship and your mentioning of me over the years and for your leadership on so many issues. I cherish our friendship.

President Amy Friedkin, a dear friend for so many years. It has been wonderful to see Amy rise within your great organization, from the East Bay Federation and the Northern California chapter of AIPAC, all the way to become the national President.

I am thrilled that Amy is the first woman to be President of AIPAC. And with president-elect Bernice Manocherian, perhaps it is the beginning of a wonderful trend. I commend AIPAC for breaking down another barrier and leading America closer to the ideal of equality that is both our heritage and our hope.

Cissie and Amy will appreciate this story. My daughter is Catholic. My son-law is Jewish. Last week, I celebrated my birthday, and my grandchildren—ages four and six—called me to sing Happy Birthday. And the surprise, the real gift, was that they sang it in Hebrew.

I'm so pleased to be joined by three of my colleagues—Congressman Howard Berman of California, Congressman Sander Levin of Michigan, and Congressman Bob Matsui of California. All are strong supporters of Israel. Thank you to all the members of AIPAC, especially those who have traveled so far from California and the Bay Area. The special relationship between the United States and Israel is as strong as it is because of your fidelity to that partnership and the commitment of every person in this room today.

I am honored to be here to speak about something that can never be said enough: America's commitment to the safety and security of the State of Israel is unwavering.

Today, the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with our courageous forces in Iraq. Americans may have had our differences going into this war, but we are

united in support of our men and women in uniform.

Let me also say this: I absolutely condemn the statements or suggestions of those who seek to place responsibility for this conflict on the American-Jewish community. The Jewish community in America, like America itself, has been divided on whether to fight this war at this time. Any accusations to the contrary have no place in our discourse—public or private.

Today, Americans are seeing for themselves what I saw on my trip to the Persian Gulf in March and my previous visits with our troops at bases here at home. Our men and women in uniform are focused on their mission, enduring tremendous hardships, motivated by a profound love of country and prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice.

We pray for the swift and successful disarmament of Iraq with the least possible loss of life.

We pray that the end of this conflict will bring new hope for the people of Iraq. That starts by promoting a multilateral response to the potential refugee crisis along with a democratic government of, by and for the people of Iraq. We pray for the families who have lost a loved one. And we pray for the safe return of the missing, our prisoners of war, and all of our forces into the loving arms of their families.

Their noble service reminds us of our mission—to build a future worthy of their sacrifice.

That future begins with our commitment to the fundamental principles to which all people in all nations are entitled—freedom, security, peace and prosperity.

And in the Middle East, those principles rest upon a foundation that is as enduring as it is essential—the unbreakable bond of friendship between the United States of America and the State of Israel.

The United States stands with Israel because of our common history—two beacons founded on the ideals of liberty and justice, forged by pioneers, and fulfilled by immigrants in search of a better tomorrow.

The United States stands with Israel because of our common interests—our fundamental interest in the most basic of all rights: the right to exist, the right to live free from fear, the right to put our children on the school bus in the morning knowing they will come home safely in the afternoon.

Let there be no doubt—the United States of America stands with the State of Israel also because it is in our national interests to stand with the State of Israel.

I will never forget my first visit to Israel. From the moment one lands at Ben Gurion Airport, one appreciates what every Israeli knows—security is measured in miles and minutes.

From the Golan Heights, we could see Damascus just 40 miles away. Today, Syria's and Iran's bankrolling of terror and the development of weapons of mass destruction is a clear and present danger. Today, Israelis in the north live under the constant threat of Hezbollah's rockets just across the border in Lebanon.

Ben-Gurion's famous words remain true today: Israel is 'a small nation that has suffered much, but at the same time has won for itself a special place in the history of mankind because of its spirit, faith and vision.' And yet, 'we have a long thorny path ahead of us,' he said.

More than a half-century later, our challenge is the same: how can America and Israel together walk the long thorny path and preserve Israel as a special place in the history of mankind?

First and foremost, we must be unequivocal in our words and uncompromising in our deeds.

There is no place in the civilized world for terrorism. Not now. Not ever.

Our prayers go out to the people of Israel following this weekend's attack in Netanya.

No injustice, real or imagined, can ever justify, and no future can ever be built upon, the calculated slaughter of innocents.

Let there be no doubt: whether it is called Al Qaeda, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Hamas, or the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the murder of innocents is madness. It must stop. And it must stop immediately.

The world must never accept in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or Haifa what the world would not tolerate in London, Washington, New York or San Francisco.

Last spring, an overwhelming majority of Congress expressed our solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism and in reaffirming Israel's right to self-defense.

Second, we must ensure that Israel always has the tools and resources it needs to confront its security and economic challenges.

President Truman knew this 55 years ago when Israel was born, recognizing her just eleven minutes after independence. President Johnson knew this when Israel fought for her survival, supplying her with the tools to help win the Six Day War. And President Clinton knew this when Israel was ready to embrace peace—indeed, a peace of the brave—at Camp David two years ago, promising to stand by her as she took historic steps for peace.

Having served on the Intelligence Committee for ten years—including two years as the Ranking Democrat—I have an understanding of the threats facing the Israeli people. Having served as the senior Democrat on the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I have always fought for the vital economic and military assistance that Israel needs—not only because it is in Israel's interest, but because it is in America's interest.

Last month, I called upon President Bush to respond to Israel's urgent request for assistance to confront its unprecedented economic and military crisis. The President answered with the aid package he submitted to Congress last week.

As House Democratic Leader, I pledge to you today: Democrats in Congress will be in the lead in the fight for passing this emergency package—and soon. As we always have, as we always will, Democrats will insist that Israel has the tools it needs—both to defeat terrorism and to work toward a just and lasting peace.

Let no one ever question our unshakable commitment to the security that Israel must have and the safety of the Israeli people and to its qualitative military edge. Israel will never stand alone, because America will never abandon Israel.

Third, for Israel to have peace, Israel needs a partner in peace. Yasser Arafat is not that partner.

At Camp David, Israel was prepared to cede territory, dismantle settlements, and recognize an independent Palestinian state. And Yasser Arafat said no to peace.

And then—even as Israel continued to negotiate and offer concessions—Arafat said yes to a campaign of violence and terror that continues to this day.

President Bush's statement last June made clear that any new Palestinian state requires a new Palestinian leadership. I applaud that. The President's clarity was a catalyst. Palestinian moderates were strengthened. Arafat was weakened. And the new post of prime minister gives us guarded hope. A cabinet is being assembled. And the world is watching for genuine change.

Therefore, as were many of you, as were many Democrats in Congress, I was seriously concerned about the timing, tone and effect

of the President's statement of March 14. Indeed, we should be worried when those with little sympathy for Israel welcomed the President's words.

Let there be no weakening in our resolve, no softening in our stance, no lowering of the threshold for the cessation of violence. Any roadmap toward peace must be based on real change on the ground, not artificial dates on the calendar.

The terror must end. The new Palestinian prime minister must have the independence, the authority, and the personal commitment to lead the Palestinian people in a new direction.

The new Palestinian leadership must be open and accountable. And the reconstituted Palestinian security services must prevent terrorism, not promote it.

Only then will we realize a future of security, statehood and stability—security for Israelis, statehood for the Palestinians, and stability for the region.

Fourth, we must address the real source of so much of the instability across the Middle East—the lack of freedom, prosperity and human rights, including women's rights.

Last year's Arab Human Development Report stated it clearly: "The wave of democracy that transformed . . . most of Latin America and East Asia in the 1980s and Eastern Europe and much of Central Asia in the late 1980s and early 1990s has barely reached the Arab states. This freedom deficit undermines human development and is one of the most painful manifestations of lagging political development."

Those words were written by dozens of leading Arab intellectuals.

If we want to achieve long-term peace and security in the Middle East, we must achieve security for Israel and a future for the Palestinian people. At the same time, it is clear that freedom, security, peace and prosperity can strengthen the hand of those in the Arab and Islamic world who want to pursue a more hopeful and peaceful path.

These ideals that we cherish can make countries plagued by conflict and despair better places to live and better partners in creating a safer world.

Finally, we must raise our voices of hope, and drown out the voices of hate.

Whether in the Middle East, around the world, or in this country, we must be intolerant of intolerance. No one should ever fear, and no American should ever have their allegiance questioned because of their faith. As we protect and defend the American people against terrorism, however, we must protect and defend the Constitution and the civil liberties that define our democracy.

Cissie and Amy told me there are hundreds of college students here today. Allow me to speak directly to the students. Thankfully, you are too young to have witnessed the darkest chapters of the last century—the Nazism, communism, and authoritarianism. But in your eyes I see the glow of one of the brightest stars of the past century—the founding of the State of Israel.

You are the messengers to a future we will never know. It is your charge to build that future in the spirit of *tikkun olam*, the repairing of the world, in the spirit of peace and security.

On behalf of all who cherish freedom, thank you for your commitment to the ideals and values that define our two democracies—the United States and Israel.

My grandchildren tell me that this week begins the month of Nisan, the month of miracles, the month of deliverance. And over the coming weeks, Israelis and Jews everywhere will mark the miracles that have brought us to this day:

The survivors who endured the darkness of the Shoah and who braved their way to the light of Israel;

The heroes of Israeli independence who prevailed against overwhelming odds;

And all those who have defended Israel through decades of struggle and sacrifice, including a fallen hero Americans and Israelis mourned together—Space Shuttle Columbia astronaut Colonel Ilan Ramon, who literally took the Torah to the stars.

This is the spirit that defines the American-Israeli partnership. America stands with Israel now. America will stand with Israel forever.

We will never abandon Israel. We will never abandon Israel.

God bless you. God bless our men and women serving on the frontlines today. And God bless our special relationship between the United States of America and the State of Israel.

VETERANS EARN AND LEARN ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce H.R. 1716, the Veterans Earn and Learn Act. Joining me as original cosponsors are Ranking Member LANE EVANS, and the chairman and ranking member of the Benefits Subcommittee, HENRY BROWN and MICHAEL MICHAUD, respectively.

WHY THIS BILL

This measure promotes veterans' employment. It would modernize the on job training (OJT) and apprenticeship programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reflect American business and industry today. H.R. 1716 applies to the following VA educational assistance programs: the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty), chapter 30, title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.); the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program, chapter 32, title 38, U.S.C.; the Vietnam-Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program, chapter 34, title 38, U.S.C.; the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, chapter 35, title 38, U.S.C., and the Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve Program, (Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve), chapter 1606, title 10, U.S.C. My colleagues and I intend to introduce a separate bill to modernize Training and Rehabilitation for Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities under chapter 31, title 38, U.S.C.

I want VA's on-job training and apprenticeship program to reflect today's workplace. I have consulted extensively with representatives of organized labor, business, and industry to obtain their suggestions for improving the design of VA's program. Congress essentially has not changed it since World War II, and we should do so now. I also have consulted informally with VA and the Department of Labor (DOL), in addition to selected states to learn of their experiences in administering these programs. This bill reflects many of their suggestions.

VA's current OJT and apprenticeship programs pay veterans to learn while they earn. Rates for the various chapters differ somewhat, but in general, for the first six months veterans receive a monthly benefit of \$675; for the second six months \$496 monthly, and for the remainder of training \$315 monthly. Con-

gress furnishes these amounts to offset the difference between the training wage and the wage of the fully-trained employee. OJT can last for up to two years. Apprenticeships often last as much as five years.

