

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO KAY PATTERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian, a close personal friend, and exemplary public figure in the State of South Carolina and his community, Senator Kay Patterson. On April 17, 2003, the Columbia Housing Authority will honor Senator Patterson's lifetime of achievements by placing his likeness on its Wall of Fame. This recognition comes on the heels of BellSouth's recognition of his accomplishments by honoring him on its 2003 African American History Calendar.

Born in Darlington County, SC, Senator Patterson was raised by his grandmothers, Meta B. Patterson and Emma Joseph. After graduation from Lincoln High School in Sumter, South Carolina, he enrolled at Claflin College for two years before leaving to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and rose to the rank of buck-sergeant. Upon completing his military service, Senator Patterson returned to South Carolina and matriculated at Allen University where he earned a B.A. Degree in Social Sciences. Several years later, he would earn a Masters Degree in Education from South Carolina State University.

Like myself, he started his professional career as a middle school teacher. His commitment to educating our youth provided the foundation for Senator Patterson's illustrious career. His 14 years of service as an educator at W.A. Perry Middle School, C.A. Johnson High School and Benedict College and 16 years as a UniServ Representative for the South Carolina Education Association are testimony of his willingness and tenaciousness on behalf of students and teachers.

Senator Patterson began his successful odyssey toward high achievement as a politician in 1974, when he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He would serve in the House until 1985, when he was elected to his current position in the South Carolina Senate. Renowned as a fiery and inspirational orator, Patterson has been a dynamic force in promoting change in his native state. He represents the constituents in Richland County Senate District 19 on the Senate's Banking & Insurance, Corrections & Penology, Education, Finance & Transportation Committees. In addition, Senator Patterson currently serves as Chairman of the Richland County Legislative Delegation.

Among Senator Patterson's numerous civic activities are membership in the North Columbia Civic Club and life membership in the NAACP, and I am proud to claim him as my brother in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to which he became a member while enrolled at Claflin.

Senator Patterson was elected by the South Carolina House Education Committee to serve on the University of South Carolina's Board of

Trustees in 1983. He was elected Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus in 1990, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from South Carolina State University in 2000. And on a personal note is Chair of Friends of Jim Clyburn, my political organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been asked to deliver the Keynote address at Kay's induction ceremony and ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Senator Patterson for a lifetime of lofty achievements. My most sincere congratulations go out to him for his endless accomplishments, and loyal and dedicated friendship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to re-introduce the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act. A few years ago many of my constituents were placed into a special flood hazard area, indicated by FEMA's Flood Rate Maps, that requires them to purchase flood insurance that can cost over \$1,000 per year.

These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until 2 months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice and ample time to purchase flood insurance. Needless to say, this took many of my constituents by surprise when they were required to purchase costly insurance at a moments notice, having not seen flooding in decades or even a lifetime.

Several residents who did not believe they were in the flood zone hired surveyors at their own expense, and many residents continue to hire surveyors. The private surveyors' data has resulted in removal of homes from the special flood hazard area, thus removing them from their obligation to purchase flood insurance. In the long run, while these residents are not required to purchase flood insurance, they have spent over \$200 each for surveyor costs. Unfortunately, this cost burden is the responsibility of the property owner. They were told by FEMA that under current law property owners who challenge the presumed flood classification are responsible for the surveyor expense even though the incorrect classification is no fault of their own.

Clearly, the National Flood Insurance Program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice, due process, and financial protection when they succeed in removing their property from the base flood elevation classification. That is why I am proposing the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act does the following:

The bill improves the existing program by requiring the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community affected by the changes in Flood Insurance Rate Maps, rather than by first class mail as is the case currently. The Director will be required to provide a copy of the revised map, along with a statement explaining the process of appeal. The Director will also provide the affected community sufficient information to identify which homes are affected.

It also requires the Director to notify by registered mail, rather than first class mail, the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. This change will ensure that the community receives the notice of changes and has ample time to comply with the map changes within the statutory effective date.

The bill improves upon current law by requiring the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Currently, the community is responsible for making sure that the residents are aware of the flood map changes. Requiring FEMA to notify residents expedites the process by eliminating the middleman.

Finally, it requires FEMA to reimburse a resident or property owner for reasonable costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for a successful request to be removed from the special flood hazard area to the Director. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that this legislation will allow communities to work more effectively with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they are required to purchase flood insurance and to ensure that homeowners are not held financially liable when a change in a community's flood insurance rate map does not affect their property. In the last Congress I had members from both sides of the aisle cosponsor the bill. I hope to receive even greater support for the bill in the current Congress and look forward to working with my colleagues to see enactment of the National Flood Insurance Program Act.

