

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