OUR CHALLENGE

Mr. Speaker, classroom training is well known and established under VA's various educational assistance programs, including the current Montgomery GI Bill. But the on job training and apprenticeship opportunities under these programs appear less known and are less used than the college classroom. For example, of the 263,175 veterans using the Montgomery GI Bill (chapter 30) in fiscal year 2001, only 11,277 (4.2 percent) were participating in on-job training and apprenticeship.

Under Secretary for Benefits Daniel L. Cooper advised me by letter on September 11, 2002, that the OJT-apprenticeship "low participation rate is not due to a low number of employers but a low veteran participation. The number of participating employers is constantly changing, but State approving agencies are currently reporting about 7,000 employers who offer one or more VA-approved OJT or apprenticeship programs. Only about 2,200, or not quite 32 percent, have at least one veteran in training and receiving VA education benefits for the training." This is unacceptable. I intend to contact the Secretary of Labor and ask her to place more veterans in these jobs as soon as possible. I also note that 7.2 percent of veterans who used the Vietnam-era GI Bill trained through apprenticeship or OJT. For World War II veterans, about 18 percent trained in this manner. We must do better.

DOL reports that 858 occupations in America offer apprenticeships. Apprenticeable occupations can be categorized as follows: arts; business and administrative support; installation, maintenance and repair; production; science, drafting and computing; and service. Occupations range from boilermaker to bricklayer, carpenter to cook, electrician to emergency medical technician, and pipefitter to police officer.

The state of Missouri is showing the way. Missouri's aggressive efforts to place veterans into OJT and apprenticeships with Missouri employers produces about \$38 million annually in VA education and training benefits. Pennsylvania is reporting similar success. The Governor of Pennsylvania sends each separating servicemember a letter to encourage use of VA education and training benefits.

EARNING AND LEARNING

About two-thirds of active-duty servicemembers are married when they separate from the military. "Earning and learning" on the job through an OJT or apprenticeship program approved for veterans' training can be an excellent way for a servicemember to make the transition to civilian life. Because some military occupational skills are not transferable to the civilian economy, the veteran will have to train for a new occupation, or retrain to transfer their military skill to the civilian market. Veterans with military job skills that are transferable to civilian life benefit as well. They can continue working and training on-the-job while meeting the necessary licensing and certification requirements. Employers benefit because hiring veterans is plain and simple a good business decision.

The resourcefulness and reliability former servicemembers bring to the workplace is exemplary. As First Lady Laura Bush has noted,

veterans bring something else to the workplace that is hard to find—"the greatest in character, commitment, and resolve."

WHAT OUR BILL WOULD DO

Mr. Speaker, here is what the Veterans Earn and Learn Act would accomplish:

Section one would state Congressional purposes for VA's OJT and apprenticeship programs in both the private and public sectors of our economy. These include: helping employers hire and retain skilled workers; establishing a link between training afforded to servicemembers while serving in the Armed Forces and training available in civilian settings for purposes of occupational licensing and credentialing; and developing a more highly educated and productive workforce.

Section two would modify OJT and apprenticeship benefit entitlements computation under the chapter 34 and 35 programs to be the same as the entitlement rate for the chapter 30, 32 and 1606 programs. Under current law, VA calculates chapter 30, 32, and 1606 programs based on monthly VA payment amounts rather than based on the amount of time spent in training. This "dollars used" versus "time spent" method helps the trainee conserve entitlement while participating in the OJT or apprenticeship program. This approach makes additional entitlement available for other educational pursuits, such as earning an associate degree in a specialized technology or meeting other licensing or credentialing requirements.

Section three would establish an incentive payment for program participants who finish their apprenticeship training early. As an incentive for trainees to complete their apprenticeship or attain journeyworker status early, our bill would require VA to pay the trainee a lump sum payment for the months of VA entitlement remaining that would have been needed to complete the apprenticeship. This approach would remove the current disincentive to gain journeyworker status in competency-based apprenticeships as soon as the veteran is ready.

Section four would increase the monthly VA benefit for trainees who simultaneously pursue apprenticeships or on-job training and related post-secondary classroom education training. This provision would apply whether the trainee was pursuing both forms of training as a requirement of the apprenticeship or voluntarily under the trainee's own initiative. For example, under this measure, the total VA would pay for simultaneous training could not exceed the full-time classroom rate, which currently is \$900 per month. Current law increases the benefit to \$985 per month on October 1, 2003.

Section five would codify and strengthen VA authority to pay benefits for competency-based apprenticeships. In today's workplace, apprenticeships may be structured based upon a specific period of time, commonly known as a time-based program. Apprenticeships may also be based on the demonstration of successful mastery of skills, commonly known as a competency-based program, or training may be based upon a combination of the two. In the case of a competency-based learning program, the bill requires VA to take into consideration the approximate term of the program recommended in registered apprenticeship program standards recognized by the Secretary of Labor. Apprenticeships offered in industries that choose not to register with the Secretary of Labor, and that are approved for

veterans' training by a state approving agency, would continue to serve as legitimate training and learning opportunities for beneficiaries. This section would also furnish the VA Secretary the authority to use up to \$3 million to develop the computer systems and procedures needed to carry out provisions of the bill.

Section six would require the VA Secretary to establish a pilot program to furnish on-job benefits to claims adjudicators training in its disability compensation, dependency and indemnity (DIC), and pension programs. I note that two of VA's four regional offices that adjudicate educational assistance claims offer such training. This pilot is unique because it would waive the current two-year maximum for on-job training. VA employees who adjudicate disability, DIC, and pension claims require three years to qualify as journeymen. I believe this provision has the potential to increase VA's ability to recruit and retain former servicemembers in these important positions, especially given the aging of VA's workforce.

Section seven would require certain coordination of information among the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor with respect to on-job training. This provision would do two things. First, at the time of a servicemember's separation from active duty, the Secretary of Defense would be required to furnish to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs information concerning each registered apprenticeship pursued by the servicemember during his or her active duty service. Second, it would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, to encourage and assist states and private organizations to accord credit to servicemembers for skills in any related apprenticeship the servicemember may pursue in civilian life. I applaud the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard for moving in this direction through its U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP). But more can be done.

LEADERSHIP

Mr. Speaker, leadership abounds in serving America's sons and daughters who have protected our freedoms. Let me mention just a few examples:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States for some 30 years has held job fairs for separating servicemembers at home, as well as abroad;

The American Legion, through its Economic Commission, has played a major leadership role in creating opportunities to help veterans meet civilian licensing and credentialing requirements;

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps, on its own initiative, has exhibited leadership in linking training of its soldiers in many military specialties with civilian licensing and credentialing bodies so military time will count toward such requirements;

The AFL-CIO's Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, has initiated its Helmets to Hard Hats program in its Building and Construction Trades Department to link veterans possessing construction/building trades skills to learn-and-earn opportunities with companies nationwide;

The Communication Workers of America has an on-going initiative to connect high-tech employers with high-performing veterans whose military occupational training makes them job-ready immediately;

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Workforce Preparation has initiated a pilot

program in San Diego called 'Operation Transition' to examine ways to link veterans and their spouses with employers; and

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a partner in the innovative vetsjobs.com program.

PARTNERS

Mr. Speaker, lastly I'd like to commend the many organizations that have offered suggestions for this bill:

AFL-CIO; American Portland Cement Alliance; Associated Building and Contractors, Inc.; Associated General Contractors of America; College and University Professional Association for Human Resources; Communication Workers of America; International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots; Iron Workers International; Labor Policy Association; Laborers' International Union of North America; Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of State Approving Agencies; Nebraska Department of Education; Pennsylvania Department of Education; Sheet Metal Workers International Association; Society for Human Resource Management; Transport Union of America; United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing, Pipefitting, and Sprinkler Fitting Industry; United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

I encourage my colleagues to add their names in support of this timely legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOULDER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boulder City Fire Department for obtaining a Class 2 Insurance Service Offices, ISO, rating. The ISO Class 2 rating is obtained by less than one percent of the fire departments in the country and is made possible by the dedication and skill of Boulder City Fire Chief Dean Molburg and the firemen of Boulder City.

As a former mayor of Boulder City, and its current Congressman, I am proud that Boulder City has been recognized for its excellent fire coverage. The courage and commitment to public service shown every day by Boulder City firefighters is an example for all of us. They, and all Nevada first responders, have my thanks and full support.

REGARDING: (ARMY SGT. EDWARD
J. ANGUIANO)

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. Edward J. Anguiano, a missing soldier from Los Fresnos, Texas. Sgt. Anguiano, assigned to the 3rd Combat Support Battalion out of Ft. Stewart, GA, is an

Army mechanic who graduated from Hanna High School.

The 24-year-old serviceman has not been seen since his convoy was ambushed March 29 in Iraq. He remains one of the few U.S. soldiers whose status is unresolved.

His mother's anguish is evident in her question the day she was told Edward was missing: "Does it mean that he is dead and they can't find him or that he is alive and they can't find him? What does that mean?" That is a painful limbo for a parent and family.

There's a yellow ribbon tied to a tree in front of Edward's home on Melon Street for him. He is one of several soldiers believed captured by Iraqis in an ambush on their supply convoy at An Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Edward, like all the servicemen for our nation, is an outstanding and brave young man. This soft-spoken soldier is a survivor who is motivated, disciplined, and attentive—all traits his family is depending on to help him survive in captivity.

His family is clinging to the memory of the last time they saw him, at Christmas.

His family has said that Edward did not express fear of battle or doubts about serving in the military. He was doing what he wanted to be doing. They are finding strength in their faith and through prayer.

I ask my colleagues to remember Sgt. Edward J. Anguiano and continue to pray that he is found soon. Please pray, too, for his family: his mother, San Juanita Anguiano; his two sisters, Rebecca and Jennifer Garzoria; and his uncle, Vicente Anguiano Jr.—a veteran like so many other family members.

ADDRESS OF MAJORITY LEADER TOM DELAY ON RECEIVING THE FRIEND OF ISRAEL AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an outstanding speech given by Majority Leader Tom DeLay. His remarks were made when he received the "Friend of Israel Award" at the Washington Briefing of Stand for Israel—an organization under the aegis of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. This statement is of unmistakable importance in its application of American values and moral clarity to the political problems of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, the acts of terrorists—blowing up school buses, bombing markets, killing innocent children—are unmatched in their cowardice. I fully share Congressman DeLay's belief that murderers should neither be trusted nor rewarded for their crimes. He eloquently stated: "As a friend of Israel, and a lover of liberty for all God's children, we must reject any suggestion that its government negotiation from weakness, stand on an even moral footing with suicide bombers or trust the promises of terrorists." These words should serve as the foundation of U.S. Peacemaking in the Middle East.

Majority Leader DELAY understands that there can be no such thing as even-handedness between good and evil. As Americans we can do nothing less. America did not

waver when our British friends were imperiled by Nazi force during World War II. We did not tremble when Stalin and his successors threatened the destruction of our NATO allies in Europe. Mr. Speaker, as America confronts evil at home and around the world, we must stand with the democratic State of Israel and against the terrorist scourge that threatens its people and its existence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to read Congressman DELAY's principled statement.

SPEECH OF MAJORITY LEADER TOM DELAY AT STAND FOR ISRAEL WASHINGTON BRIEFING DINNER, APRIL 2, 2003.

Thank you. I'm not a great award recipient. There are so many people that need to be thanked that worked so hard for so many reasons to support Israel. It's great to see so many of my friends in the audience that came to be with us tonight, and all the others that I haven't met yet, I just say to you and you'll understand when I say, to God belongs the glory.