INTRODUCTION OF FERN LAKE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ACT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined by Congressman ZACH WAMP in reintroducing legislation to protect Fern Lake, an important part of our shared scenic heritage. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL will be introducing identical legislation in the U.S. Senate today.

• 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.

This legislation will allow the National Park Service to purchase Fern Lake and incorporate these lands into the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park boundary. Further, this legislation will secure a clean and reliable water source for the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky.

This bill authorizes the purchase of land now neighboring the Gap boundary and the 150-acre lake. The measure would also allow the Park Service to acquire another 4,500 acres of adjoining watershed from willing sellers if funds become available. By buying this property, we will protect this important national passageway for generations and address the resource needs of our local communities today.

This legislation began with a petition, delivered to me by Ben Hickman, the mayor of Middlesboro. From there, we sat down with the National Park Service and brought them together with local officials to create this win-win opportunity for the park and the entire region both in Kentucky and Tennessee.

This important acquisition fits into our efforts to create jobs, protect our environmental resources, and promote economic development by enhancing our potential for tourism. I am proud to have the support of Congressman WAMP and look forward to its passage at a later date.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
SELLERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. William "Bill" Sellers of Waynesville, Missouri.

Mr. Sellers was born in Davisville, Missouri, on August 5, 1926. Bill was married to his wonderful wife, Melba, on November 2, 1945. He has always been a community, religious, and business leader.

Mr. Sellers has thirty-two years of sales experience in the automobile industry. He served as the General Manager of Springfield Lincoln-Mercury in Springfield, Missouri, and Sales Coordinator of Craig Distributing Company of Salem, Missouri. Bill went on to form Sellers-Sexton Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, and Mazda Dealership, in St. Robert, Missouri, with his partner Larry Sexton. Mr. Sellers was the Vice-President of Sellers-Sexton, Inc. He was also a member of the Missouri Automobile Dealers Association and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Sellers was a successful businessman, but above that, he was a caring community leader and a loving Christian man. Bill was the past President of the Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri Chapter of Association of the United States Army, a member and past Chairman of the Committee of Fifty, and past board member of the Waynesville/St. Robert Chamber of Commerce. He was a 32nd degree Mason, member of Tyro Lodge No. 12 in Caledonia, member of Abou Ben Adheim Shrine in Springfield, Missouri, and member of the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society.

Mr. Sellers was a strong Christian man who was not afraid to share his beliefs with others.

Bill was ordained Deacon in 1973 from Southaven Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, and was a member of Westside Baptist Church, Waynesville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Sellers was a man who never met a stranger and was always willing to help his fellow man. He had a steadfast dedication to his family, church, community, and business. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife Melba; his three children Connie Sexton, Billie Jean Dalton, and J. Craig Sellers; and his five grandchildren.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF NEWS40

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 5th anniversary of NEWS40, which is currently serving Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties in Massachusetts.

NEWS40 originally aired on April 14, 1953 on Channel 55 as an affiliate of CBS and Dumont Television Networks. However, in 1956 the station was reallocated to Channel 40, and in 1959 changed affiliations to join the ABC network. The Guy Gannett Publishing Company of Maine purchased the radio portion of the network in 1979, which necessitated new call letters for the television station. After an in-house contest, WHYN-TV became WGGB-TV, named after the publishing company. In April of 1999, the Sinclair Broadcast Group of Baltimore, MD purchased NEWS40 and facilitated the use of a digital transmitter while on the air. Despite a variety of administrative changes throughout its history, NEWS40 remains a dominant leader in local news.

Located in the heart of Springfield, MA, NEWS40 sets the standard in entertainment, news, and community involvement. It is the home of hits such as Nightline, 20/20, N.Y.P.D. Blue, and The Practice, as well as quality children programming. Moreover, NEWS40 is an essential participant in local community events. NEWS40 was among the earliest stations to carry the Muscular Dystrophy telethon, and has been televising the event for 35 years. Also, the station collects over 10,000 coats to distribute throughout the winter for the "Coats for Kids" campaign, and collaborates with the Salvation Army to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 600 families. As an active partner with Head Start, the station is a vehicle to collect toys, clothing, and housewares from viewers for the "All I Want for Christmas" campaign. The station's annual contribution to the community demonstrates the essential role of NEWS40 in the greater Springfield area.