So I really want to thank you for this honor and I especially want to thank my good friend Tom Lantos for being here and he greatly deserves this award for his long-standing work in the Congress as well as work with Israel. He stands like a rock on behalf of Israel and has always stood that way and you can tell the worth of a man by the woman who stands beside him, and Annette is here tonight. She is always by Tom's side, and they work as a team and we greatly appreciate them. I just really have the utmost respect for Tom Lantos and have become closer to him over the last year or so, and greatly appreciate my friendship with him, and I do love him. He is really a wonderful, wonderful man.

As we meet here tonight, something extraordinary is happening on the other side of the world. Hundreds of thousands of trained and dedicated volunteers, an army of virtue, are liberating a nation. Pretty Amazing. Mile by mile, a blood-thirsty dictator's grip on a noble people slips. Town by town, Iraqi families realize what smiling people in camouflage uniforms have won for them. And day-by-day, children wake up for the first morning of their lives to God's freedom. This is the meaning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We all know greater love hath no man than this, than he lay down his life for his friends. Yet today, in Iraq, liberating armies are risking their own lives in a land and for a people they have never before met. Decades long Iraqi pleas for freedom and justice will soon be answered. But my friends theirs is not the only voice that cries out in the desert. For as we meet tonight, in that same part of the world, violent men plot the deaths of school children. These men view innocent human life as a means to an end and murder as a propaganda technique. These men act outside the boundaries of humanity and these men support a career terrorist too long tolerated by the civilized world.

Tonight our thoughts are with the people of Israel, and it is on their behalf, the courageous who live everyday in the cross-hairs of such men, that I accept this award and proudly count myself as a friend of Israel.

You know after Operation Iraqi Freedom is won, and it will be won, international attention necessarily focused on the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime will disperse. There will be the re-building of Iraq and its welcomed return to the community of nations, there will be a simmering crisis in North Korea, there will be strained relationships with old friends to address, and a blossoming alliance with the surging powers of new Europe to solidify.

And there will be, as we all well know, calls on Israel to set aside decades of experi-

ence and once again trust the words and paper of a terrorist entity bent on her destruction. Voices will call on the United States to serve as an honest broker in negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government. They will call on Israel to take risks for peace. As a friend of Israel, and a lover of liberty for all God's children, we must reject any suggestion that its government negotiate from weakness, stand on even moral footing with suicide bombers, or trust the promises of terrorists. The United States stands for justice and that means we stand for Israel.

Our qualms are not with the Palestinian people, but their self appointed leaders. Yasser Arafat and his thugs do not serve the interests of the Palestinian people, they are exploiters, in business today as always, only for themselves. They perpetuate violence and misery in a country that has known too much of both. Negotiating with these men who sharpen their tongues like swords is folly, and any agreement arrived at through such empty negotiations would amount to a covenant with death as generations of Israelis have already witnessed.

Yasser Arafat and his cronies are enemies of peace and a threat to the community of civilized nations. The Palestinian people, used as pawns by Arafat's regime, do not desire this existence. More and more of them are coming to realize the barriers to this new life are not in Ariel Sharon's cabinet but Yasser Arafat's compound. Palestinians and the Arab world at large tragically have only their corrupt leaders to blame for their economic depravation, not Americans and not Israelis.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in Iraq today we are making a stand against oppressive terror. It is not the first time and it won't be the last. The United States and it allies will no longer live in fear of terrorist networks of global reach, nor of their state sponsors. That is why we are in war tonight in Iraq. We are disarming a dangerous regime because it threatens the security of the world. The President has directed his advisors to craft a plan, to do it with speed and precision never before witnessed in the history of war. The plan is working, the military is advancing, and the under-informed talking heads of the media elite are just dead wrong.

We thank God every day that the President is a man of faith and a man of confidence. But it must frustrate him to hear the incessant carping of blow dried Napoleons hunkered down in their air-conditioned studios night after night on the twenty-four hour news networks. Peter Arnette thinks a war plan that advanced hundreds of miles in a week, in less than a week, is a failure. Geraldo Rivera drew a map in the sand of American positions for our enemies to see. Well thankfully, President Bush has also drawn in the sand. He has drawn a line beyond which the civilized world will not accept the behavior of evil men. We will free ourselves from terrorist threats and free those who live under terrorist regimes.

Americans have defended our freedom for more than two hundred years and Israelis have done the same for more than fifty. We are opposed by many of the same enemies who use many of the same tactics. Israel's fight is our fight against terror and for humanity. The United States therefore can not serve as a disinterested broker between an ally and its terrorist enemy. There is no moral equivalence between an aggressor and a man who defends himself against aggression, just as there is no moral equivalence between terrorists and the Israeli government sworn to stop them, despite the absurd assertions of the State Department's newly released human rights reports.

This report just boggles my mind. This report is designed to document human rights

conditions in countries all around the globe, however it compares the human rights record of a free, tolerant, and pluralistic nation with that of a terrorist network. There is no comparison and to assert one is absolutely ridiculous. Israel is governed by democratically elected representatives. The Palestinian Authority is governed by a gang of murderers. Experience and common sense lead to one conclusion about America's proper role in the Middle East. We are absolutely right to stand with Israel and our opponents are absolutely wrong. The moral ambiguities of our diplomatic elites not withstanding, Israel is not the problem, Israel is the solution.

The House of Representatives said as much, they shouted in fact, by a margin of 352 to 21, by passing the resolution that Tom Lantos and I sponsored last year. The resolution affirmed America's solidarity with Israel, supported Israel's right to self-defense, urged all Arab states to denounce all forms of terrorism and encouraged the alleviation of the needs of the Palestinian people. Any viable plans for peace must require the Palestinian Authority to do the same and to permanently sever ties with those who do not.

President Bush has laid out a bold vision to this extent. He has made it clear Israel must have a right to defend herself and that the Palestinian Authority must stop its acts of terror once and for all. Certain parties to the peace process, more interested in appeasing aggression than combating terrorism, have forfeited their right to leadership on this issue. The United States is the world's defender of freedom, and Israel is one of our greatest allies. We won't allow anyone to reward terrorists and terrorist acts, least of all nations and organizations who appease Saddam Hussein and who continue to appease Yasser Arafat.

This struggle is one of good versus evil. Nations and organizations who fail to distinguish between the two disqualify themselves from input on this matter. The President understands Israel must not be asked to negotiate with the men terrorizing its innocent citizens even as speak. The Palestinian Authority and their state sponsors must end the violence. This must be an act of principle, not some gesture of goodwill. The Palestinian Authority's words have no meaning, their actions do. The violence must stop—period. No negotiations.

And when it does, and not before, the Palestinian people will have a real, viable opportunity for peace. Thankfully, President Bush understands that no peace process worthy of its name can be obscured by appeasers or moral relativists. He understands that process for its own sake is not the goal, the security of our allies is the goal, and no quartet of appeasement will obscure that fact.

You know, though tested by generations of fire, the people of Israel do not exhibit malice or even seek revenge. Much like everyday Palestinians, they just want peace and the security to live their own lives, free from want and free from fear. They are not fools, and should not be expected to bargain with murderers. But when a new generation of Palestinian leaders arise, with a real and lasting peace as their goal, and more importantly the authority and will to deliver on it, a comprehensive solution may finally be attainable. But Israel should not be expected to offer substantive concessions while the Palestinian leaders offer only empty promises. Israel should have the freedom to defend its national security and to negotiate at a time and on terms set by its democratic government, not those imposed by anyone else.

To be a friend of Israel demands no less than supporting her through these very difficult days, as well as the better ones we all know await her, and await her people in the future. And despite decades of terror in the holy cradle of faith, we must hope, as did a fifteen year-old girl hiding in Amsterdam writing in her diary less than a month before she was taken to Auschwitz, "I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more."

You know Ladies and Gentlemen, through God's grace, the friendship of the United States and Israel will endure to see the dreams of that little girl fill the whole world with light and truth forever.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1715, TO
ENHANCE VA'S AUTHORITY TO
RECOVER COSTS OF MEDICAL
CARE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, along with Mr. EVANS of Illinois, the Committee's Ranking Member, I am introducing a bill to strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) rights under law to recover the costs of providing medical care to veterans and other persons from certain third parties. A number of public health plans either refuse to reimburse VA, or are prohibited from doing so by current law. This bill would correct this problem by eliminating barriers to reimbursement for VA care. It is identical to a bill I introduced in the 107th Congress, H.R. 5530. That bill was referred exclusively to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1715 is based upon the simple principle that acknowledges when VA provides medical care to an insured or Medicare-eligible veteran, VA should receive payment for the services it provides. This principle is not new. Since 1986, VA has had statutory authority to collect from traditional insurers such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Aetna, Mutual of Omaha and many others. These funds are used by VA to supplement appropriated funds to maintain high quality health care. VA also collects from so called "Medi-gap policies" that are an important adjunct to the Medicare program.

But VA is unable to collect from the massive managed care sector, accounting now for over two-thirds of all health plans in the United States, including the managed care plans within Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan. Nor can VA collect from the Medicare program. RAND Corporation has estimated that over 2 million Medicare-eligible veterans were enrolled in VA health care in fiscal year 2000, with that number increasing each fiscal year since then.

My legislation would require these federal programs to pay VA for care it provides to covered beneficiaries. This would increase the amount of money VA could collect by hundreds of millions of dollars each year—providing funds that are desperately needed to reduce these intolerable waiting lists and promote better use of all available health care resources.

This legislation will not limit the choices available to veterans in Medicare or any other

federal health care plan, and I do believe it will create a modest incentive for veterans to remain enrolled in the VA rather than move back and forth between systems as they do now. This bill will also provide an important supplement to the VA health care system for the services it renders in caring for many of our nation's heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense approach to improving veterans' health care, reducing waiting times for VA health care, and helping Medicare-eligible and other federally insured veterans gain better health care coverage from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today Congressman STENHOLM and I are introducing a resolution recognizing the important service of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service was established to develop and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities and products.

Our farmers and ranchers are the most productive in the world and produce much more than we in the United States can consume. Therefore a vibrant export market is very important to the success of United States agriculture. FAS has contributed to that success and as of 2002, United States agricultural exports exceed imports by more than \$12 billion. Our exports have grown significantly over the history of FAS and now exceed \$50 billion per year.

FAS fosters the public and private partnership that is needed to promote United States agricultural exports and to develop and expand markets around the world.

At this important time when free trade negotiations are ongoing, both in the World Trade Organization and through bilateral negotiations, the FAS is essential to represent United States agriculture and ensure that the challenges facing our agriculture producers are thoroughly addressed.

Another responsibility of the FAS is to provide food aid to needy people in developing countries and to help those countries to eventually become trading partners of the United States and buy our agricultural products.

The FAS and its employees provide a significant service to the farmers and ranchers here at home so that they can compete in worldwide markets. I congratulate them on their achievements and look forward to working closely with the FAS as the Committee continues its work to expand markets for United States agriculture.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of National Public Health Week. I want to thank

the organizers and sponsors of events around the nation that serve to raise everyone's awareness of the need to improve public health, particularly in the area of the nation's obesity crisis. Those groups include the American Public Health Association, American Dietetic Association, Pfizer Inc., Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, Research!America, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

One of the greatest public health challenges facing our Nation today is curbing obesity, which has increased at such unprecedented levels that health professionals are calling obesity a national epidemic. Spurred by sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets, about 60 percent of American adults are overweight and 15 percent of children and teenagers are overweight. The percentage of overweight adolescents has tripled during the last twenty years.

Although I am pleased that the numbers in my home state are slightly better, the percentage of the population that is obese is still troubling. What is even more troubling is the research that indicates that obesity is an even greater problem among the African-American and Latino communities.

The health consequences of obesity are real and significant. Being overweight is associated with increased risk for heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. About 300,000 deaths each year are associated with being obese. In fact, people who are overweight have a 50 to 100 percent increased risk of premature death. As the American Public Health Association stated in their release, "reversing this life threatening trend has moved beyond a matter of personal responsibility to a national crisis that all Americans must respond to."

Unfortunately, we are moving in the wrong direction. Less than ten percent of children walk or ride their bicycles to school and more schools are inviting fast food vendors into their cafeterias. We need to make a concerted effort to increase physical fitness activities among the entire population, especially children, and encourage all Americans to adopt a healthier diet that includes fruits and vegetables. I applaud the work of all of the organizations that are spreading this message during National Public Health Week. However, if we are going to be successful in reducing obesity, we must make sure that this message is heard the entire year and not just for one week.

That is why I will soon reintroduce my bill, the Medicaid Obesity Treatment Act. I hope to work with all of the sponsors involved with National Public Health Week to ensure passage of my bill in this Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE "FROM SEA TO
SHINING SEA: A CELEBRATION
OF MARINE SANCTUARIES" EX-
HIBIT AT MOTE MARINE LAB-
ORATORY, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, as exemplified by an exhibit entitled "From Sea to

Shining Sea: A Celebration of Marine Sanctuaries," which is currently on display in my District at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. Due to the generous support of the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation's Board of Directors and contributors, "From Sea to Shining Sea" is traveling the country, taking the wonders of our nation's thirteen underwater marine sanctuaries to communities from coast to coast.

The National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation was established in 2000 to support the education and outreach activities of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, which Congress created in 1972 through the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Congress passed the Act in 1972 in response to growing awareness nationwide of the intrinsic environmental and cultural value of our coastal waters. This legislation has led to the designation of thirteen unique marine areas as National Marine Sanctuaries, which has ensured the conservation of these natural treasures through comprehensive resource management, education, and research.

As they provide a secure habitat for wildlife as well as a preservation zone for shipwrecks and prehistoric artifacts, our national marine sanctuaries serve as natural classrooms and laboratories. For example, as a result of the establishment of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in November 1990, my home state is assured of the continued protection of a marine ecosystem that contains the largest coral reef in the continental United States as well as one of the most diverse assemblages of underwater plants and animals in North America.

"From Sea to Shining Sea" features an original painting by renowned artist Robert Lyn Nelson, as well as touch screen, interactive, DVD video and exhibits that introduce visitors to all twelve national marine sanctuaries. This stunning exhibit will continue on display at the Mote Marine Laboratory through May 31, 2003.

Founded in 1955, Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium is a long time partner with the NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Mote Aquarium educates and entertains almost 400,000 visitors per year, bringing the wonders of the marine world to visitors of all ages. Mote's Center for Tropical Research, located in Summerland Key, studies the coral reefs, other habitats, fauna and flora of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to recognize artist Robert Lyn Nelson for his amazing contribution to this exhibit; Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta, for his vision and dedication to our country's marine treasures; Ms. Lori Arguelles of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for leading the public outreach effort; Superintendent Billy Causey of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; Aquarium Director Dan Bebak; Mote Marine Laboratory Executive Director Dr. Kumar Mahadevan; and Mote Marine Laboratory Board of Trustees for their continued dedication to excellence in marine science, education and conservation.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT JERRY CORTINAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Staff Sergeant Jerry Cortinas, born in Brownsville, who was badly wounded in Afghanistan fighting for the cause of freedom from tyranny, and ridding that nation of the infestation of al Qaeda forces that hijacked it for their evil purposes.

His uncle, Santiago Torres of Brownsville, says Jerry always wanted to do something important in his life. Now he has. He was already in National Guard at age 19 when he wanted to join the Customs Bureau like his uncle, but he was too young. So he just went and volunteered for the Army.

Jerry is an excellent soldier, a fact apparent to those who fought with him and who have known him since he returned.

He joined the Army's elite Special Forces and made his mark on the first defining war of the 21st Century with the Special Forces. After extensive training in the United States, he departed for Afghanistan.

Jerry was in a terrible accident in Afghanistan. During a drill with RPGs, rocket propelled grenades, one of them exploded, killing one soldier and causing painful damage to Jerry's body. He lost one of his hands, and has had extensive facial damage.

Jerry was in Walter Reed Army Hospital from December until February. He has since been transferred back to Ft. Bragg for rehabilitation. Like the good soldier he is, he wants to recover and remain in military.

He is a good young man who cares for his country and believes his contribution is important to our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to remember Jerry as he continues with his difficult struggle with a long rehabilitation. Please also remember his wife, Celina, and their two-year-old daughter, Dion, who are in Fayetteville, NC.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1718, TO
REPEAL TERMS SPECIFIED BY
LAW FOR CERTAIN VA OFFI-
CIALS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to repeal the four-year terms specified by law for certain officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and to add a provision that addresses the appointment of directors of principal geographic service areas.

Fourteen years ago, when the Veterans Administration was established as an executive department and redesignated the Department of Veterans Affairs, Public Law 100-527 also established a Chief Medical Director (CMD), a Chief Benefits Director (CBD) and a Director of the National Cemetery Services (the Director). The CMD and the CBD were to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, while the Director was to report to the Office of the Secretary.

Subsequent laws further restated and reorganized the three key executive positions in the Department as the Under Secretaries for Health, Benefits and Memorial Affairs. Under current law, the Under Secretaries for Health and Benefits are appointed for four-year terms, with reappointment permissible for successive-like periods. There is no such restriction or term provision established in law for the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

I am introducing H.R. 1718 to repeal term appointments for the Under Secretaries for Health and Benefits. This bill will align all three Under Secretary positions as Presidential appointments, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and allow the President maximum flexibility in the appointment of these primary executive positions. Current incumbents would not be affected by the enactment of this legislation. The President would also be required to notify Congress concerning the reasons for removal if the President should choose to terminate or remove one of the Under Secretaries of the Department.

These term appointments likewise would be repealed for key officials assigned to the Office of the Under Secretary for Health, who are appointed by the Secretary subject to reassignment at the Secretary's discretion. With this bill, the designation of directors of principal geographic service areas are added to the group of key agency officials appointed by the Secretary and serving at the Secretary's discretion without term restrictions.

As with the three under secretaries, H.R. 1718 requires that the Secretary notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House and Senate when one of these key officials is removed from one of these subsidiary positions. These officials may be entitled to reassignment, if they held a previous career position within the Department.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would allow the President and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs maximum flexibility to hold senior officials accountable and to align the agency's top leadership with the vision and goals of the Secretary and the Administration. I urge prompt House action on this important measure.

VETERANS BENEFITS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our nation's veterans have fought to protect our freedoms and the way of life we cherish. Unfortunately, when their service is done and they retire, our military personnel are too often excluded from the American Dream they fought to preserve.

We all know that military pay does not compare to private sector wages. After retirement, thousands of veterans cannot afford to purchase a home because their military pensions do not cover the cost of a mortgage payment.

Because of this inequity, the Veterans Administration instituted a home loan program to assist veterans achieve the dream of home ownership. While this is a commendable program, the maximum loan amount is often not enough to purchase a home—particularly in regions with high real-estate markets.

My legislation would increase this amount from \$60,000 to \$81,000 to make it comparable to the maximum loan amount available to the public. After giving so much to their nation, veterans deserve the same opportunities for home ownership given to every American.

HONORING ERIC ALVA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Eric Alva, a resident of my district in San Antonio. I stand here with both a great sense of pride for S.Sgt. Alva's bravery and with a heavy heart for the sacrifice he ultimately made for our country. Mr. Speaker, S.Sgt. Alva was recently injured by a landmine explosion while on duty in Iraq. As a result, S.Sgt. Alva lost his lower right leg. There is no doubt that S.Sgt. Alva has experienced a tremendous loss, but through his service he has gained respect and gratitude from myself and his fellow Americans.

The ancient historian Herodotus once said "Great deeds are usually wrought at great risks". S.Sgt. Alva accepted this great risk when he chose to wear the uniform of the United States Marines. He accepted this risk fearlessly, with pride and conviction. Although his pledge to serve and to defend this nation is a great deed alone, the loss he has suffered in service merits particular distinction. It is because of the selfless actions of men and women like S.Sgt. Alva that American freedom and democracy endures.

Although this war has brought sorrow and suffering to some in our nation's armed forces and to their loved ones, their sacrifice serves as a symbol of the American spirit. Honoring those who are injured and killed in battle who stand up bravely to fulfil their duty is a fitting testimony to the values this country was founded upon.

In recognition of S.Sgt. Alva and those like him who are serving their country during this time of war, I implore the world, that in their honor, we achieve the one goal we are all fighting for: Peace.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
REGARDING REFORM OF INTER-
NAL REVENUE CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am voting yes on H. Con. Res. 141, a hortative resolution with no legally-binding impact, but which has a lot of predictable political rhetoric about the need to reform the enormously complex and loophole-ridden federal tax code.

I am voting yes because the "whereas" clauses in the resolution are by and large inoffensive, if deliberately vague about the true intention behind the rhetoric, which is to fundamentally reform the U.S. tax code in a way

that eases the tax burden on the rich and corporations and raises the burden on middle and lower-income Americans.

I agree that the federal tax code is too complex. Billions are spent trying to comply with its provisions. Though, I would also point out that the wealthiest Americans and most profitable corporations also spend billions in an effort to avoid their fair share of the federal tax burden.

The resolution is also correct to say the tax code is full of loopholes and special interest exemptions. Though, I would point out that these loopholes and exemptions, which largely benefit the most powerful in our society, did not get into the tax code by accident or osmosis. They were put there by Members of Congress at the behest of wealthy campaign contributors.

Although I am voting yes, I want to go on the record in opposition to the second "resolved" clause of the resolution, which in my opinion is too deferential to the tax reform concepts laid out in the February 2003 Economic Report of the President.

The President's report lays out its utopian vision of reduced, or ideally zero, taxes on corporations, reduced taxes on capital, and increased taxes on consumption and wages, which would hurt middle and lower-income Americans.

Mr. Speaker, if the U.S. tax code is going to be overhauled, I believe it should be made more progressive than it is today. That would mean eliminating special interest loopholes for corporations and wealthy Americans. Cracking down on tax dodging by powerful individuals and businesses. Doing so would allow us to relieve some of the tax burden on middle and lower-income Americans. Further, any overhaul of the federal tax code must not add to the crushing burden of debt we are leaving to the next generation.

Like Adam Smith, author of the pro-capitalism tome "The Wealth of Nations," I believe in progressive taxation. Adam Smith wrote, "The subjects of every state ought to contribute toward the support of the government, as nearly as possible, in proportion to their respective abilities; that is, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state ... [As Henry Home (Lord Kames) has written, a goal of taxation should be to] 'remedy inequality of riches as much as possible, by relieving the poor and burdening the rich.'"

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL
COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill—(H.R. 1036) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others:

Mr. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1036, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This bill

unfairly grants the gun industry immunity and takes away an individual's or state's ability to hold gun manufacturers, gun dealers, and gun trade associations accountable to negligence and product liability standards that every other industry is subject to.

The bill perpetuates the gun industry's disregard for public safety and holds up their "see-no-evil, hear-no-evil, speak-no-evil" approach to gun manufacturing and distribution. The gun industry should be held accountable to its consumers and victims in the same way that every other industry is. As it is, guns are one of the few consumer products that are exempt from health and safety regulations.

Furthermore, this bill would void a number of pending cases around the country which seek to hold the gun industry accountable for its actions. Specifically, if passed into law, this bill would nullify a case currently moving through the Illinois Supreme Court. The case was brought against a number of gun manufacturers, gun distributors, and gun dealers by the City of Chicago and Cook County who allege that these entities have created a public nuisance by making guns available to juveniles in the Chicago area. No one can dispute that kids have access to guns. A nationwide survey conducted by the Illinois based Teenage Research Unlimited found that 41 percent of teenagers surveyed reported that they could get a handgun if they really wanted to. Furthermore, the Chicago Police Department reported that, in 1999, 165 offenders under the age of 21 were charged with murders involving a firearm.

One death by a handgun is too many. But when 666 people are murdered in one year in just one city, as was the case in Chicago in 2001, we must wake up to reality and demand that something be done. Unfortunately, this bill takes us backwards and gives immunity to the very industry that has the power to regulate the manufacturing and distribution of its products.

I am disappointed that this bill is on the House floor today, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1036.

AN HISTORIC DAY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the April 10, 2003, editorial from the Lincoln Journal Star, entitled "Cheers for Toppling of Saddam." Indeed, the editorial captures the enthusiastic spirit of the Iraqi people as American troops liberated them from the horrific, repressive regime of Saddam Hussein.

CHEERS FOR TOPPLING OF SADDAM

On Wednesday the war in Iraq reached a historic "tipping point," as Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks termed it, symbolized by the toppling of a 40-foot statue of Saddam Hussein in a main square of Baghdad.

Hundreds of Iraqis, especially the Shiite Muslim majority that suffered under Saddam's predominantly Sunni Muslim government, celebrated with cheers, exchanging high fives with U.S. Marines.

A group of Iraqis dragged the head of the Saddam statue through the streets. Others battered it with sticks and shoes.

Few predicted that this historic moment would occur so soon after a war of less than three weeks. President George W. Bush, in fact, warned Americans on March 23, "It is evident that it will take awhile to achieve our objective."

And in fact, more military action lies ahead. Parts of Baghdad are not secure. Coalition ground forces have not yet moved into other cities, including Tikrit, Saddam's birthplace 100 miles north of Baghdad. No one knows with certainty whether Saddam is alive or dead.

But Iraqis on Wednesday grasped that Saddam's 24-year rule of terror had come to an end.

Also abundantly clear is the new prowess of the U.S. military. The brilliant campaign to remove Saddam so far has produced a death toll far less than predictions and in fact less than the toll of the Desert Storm war in 1991.

The combination of smart weaponry, high-tech surveillance equipment and instantaneous communication turned coalition troops into a potent force capable of making split-second adjustments to battlefield conditions, even in urban environments.

Drone aircraft fed television images of streets and rooftops. Ground troops called for precision air strikes rather than fighting blind. Troops even used hand-held computerized translators that allowed them to communicate with Iraqis.

The advanced technology, training and updated strategy brought success at minimal cost more quickly than many dared hope.

So Wednesday was a day for celebration. "He's gone? He's gone?" chanted a group of boys in the Kurdish city of Irbil. "Bush No. 1 Bush No 1," shouted young men in Baghdad. Women held their babies for American troops to kiss. Women and children handed them flowers.

And coalition troops were making discoveries that showed why there was dancing in the streets at the realization that Saddam's grip was loosed forever. In Basra, Iraqis showed journalists the "White Lion" jail where they said Saddam's secret police tortured prisoners with beatings, mutilations, electric shocks and chemicals. Similar discoveries were being made elsewhere in Iraq.

The cheers of today might be soon forgotten as Iraqis begin the task of rebuilding their country and establishing a new government. And it must be acknowledged that this historic moment came despite objections from scores of nations around the globe.

Nonetheless, it was gratifying on Wednesday to witness the end of the brutal reign of Saddam Hussein.

HONORING THOMAS SACCO

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Sacco, a veteran of World War II. After waiting 58 long years, he has finally been awarded the Purple Heart that he earned as a young private while serving his country in Europe.

Private Sacco was barely 18 years old when he volunteered to serve as a paratrooper in the famous and sometimes feared 101st Airborne division.

He was wounded in the town of Noville, Belgium. As his outfit advanced toward the Axis Army he was struck by shrapnel in his left arm and back and rendered unconscious.

58 years later his heroism and sacrifice is being recognized by the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Thomas Sacco a constituent and I ask you to join with me in thanking him for his service.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DEALING WITH PRISON RAPE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced in the House legislation which concerns a problem that has been ignored by too many for too long: prison rape. I am pleased and grateful that my colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Rep. ROBERT C. SCOTT is an original cosponsor of this legislation.

I believe in vigorous prosecution of criminals and tough sentences on offenders. However, prison rape has nothing to do with being tough on crime; it has to do with making our communities safer, reducing recidivism, and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. This bill would require prisons to establish tough standards to address the issue of prison rape. Experts have established that roughly 13 percent of the over 2 million prisoners in the United States have been victims of rape in prison. Many of these inmates who are raped contract HIV, hepatitis, and other diseases. Upon release, these individuals may then spread these diseases and their rage—contracted in prison as a result of prison rape—to individuals in their community.

Prison rape causes psychological trauma, which may lead its victims to act out in an aggressive manner upon leaving prison, possibly committing further crimes which will result in their reincarceration in an already overcrowded prison system. Additionally suicide is the leading cause of death behind bars and sexual harassment, such as rape, is the leading cause of prisoner suicide.

Last year on Capitol Hill, a mother of a 16-year-old-boy, who was repeatedly raped in a Texas prison, offered a grim tale of her son's abuse. She said her son reported the attacks to prison officials but was told "(rape) happens every day, learn to deal with it. It is no big deal." The boy ultimately hanged himself in his cell. He had been arrested for starting a fire in a dumpster.

The trauma caused by prison rape cannot be underestimated. No matter where the survivor ends up, severe psychosis is the most common outcome of prisoner rape. Sexual assault can often break a prisoner's spirit. In the advanced stages of rape trauma syndrome, for example, a survivor's mood often swings between deep depression and rage. Prisoner rape may be the quickest, most cost-effective way of producing a sociopath.

According to researchers, the fact that most men on death row were sexually abused earlier in life should come as no surprise. Indeed, it is a fact that society ignores at its own peril. Prison rape perpetuates a vicious cycle of violence and trauma which starts with a prisoner being raped and that prisoner often committing acts of aggression and sexual harassment either within prison or in the community upon his release. Indeed, prison rape survivors

often become rapists themselves in a demeaned attempt to regain what they think of as their "lost manhood."

Some prison rape victims retaliate by murdering their rapists, receiving added years to their sentence and further burden the prison system. Studies show that prison rape costs the taxpayer in recidivism and increased violent crime. Inmates—often nonviolent, first-time offenders—will come out of a prison rape experience severely traumatized and will often leave prison more violent than when they entered. Prison rape costs raped prisoners their dignity and costs society monetarily and psychologically.

Combating prison rape is also an issue of human rights and basic humanity. A nation cannot turn its back on thousands of people who are under the care of the state, and being raped and traumatized while under that care. Prison rape is a form of torture. The body of a rape victim may heal, but the emotional damage caused by prison rape may never be ameliorated. As a nation which rightfully stands up for human rights around the world, and which has the best human rights record in the world, we must act now to remove this blight from our record; we must act now to stop the inhumane and degrading practice of prison rape.

The nation has ignored prison rape for too long. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that deliberate indifference to prison rape is a violation of the Constitution. In order to be true to our nation's founding principles, in order to end the cycle of violence and degradation, in order to further the safety of our prisons and society, the passage of this legislation to address prison rape is vital.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1720, VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a new measure, the "Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act," that I intend will begin to address what has become a troubling and lingering problem in our Nation's veterans health care facilities: a crumbling and substandard patient-care infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, we have noted that the President's annual budget for VA health care has requested little or no funding for major medical facility construction projects for America's veterans. As we indicated last year in our report to the Committee on the Budget on the Administration's budget request for fiscal year 2004, VA has engaged in an effort through market-based research by independent organizations to determine whether the present VA facility infrastructures are meeting needs in the most appropriate manner, and whether services to veterans can be enhanced with alternative approaches. This process, called "Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services," or "CARES," has entered into its second phase within the Department of Veterans Affairs. While VA has set an

aggressive schedule for completing this process, we believe it will require several years before bearing fruit.

Mr. Speaker, some VA hospitals, health care and research facilities need additional maintenance, repair and improvements to address immediate dangers and hazards, to promote safety and to sustain a reasonable standard of care for our Nation's veterans. In addition to reports from outside consultants and VA about the serious risk of seismic damage, VA has also identified \$57 million in improvements needed to address women's health care; another report concluded that VA should be spending (at a minimum) from 2 percent to 4 percent of its "plant replacement value" on upkeep and replacement of its health care facilities. This value in VA is at least \$35 billion; thus, VA should be spending from \$700 million to \$1.4 billion each year to keep pace with its capital needs. In fact, in fiscal year 2003, VA will spend \$137 million for these purposes.

While Congress authorized a number of major VA medical construction projects over the past three fiscal years, very few have received funding through the appropriations process. I understand that some of the more recent deferrals of major VA construction were intended to permit CARES to proceed in an orderly way, avoiding unnecessary spending on VA health care facilities that might not be needed by veterans in the future. I agree with this policy in general, especially for those larger facility projects, ones that ordinarily would be considered under our regular annual construction authorization measure. We need to resist wasteful spending, especially when overall funds are so precious. But I believe that I have a better plan.

Mr. Speaker, when I assumed the Chairmanship of the Veterans' Subcommittee on Health earlier this year, I asked what steps my colleagues and I might take immediately that could help veterans. The legislation that I am introducing today is part of this answer. This bill sets up a three-year program of delegated authorizations that would update, improve, establish, restore or replace VA health care facilities where needed. The Secretary would be given this authority to approve the individual facility projects, based on recommendations of an independent capital investments board and on criteria detailed in our bill that place a premium on projects to protect patient safety and privacy, improve seismic protection, provide barrier-free accommodations, and improve VA patient care facilities in several specialized areas of concern, such as privacy needs, specialized care programs and other high priorities of Congress, in order to meet the contemporary standard of care our veterans deserve and need.

The bill would require the Secretary at the end of the process to report his actions to this Committee and to the Committee on Appropriations as well. The bill would also mandate a review of this delegated-project approach by the General Accounting Office, to ensure this is an effective mechanism to advance some VA medical construction during and after the CARES process.

Mr. Speaker, our bill would authorize appropriations of \$500 million in fiscal year 2004, \$600 million in fiscal year 2005, and \$700 million in fiscal year 2006, to accommodate construction projects under the authority provided. The total amount authorized matches that rec-

ommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to the Committee on the Budget earlier this year in our views and estimates for fiscal year 2004. I believe we can make the case for this approach by doing something urgently needed by veterans, in the best traditions of our commitment to them, while staying consistent with the intent of the CARES process. I want our work to assure all our veterans, that in as many situations as possible, their health care and research facilities, and the critical maintenance and repair needs of these facilities, will not go unnoticed and unfunded by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will agree with me that this is a worthy bill. Last year, VA quickly identified 20 projects that would be appropriate for consideration under terms much like those contained in this bill. I am certain that in all sectors of the VA health care system there are more meritorious projects that need funding, and enactment of this bill would give the Secretary an opportunity to identify, consider, approve and develop them appropriately, with the authority and funds to do so. Many VA facilities need funds right now, on an emergency basis, for major construction and repair projects; other facilities have more chronic needs for restoration and capital improvements that have lingered unfunded for years. New VA health care and research facilities are also needed. In my judgment, we cannot afford to wait several years before beginning to meet these needs, when these projects confront the VA system, veterans, and Congress today.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill and help enact it as a high priority early this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from this chamber on January 27, 2003 and missed voting on rollcall vote Nos. 13 and 14. I want the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 13 and 14. Also, I was briefly absent from this chamber on January 28, 2003 and I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 15. Also, I was absent from this chamber on February 25, 2003 and I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 33 and 34. I was also absent from this chamber on March 4, 2003 and I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 40, 41 and 42.

On March 18, 2003 I was absent from this chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 65, 66 and 67. On April 3, 2003 I was briefly absent from this chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 105. On April 7, 2003 I was absent from this chamber and missed voting on

rollcall vote Nos. 109, 110 and 111. I want the RECORD to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 109, 110 and 111.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Washington [Mr. DICKS] that will provide an equitable settlement of the meritorious claims of the Spokane Tribe of Indians concerning its contribution to the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

Similar settlement legislation was enacted in 1994 to compensate the neighboring Confederated Colville Tribes as a consequence of the Grand Coulee Dam. That legislation, P.L. 103-436, provided for a \$53 million lump sum payment for past damages and roughly \$15 million annually from the ongoing proceeds from the sale of hydropower by the Bonneville Power Administration. The Spokane settlement legislation, which I am introducing today, would provide a settlement of the Spokane Tribe of Indians claims directly proportional to the settlement afforded the Colville Tribes based upon the percentage of lands appropriated from the respective tribes for the Grand Coulee Project, or approximately 39.4 percent of the past and future compensation awarded the Colville Tribes pursuant to the 1994 legislation. Though the proposed Spokane settlement is proportionately less, the losses sustained by the Spokane Tribe are substantially the same as those sustained by the Colville Tribes and arise from the same actions of the United States Government. The difference being that the Spokane Tribe lost its entire salmon fishery, the base of its economy.

Grand Coulee Dam is the largest concrete dam in the world, the largest electricity producer in the United States, and the third largest electricity producer in the world. It produces four times more electricity than Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and is three times its size. Grand Coulee is one mile in width; its spillway is twice the height of Niagara Falls. It provides electricity and water to one of the world's largest irrigation projects, the one million acre Columbia Basin Project. The Grand Coulee Project is the backbone of the Northwest's federal power grid and agricultural economy.

For more than half a century, the Grand Coulee Project has produced enormous revenues for the United States Government and brought prosperity to the Pacific Northwest. The construction of the dam and the electricity it produced, helped pull the Northwest out of the Great Depression. It provided electricity to the aluminum plants that built the air force that helped to defeat Germany and Japan in World War II.

To the Spokane Tribe of Indians, however, the dam is a monument to the destruction of their way of life. The Dam flooded their reservation on two sides. The Spokane River—the ancestral umbilical cord to Spokane existence and the heart of their reservation—was changed from a free flowing waterway that

supported plentiful salmon runs, to barren slack water that now erodes away the southern lands of the Reservation with every change in the reservoir level. The enormous benefits that accrued to the Nation and the Northwest were made possible by uncompensated and irreparable injury to the Native Americans of the Columbia and Spokane Rivers.

From 1927 to 1931, at the direction of Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigated the Columbia River and its tributaries. In its report to Congress, the Corps identified a number of potential sites and recommended the Grand Coulee site for hydroelectric development by either the State of Washington or private concerns. Shortly thereafter, the Columbia River Commission, an agency of the State of Washington applied for and, in August 1933, was granted a preliminary permit from the Federal Power Commission for the water power development of the Grand Coulee site. However, on November 1, 1933, Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Director of Public Works Administration, federalized the project under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. Excavation for the dam commenced on December 13, 1933. However, its legal authorization was in question and Congress reauthorized the Dam in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935. As pointed out in 1980 in the Final Report of a Federal interdepartmental Colville/Spokane Task Force: In spite of the fact that the Act authorized the project for the purposes, among others, of reclamation of public lands and Indian reservations. . . . no hydroelectric or reclamation benefits flow to the Indians. The irrigation benefits of the project all flowed south of the Reservation. In 1940, very belatedly and inadequately (at the urging of the Department of the Interior), Congress did enact a statute to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate whichever Indian lands he deemed necessary for Grand Coulee construction and to receive all rights, title and interest the Indians had in them in return for his appraisal of its value and payment of compensation by the Secretary. The only land that was appraised and supposedly compensated for was the newly flooded lands. Pursuant to this legislation, 54 Stat. 703 (1940), the Spokane Tribe received the grand total of \$4,700. There is no evidence that the Department advised or that Congress knew that the Tribes' water rights were not extinguished. Nor had the Indian title and trust status of the Tribal land underlying the river beds been extinguished. No compensation was included for the power value contributed by the use of the Tribal resources nor the loss of the Tribal fisheries or other damages to tribal resources.

Although the Department of the Interior and other federal officials were well aware of the flooding of Indian trust lands and other severe impacts the Grand Coulee Project would have on the fishery and other critical resources of the Spokane and Colville Tribes, no mention was made of these impacts or the need to compensate the Tribes in either the 1933 or 1935 authorizations. Federal inter-departmental and intra-office correspondence of the Department of the Interior from September 1933 through October 1934 clearly demonstrate that the Federal government knew that the Colville and Spokane Tribes should be compensated for the flooding of their lands, destruction of their fishery and other re-

sources, destruction of their property and annual compensation from power production for the use of the Tribes' land and water resources contributing to such power production. As pointed out in a 1976 Opinion of Lawrence Aschenbrenner, the Acting Associate Solicitor, Division of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior:

The 1940 act followed seven years of construction during which farm lands, and timber lands were flooded, and a fishery destroyed, and during which Congress was silent as to the Indian interests affected by the construction. Both the Congress and the Department of the Interior appeared to proceed with the Grand Coulee project as if there were no Indians involved there.

The Department correspondence and memoranda on the subject of Indian rights apparently came to an abrupt halt [after 1934]. There is no tangible evidence, currently available, to indicate that the Department ever consulted with the tribes during the 1933-1940 period concerning the ongoing destruction of their land and resources and proposed compensation therefore.

The Opinion goes on to point out:

It is our conclusion that the location of the dams on tribal land and the use of the water for power production, without compensation, violated the Government's fiduciary duty toward the Tribes.

The situation at hand involves a conflict-of-interest on the part of the Department of the Interior. . . . The Department of the Interior has responsibility for protecting the Tribes' Winters Right [water rights] as well as its property rights in the bed of the river. Recognizing the value of the river as a power production and irrigation site, the Department of the Interior . . . has used this land and the water for its own purposes, without ensuring that consideration and benefit from the development of those resources flowed to the Tribes who own part of them. The case fits squarely into the reasoning of Manchester Band, Navajo Tribe and Pyramid Lake cases, where . . . a fiduciary who learns of an opportunity, prevents the beneficiary from getting it, and seizes it for himself." (Citations omitted)

Throughout the construction, the Department's apparent failure to communicate with the Tribes concerning their land and water rights is appalling. No case law grants executive agencies authority to unilaterally abrogate Indian rights. [T]he posture of the Department can be described not as . . . an exercise of guardianship, but an act of confiscation." (Citations omitted).

The Colville settlement legislation ratified a settlement agreement reached between the United States and the Colville Tribes to settle the claims of the Tribes to a share of the hydropower revenues from the Grand Coulee Dam. This claim was among the claims which the Colville Tribes filed with the Indian Claims Commission (ICC) under the Act of August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 1049) and later transferred to the U.S. Court of Claims. Pursuant to that Act, there was a five year statute of limitations to file claims before the Commission which expired August 13, 1951. Why did the 1994 Colville settlement legislation not also include a settlement of the claims of the Spokane Tribe of Indians?

Although the Indian Claims Commission statute of limitations expired August 1951 neither the Colville Confederated Tribes nor the Spokane Tribe knew then or for many years

thereafter that there would be a need to even file claims related to the use of their tribal land and water resources for the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam for power production and reclamation. After all, beginning in the 1930s through the 1970s, the historical and legal record is replete with high level agency correspondence, Solicitor Opinions, inter-agency proposals/memoranda, Congressional findings and directives and ongoing negotiations with the affected Tribes to come to agreements upon the share of revenue generated by Grand Coulee which should go to the Tribes for their use of their respective resources. The Tribes had every reason to believe that their Trustee, the United States, was, although belatedly, going to act in good faith to provide fair and honorable compensation to the Tribes for the United States' proportionate use of their Tribal resources for revenue generated by the Grand Coulee Dam.

In 1974 the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior issued an Opinion which concluded, among other things, that the Spokane and Colville Tribes each retained ownership of the lands underlying the Columbia River and, in the case of the Spokane Tribe, the lands underlying the Spokane River. The Opinion suggested that the resource interests of the Tribes were being utilized in the production of hydroelectric power at Grand Coulee.

In 1975, in response to this Opinion, the Senate Appropriations Committee directed the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army and the Bonneville Power Administration to "open discussions with the Tribes to determine what, if any, interest the Tribes have in such production of power, and to explore ways in which the Tribes might benefit from any interest so determined." (S. Rept. 94-505 at 79). A Colville/Spokane Task Force was subsequently composed of representatives of various federal agencies, BPA and the Tribes.

By this time, it was becoming apparent to the Tribes that the U.S. was beginning to consider possible legal defenses such as navigational servitude and the 1951 Indian Claims Commission statute of limitations to severely limit and/or entirely eliminate any obligation by the federal government as fiduciary to compensate the Tribes for the conversion of Tribal resources by the U.S.

In response to the newly expressed suggestion of the U.S. to attempt to severely limit or entirely eliminate any obligations to provide compensation for its breach of its trust responsibility and conversion of Tribal resources, the Colville Confederate Tribes filed a petition with the Indian Claims Commission on August 5, 1976 to amend its original claim petition (filed on July 31, 1951), which was then still pending and to include a claim for "compensation and damages arising out of the taking and use of its lands, including the resources . . . in connection with the construction . . . operation by defendant [United States of America] of the Grand Coulee Dam, including the reservoir area created by the Dam." The U.S. then, for the first time, argued that the Colville Tribes' attempt to amend their 1951 petition in 1976 should be denied because it was barred by the 1951 statute of limitations of the Indian Claims Commission Act.

On November 18, 1976, the Indian Claims Commission held that the original land claim filed in 1951 . . . was broad enough to support a claim for damages arising from the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee

Dam. Therefore [the Colville Tribes] amended claim relates back and is not barred by the statute of limitations." 39 Ind. Cl. Comm. 159. As a consequence, the Colville Tribes, in 1976, were able to effectively respond to the U.S.' belated strategy to raise the 1951 statute of limitations.

The Spokane Tribe, however, was not similarly situated. While the Spokane Tribe, like the Colville Tribes, had timely filed its land claims before the Indian Claims Commission in 1951, the Spokane Tribe had already entered into a settlement agreement concerning its original claims on February 21, 1967, approximately nine years prior to any indication that the U.S. might suggest or attempt to limit or eliminate its obligations to the Tribes regarding Grand Coulee Dam. As a consequence, the Spokane Tribe did not have a pending Indian Claims Commission claim to amend in 1976 as did the Colville Tribes. As evidenced by the U.S.' attempt in 1976 to defeat the Colvilles' motion to amend their petition, the U.S. apparently hoped to prevent both the Colvilles and the Spokane from bringing Grand Coulee Claims.

While neither the Colville Confederate Tribes nor the Spokane Tribe knew in 1951 or in 1967 that they needed to file claims for damages and compensation for the construction and operation of Grand Coulee, it was mere happenstance that the Colville Tribes still had an Indian Claims Commission case pending and capable of being amended in the mid-1970's and the Spokane Tribe did not.

Up until the mid-1970's, neither the Colville Tribes nor the Spokane Tribe had any reason to distrust that the U.S. would not attempt to negotiate a fair and honorable compensation settlement given the past Federal agency pronouncements, legal opinions, on-going negotiations and Congressional directives.

When the Colville settlement legislation was moving forward in 1994, the Spokane Tribe pressed for an amendment to waive the statute of limitations and allow the Spokane Tribe to seek just and equitable compensation resulting from the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam. Fearful that the Spokane Tribe's efforts might delay and jeopardize final enactment of the Colville settlement legislation, the Colville Tribes and others requested that the Spokane Tribe defer its efforts to seek settlement of its claims. The Spokane Tribe honored that request. During the joint House and Senate hearings on the Colville legislation, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs did commit in her testimony that she would study the merits of the Spokane claim. The day after the hearings, the Solicitor of the Department committed the Department to examine, independent of the Colville Bill, the Spokane Tribe's claims. The House Resources Committee Report accompanying the Colville legislation stated that the Spokane claim was "identical in many respects" to the harm suffered by the Colville Tribes. The Committee noted "that the Spokane Tribe has a moral claim and requests that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice work with the Spokane Tribe to develop a means to address the Spokane's claim." In the Senate, Senators INOUE, Bradley, MURRAY, MCCAIN and Hatfield joined in a colloquy expressing their concern that the claims of the Spokane Tribe should be addressed and urged the Administrative agencies to work with the Spokane Tribe to resolve the Tribe's claims.

Following a subsequent commitment from Associate Attorney General, John R. Schmidt, that the Department and other federal agencies would undertake an "earnest" and "fair evaluation" of the Tribe's claims, the Tribe committed a great deal of time, resources and funding to fully research and document its claims. By late 1995, the Tribe was prepared to formally request that the Interior and Justice Departments establish a federal "negotiating team." In a meeting with Interior Department officials in December 1995, Tribal representatives were astounded when they were advised that the Tribe should return to Congress and renew the Tribe's request for a waiver of the statute of limitations.

On July 9, 1996, Senators MURRAY, MCCAIN, INOUE, Bradley and I sent a letter to Secretary Bruce Babbitt stating the Federal/tribal negotiations urged by Congress in 1994 were not predicated on the Tribe's first obtaining a waiver of the statute of limitations, that the requirement for such an undertaking was "totally contrary to the understanding of the Tribe and to the direction of Congress," and urged that the Interior Department "proceed as soon as possible to negotiate with the Tribe on its power value and fishing claims as previously directed by Congress." Unfortunately, viable and equitable settlement negotiations have not materialized.

Enactment of settlement legislation addressing the meritorious claims of a Tribe, claims otherwise barred by a statute of limitations, is neither new or precedent setting. There is ample precedent for Congressional recognition of the moral claims of Indian tribes and provision of appropriate compensation. Several tribes within the Missouri River Basin suffered very significant damage because of inundation of reservation bottom lands through construction of the Pick-Sloan Project dams. In recognition of these damages, Congress has provided substantial compensation to the Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (P.L. 102-575), the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (P.L. 104-233), and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe (P.L. 105-132). Compensatory legislation for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (S. 964) and the Santee Sioux and Yankton Sioux Tribes (S. 1148) are currently pending before this Congress and are expected to move through the Senate Commission on Indian Affairs shortly.

The Federal Government, by its own admission, had a conflict of interest and blatantly breached its fiduciary trust responsibility to the Spokane Tribe. Having breached that trust by converting the Tribe's resources to its own benefit, it led the Tribe to believe it would receive fair and honorable compensation. The United States then changed its position and belatedly asserted new legal defenses against compensation for the Tribe. Now, the U.S. seeks to avoid fair and honorable negotiations with the Tribe it betrayed because the Tribe failed to timely file its claims before the expiration of the statute of limitations. As quoted by the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in her testimony on the Colville settlement legislation:

... I am reminded of the words of Justice Black . . . in litigation about another dam flooding the lands of another tribe's territory: "Great nations, like great men, should keep their word." When the Congress enacts and the President signs this legislation, we can all be proud that we are, at last, acting as a great nation should.

I urge my colleagues to keep the word of our Nation and act expeditiously and favorably

on this legislation as it proceeds through the Congress.

RECOGNIZING GARNER E. SHRIVER

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Kansan and a great American.

Garner E. Shriver was born July 6, 1912 in the small Butler County town of Towanda. He attended public schools in Towanda and Wichita, and started an illustrious career of service to our nation by enlisting in the United States Navy following graduation from the University of Wichita and Washburn School of Law.

Honorably discharged as an officer after three years in the Navy, Mr. Shriver served in the Kansas Legislature in both the House of Representatives and the State Senate. In 1960, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by the people of the 4th District of Kansas, who re-elected him seven times. Congressman Shriver was a relentless advocate for the 4th District of Kansas, and worked tirelessly as a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee on behalf of his constituents. During his 16 years in Congress, Garner became an influential voice on significant issues of the day, including health and education benefits for our Nation's veterans, and landmark civil rights legislation. He served on the committee that drafted the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Although Mr. Shriver left the House in 1977, he didn't leave Congress. He moved over to the Senate and served as minority staff director and general counsel for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee from 1977 to 1982, where he made a significant impact on his fellow veterans' lives. Mr. Shriver returned home to Wichita where he practiced law until his death, March 1, 1998. Garner Shriver is survived by his wife, Martha Jane, and three children David, Kay, and Linda. He also has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Garner E. Shriver was a noble public servant and served the people of the 4th District with distinction. I am honored to succeed him as the current 4th District Representative, and I am pleased to have an opportunity to honor his service to our nation by introducing legislation today that will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 9350 East Corporate Hill Drive in Wichita, KS as the "Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building."

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RE-NEWED EFFORT TO FIND PEACEFUL, JUST, AND LASTING SETTLEMENT TO CYPRUS PROBLEM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 165, a resolution that calls for the rights of Greek Cypriots and

Turkish Cypriots to be protected. Most importantly, the resolution urges that steps be taken to resolve the longest unresolved conflict in Europe—the division of Cyprus.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I co-chair, has held several briefings over the last 18 months on the evolution of a hoped-for solution to the Cyprus impasse. The tone of these briefings varied from optimistic to skeptical. Those concerned about this problem were hopeful when United Nations Secretary General Koffi Annan put forth a proposed plan last November.

After further discussions, Mr. Annan adapted the plan to encompass the concerns voiced by both sides of the conflict. Unfortunately, Mr. Rauf Denkash, leader of the Turkish Cypriots, failed to accept either the comprehensive settlement or the proposed referendum advanced by the Secretary General. Denkash's inability to find common ground with his fellow Cypriots from the Greek side keeps Cyprus divided.

H. Res. 165 calls for the most logical resolution of the problem—let the people of Cyprus, whether they be Greek Cypriots or Turkish Cypriots, determine their own fate at the ballot box. Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated their support for this proposal in massive public marches. Many Turkish Cypriots are obtaining Republic of Cyprus passports in an attempt to move this process ahead.

Mr. Denkash must heed the call of these times. The time for a single man to stand in the way of progress for an entire people, for an entire country, is past. I call on you, Mr. Denkash, to allow the referendum to be held now or step aside in the interest of your people and the prospect of reconciliation on the divided island nation of Cyprus!

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF PATRIOT'S DAY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues from Massachusetts and I are introducing identical resolutions in both the House and the Senate that celebrate a shining moment in the history of the United States, the beginning of the most enduring free and democratic experiment in the world. On April 19, 1775, the American colonists in Lexington, in Concord and in "every Middlesex village and town" rose up to claim their inherent right to govern themselves, free of the whims of the English king.

While this day is already celebrated as a state holiday in both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Maine, and the national significance of the events surrounding the "shot heard 'round the world" is unquestioned, the recent establishment of a national day of remembrance on September 11 as "Patriot Day" has understandably confused some Americans regarding "Patriot's Day" in April. We introduce this resolution not in any way to diminish "Patriot Day," but only to remind our colleagues and the public that "Patriot's Day" continues to serve every year as a reminder of the origins of the freedoms we enjoy today.

So this year we ask all Americans to join us in celebrating Patriot's Day, 2003, to be cele-

brated on Monday April 21. As a reminder of this day, I am including excerpts from Longfellow's "Paul Revere's Ride" and from Emerson's "The Concord Hymn"

PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

"Listen my children and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.
He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,
One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to
arm . . ."

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of
alarm

To every Middlesex village and farm,
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo for evermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

THE CONCORD HYMN

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.
On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLE-
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that our airlines are hurting. Passenger numbers have never recovered from September 11. Orange terror warnings and media reports are also scaring away passengers. The war in Iraq has the potential of having a serious and negative effect on this industry. The first Gulf War helped cause the demise of four commercial airlines, all of which disappeared into liquidation.

But another handout directly to the airlines is not going to solve the problem. The \$3.2 billion in this bill comes just a year and a half after we approved a \$15 billion package of

post September 11 loans and grants designed to tide airlines over.

The real problem is that people aren't flying. Even though the number of flights have been reduced, on average, more than 25 percent of the seats on flights are left unsold. And a reduction in flights means job cuts.

It is time we try something more direct. We are proposing a way to get the American public flying again. By filling empty seats, we can actually help to preserve and even create jobs.

That's why Representative SCOTT and I are offering an amendment that will encourage people to fly. Our "Freedom to Fly" amendment would set aside the same proposed amount—\$3.2 billion—to support an airline ticket discount program. The discount coupons we propose could be used to purchase any airline travel at a 50 percent discount. For example, a voucher costing the passenger \$100 would be worth \$200 toward the purchase of an airline ticket. Our program would apply the \$3.2 bill to directly subsidized passengers and indirectly the airlines. This program would apply to everyone buying tickets on U.S.-owned passenger airlines.

As a result of this amendment, air travel would increase because the consumer cost of air travel would be cut in half. And this plan would benefit not just the airlines and the traveling public, but also stimulate business for hotels, rental car companies, travel agencies, and other travel related industries.

The total effect of the program would be far greater than just subsidizing the airlines. Over the past week, the airlines have laid off 10,000 workers. A subsidy will not stem the tide of additional layoffs. On the other hand, the proposed vouchers will result in increased airline business, and in increased demand for workers.

The proposed program would be developed and administered by the Department of Transportation, and would be in effect for one year, through March 31, 2004. This is a short-term program that actually has some real prospect of being successful. Giving Americans the "freedom to fly" will fill those empty seats by making them affordable, thereby increasing revenues for the airlines, preserving jobs, and generating additional revenues for others involved in travel commerce.

I encourage all my colleagues to join us in support of this important amendment.

THE DEAN AND BETTY GALLO
PROSTATE CANCER CENTER'S
EDUCATION INITIATIVE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center's new education initiative.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men—about 220,900 new cases will be diagnosed this year. Approximately 28,900 men will be stricken down by this disease—one that devastates so many families by killing so many fathers, brothers, and sons.

I am proud to say that the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center in central New Jersey is working hard to improve these statistics. On April 12, the Gallo Center will kick off

its prostate cancer education initiative with a statewide health event held at 13 separate sites. At these sites, individuals and families will be able to get information and talk to representatives of the Gallo Center, local health departments, and other officials.

In the fight against prostate cancer, it is vitally important that we concentrate on education and screening. Catching the disease early drastically improves the chances of surviving, and lowers the need for the expensive treatments used during later stages of the cancer.

For those who are diagnosed with prostate cancer, the Gallo Center is New Jersey's only specialized prostate health resource at a National Cancer Institute—the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The Center is also an advanced research facility that transforms laboratory discoveries into clinical practice.

While I am glad that New Jersey can rely on such a world-class facility for prostate cancer research and treatment, I am even more pleased to learn of the Gallo Center's educational and outreach efforts. Prostate cancer is a disease that disproportionately affects elderly men and African-Americans, and it is vital that health care professionals reach out to these populations to inform them of the warning signs of the disease.

Again, let me applaud the Gallo Center's efforts to inform and educate New Jersey's citizens about this devastating disease.

INTRODUCING JOHN'S LAW

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, in the coming months we will be marking the third anniversary of the tragic death of one of my constituents. U.S. Navy Ensign John Elliott, who had just received his commission to Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, was struck and killed by a drunk driver on July 22, 2000. The accident instantly killed Elliott and seriously injured his passenger, Kristen Hohenwarter.

Sadly, it was later discovered that the driver responsible for Elliott's death had been arrested for drunken driving earlier that evening. Elliott was on his way home for his mother's birthday party when he crossed paths with the intoxicated driver.

Nearly three years after that tragic accident, his parents continue the fight to save other families from the grief they have endured. Lobbying the New Jersey State Legislature, the Elliotts saw to fruition the drafting, passage and ultimate enactment of John's Law. The law ensures that individuals who pick up an arrested driver sign a document accepting custody. Additionally, it gives State Police the authorization to impound the automobile of an arrested driver for up to 12 hours.

Today, I am introducing a bill expressing the sense of Congress that funding should be made available from the Highway Trust Fund to encourage all states to enact legislation to require law enforcement officers to impound motor vehicles of those charged with driving while intoxicated and to issue responsibility

warnings to those who take custody of suspects driving while intoxicated. The legislation also requires the National Traffic Safety Board to report to Congress on the number and severity of traffic accidents caused by individuals who were released by state and local police hours after being charged with DWI and to make recommendations on the need for states to adopt statutes similar to John's Law.

We are making important strides to eliminate the senseless deaths caused by the lethal mix of alcohol and automobiles. Annual deaths from drinking and driving have decreased from approximately 28,000 in 1980 to 16,068 in 2000. In 1982, 57 percent of all traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. In 2000, that percentage fell to 38 percent. However, much work remains to be done. Each death is a preventable one and I am sure this resolution will go a long way in ensuring deaths like Ensign Elliott's are prevented and families are saved from the pain the Elliotts and other families across the nation have endured.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP BURTON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago today, our Nation lost a fierce and fearless leader—Phillip Burton, a great Member of Congress from San Francisco.

Sometimes profound, often profane, but always passionate, Phillip Burton was a voice for workers, the poor, the elderly, the disabled and a protector of the environment. He turned up the volume of those who could only whisper for help.

Through his work, the world has been endowed with a lasting legacy of gifts—the giant Redwoods, benefits for black lung sufferers, better wages for workers, and better healthcare for the elderly and the disabled.

Phil Burton believed deeply in the integrity of this institution and its democratic principles of disagreement and debate. One of his first areas of interest was the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities and its destructive use of this House to undermine the principles for which it stood. He worked successfully to abolish the Committee.

Expanding on the openness and fairness he desired for the House of Representatives, he worked to ensure meaningful reforms in the House so that junior Members were given early opportunities to share more equally in the workings of the committees.

Phil Burton was a legislative master, creating new park lands and protecting lands throughout the country—literally “from California to the New York island; from the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters.” The Washington Post ran the headline about his work: “Sun Never Sets on Burton Empire.”

In 1978, Phil Burton championed the most sweeping environmental legislation ever to pass the Congress, tripling the National Trails System, doubling the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and more than doubling the wilder-

ness in national parks. He and the chairman of the Interior Committee, Mo Udall, worked together to protect 100 million acres of land in Alaska, the largest in the nation. Mo Udall's classic description of Phil says it all: “He unscrewed the inscrutable.” He preserved America's natural wonders.

Among Phil's great successes was creation of the nation's first two urban national parks—the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has become an emerald greenbelt stretching north and south of San Francisco along the Pacific coast.

The jewel at its center is the Presidio. Phil Burton, with one sentence, made it possible for the Presidio to exist as a national park. Years later, Congress created a permanent management entity, the Presidio Trust, to ensure that the Presidio would be preserved in perpetuity as Phil intended.

The “empire” stretched beyond our continental lands to the Territories where Phil sought to bring fairness, cultural harmony and the American Dream to island populations. And he brought them representation in Congress. Congressman ENI FALCOMAVAEGA, who staffed the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs chaired by Phil Burton, is a Member of Congress today because of legislation authored by Phil to ensure representation to the people of America's distant lands.

Phil's mastery extended beyond the legislative arena, and his true artistry was displayed when it came to redistricting. One press account described it as “Phil Burton's contribution to modern art.” For almost three decades, he painted the political landscape of Californians in the House from his palette.

Always central to Phil's success was a strong sense of bipartisanship, which he considered essential. This was evident in his efforts to preserve lands in districts where they formed an economic spine for local communities. By providing worker benefits and working with Republicans and Democrats, success was possible that benefited not only the short-term existence of a community, but the longer-term preservation of the environment. In all of his work, he put the public interest above self-interest, including the self-interests of those who preferred to realize financial gain.

Phil Burton's career took a detour on the road to become Speaker. When Phil lost the race for Majority Leader, Speaker Tip O'Neill said, “I never saw a person take defeat so gracefully . . .” He may have lost the personal battle for Majority Leader, but he was victorious in his broad war to ensure social justice and human dignity for all people.

Phil Burton worked every day of his life to protect this planet, its people and this place where we govern. He was not a man of shallow interest, but a man of deep and abiding commitment to democratic principles.

In his short life, he brought our nation a legacy of accomplishment that will outlast our lifetimes and those of our grandchildren. As enduring and tangible as the monuments he left to us will be our abiding commitment to the principles he held in his heart. Years from now, these generations will not know his name, but they will experience his monumental achievements.

Phil Burton stands as tall as a giant among us and as lasting as the great Redwoods.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S
DEFENSE FUND

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the most effective child advocacy organization in the United States of America, or any place else in the world—the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). Founded in 1973 by the creative, dedicated and far-sighted Marian Wright Edelman, the CDF has played a key role in keeping the needs, hopes and aspirations of our children in the eyes and minds of policy makers and the general public.

Through its research and education efforts the CDF has educated, motivated, and stimulated millions of parents to become more aware of the needs of their children and how they too can become advocates for them. The CDF has provided health support, informed parents on how to use the Children's Health Insurance Program, put together the Student Health Outreach Project and through its Child Welfare and Mental Health Division works to support and protect children and their families who have been abused, neglected, suffered serious emotional problems and in some instances have even been left homeless.

Education is indeed the key that unlocks the door to success and in this arena the CDF has been unwavering in trying to make head start available to every child, supporting educational programs like the 21st Century Community Learning Center, after-school programs, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Infants and Toddlers Program, the Campus Based Childcare, and early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program, as well as countless others.

Mr. Speaker, our children are indeed the future, and as the songwriter said: "teach them well and let them lead the way," well for thirty years the CDF has been leading the way and pointing out to America that they need our support, financially, morally, spiritually, educationally, and emotionally if they are to become the leaders that we need for tomorrow. Yes, the CDF for thirty years has fought the good fight, you have paved the way, you are leading us into the light, and we simply pause to take note and say thank you—Marian Wright Edelman, and thank you Children's Defense Fund.

ON THE VETERANS' SURVIVING
CHILDREN'S BENEFITS ACT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, with our nation at war, young men and women in uniform are placed in harm's way and risk losing their lives. Sadly, some have already made the ultimate sacrifice. We owe these brave individuals a great debt, and we also owe that debt to their families.

The surviving spouses of military personnel who die in service and veterans who die as a result of service-connected disabilities become the sole caregivers for their children. They deserve the best assistance that our nation can provide. For this reason I am introducing the Veterans' Surviving Children's Benefits Act.

In 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs completed a congressionally mandated evaluation of survivorship benefits paid to the families of men and women who have given their lives for their country. According to the results, a surviving spouse with dependent children needed to receive an additional \$250 per month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). With the additional \$250 per month, the benefits provided to a surviving spouse with children would be comparable to the benefits received by a surviving spouse who did not have children. The study found a \$250 increase in monthly benefits was needed regardless of the number of children in the family.

The Veterans' Surviving Children's Benefits Act would provide a \$250 monthly increase in survivor benefits recommended for surviving spouses with children. While no amount of money can ever compensate a child for the loss of a parent, I believe that we should assure that surviving spouses with children have their needs met to at least the same extent as surviving spouses without children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in providing this small but necessary comfort to the surviving children of military personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

**ROLF SCHULZE: ACADEMIC, UNION
LEADER, FRIEND**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate

Dr. Rolf Schulze upon the occasion of his retirement as a professor at San Diego State University (SDSU), the institution of learning at which I also taught for 20 years. Rolf has outdone me, though, with a teaching career of 34 years!

I first met Rolf in the early 1970s, when we were both new to SDSU. I discovered a man of conviction, dedicated both to his academic endeavors and to his belief in the importance of the labor movement. Rolf began as a trade union member at 15 years of age. He came to the United States from Germany at age 17 with few dollars in his pocket but very large dreams. After serving in the military, he obtained his PhD at Michigan State University, followed by his appointment to teach at SDSU.

Rolf became president of the United Professors of California in 1970 and later, when it became the California Faculty Association, he served several more terms as president, as well as serving as a member of the SDSU Senate. He now is a member of the Executive Board of the San Diego/Imperial Counties Labor Council.

Rolf exhibited his special talents in working for solidarity within his own union, as well as with other unions—promoting quality education, fair working conditions, compensation and benefits. He has been a leader in helping to institute many democratic cost reforms within the California academic system.

As a Sociology professor, Rolf demonstrated his love of teaching, research, and writing. His students consider him to be an inspiration to them, coming back to acknowledge his influence years after their graduation. It is well known that there is "standing room only" on the first day of his classes. He challenges his students to think for themselves, to question, and not to settle for the status quo but always to look for better ways to solve problems and to guard our liberties.

Rolf's way of solving problems at all levels is to communicate openly and to encourage the building of consensus. He has been a leader in bringing faculty, unions, and administration together for the betterment of all, not by grandstanding—which is not his way—but through his own brand of quiet, patient listening, showing respect for all points of view.

Upon his retirement, he leaves the university a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife Jane Carney Schulze, his sons Mark and Eric, and his daughters-in-law Patty Mooney and Tina Thomas.

My best wishes go to my colleague and my good friend, Rolf Schulze.