As the station celebrates its 50th anniversary I would like to commend their continuous role in the community. From the days of live news broadcasts to the beginning of the digital transmitter, NEWS40 is truly coverage you can count on to be an active and essential member of the community.

RURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in the dark of night on August 27, 2002, the town of Kaycee, Wyoming was overwhelmed by a four-foot surge of water from the Powder River caused by a severe and destructive rainstorm pouring down two-thirds of the town's annual rainfall within a six-hour period. The damage was disastrous, over 80 percent of Kaycee's businesses and one-third of their residences were damaged or destroyed. But despite Kaycee's massive loss—one that would have cost billions had Manhattan, Los Angeles or Chicago lost 80 percent of their businesses—there was no disaster declaration.

This flood effectively erased the community of Kaycee, and it's absolutely preposterous that a disaster of this magnitude does not qualify as a disaster. A comparable disaster in Washington, D.C. would have destroyed 96,196 homes and 15,575 businesses. Washington, D.C. would not function after such a disaster and neither can Kaycee, Wyoming. In fact, under today's criteria, a majority of Wyoming's communities could be destroyed without receiving a disaster designation, as Kaycee has shown. The federal disaster designation criteria need to be re-calibrated.

In the Stafford Act, the law that governs disaster relief, Congress prohibited discrimination against small communities by outlawing the use of formulas and scales based on income and population. Somehow, however, the rules that came after the Congressional action neglected to observe these guidelines. That's why I am drafting legislation that will reinstate fairness in disaster relief. My bill will send FEMA back to the drawing board to create rules that will respect Congressional intent and not freeze out cities and towns across the country simply because they are small towns. It will also create an office of rural advocacy to assist small states in the application for disaster assistance and advocate for rural concerns in rulemakings and other administrative actions. When federal agencies promulgate rules that are counter to the intent of Congress, it is our obligation as a body to reassert those intentions and have the appropriate agency correct its errors. Passage of this bill will do just that.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA L. STONE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian and multi-talented dignitary in the entertainment industry, Angela L. Stone. By proudly representing her home state in her enormously successful recording career, Ms. Stone will be inducted to the Columbia Housing Authority's Wall of Fame on April 17, 2003.

Like so many successful recording artists, Ms. Stone began her singing career in the church. At the age of 11, she performed her

first gospel solo, "The Harvest is Plentiful," at First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia. Recognizing his daughter's precocious ability, her father inspired his only child by taking her to gospel performances by the likes of the Singing Angels and the Gospel Keynotes.

While starring as a basketball player at C.A. Johnson High School, Stone spent much of her spare time nurturing her artistic talents by writing poetry. Upon graduation, she turned down college basketball scholarship offers to pursue her passion and embarked upon a career in the music industry.

Ms. Stone saved money to record her demo at a Columbia studio called PAW. Shortly thereafter, her self-taught keyboard skills along with her naturally melodious singing voice would quickly garner the attention of the music industry. Her professional career took off in the mid-80s when she joined the rap trio Sequence. After the group disbanded, she began collaborations with rap group Mantronix and rock singer Lenny Kravitz. She then formed the neo-soul trio Vertical Hold, who first reached the R&B charts in 1988 with "Summertime." The group's 1993 single, "Seems You're Much Too Busy" reached number 17 on the charts.

Ms. Stone signed a contract with Arista Records in 1997. While with Arista, she recorded her first album, *Black Diamond*, in 1999. The title of the album's first hit single was "No More Rain (In This Cloud)," was inspired by a phrase her father would use when Stone would ask for money: "There's no more rain in this cloud."

Several movie soundtracks feature Ms. Stone's talent. They include "Disappearing Acts," "Bamboozled" and "Love & Basketball." She released her second album, *Mahogany Soul*, in 2001. The album made *Entertainment Weekly's* Top 100 list of albums for that year. Ms. Stone was also a 2003 Grammy Nominee.

Ms. Stone made her "big screen" debut in the movie *Hot Chicks*. She has recently completed filming of her second movie, *The Fighting Temptations* starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. She can currently be seen in Coca-Cola and Gap television commercials, and is preparing for her first appearance on Broadway in the musical, *Chicago*.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to be present for Ms. Stone's induction ceremony on Thursday April 17th, and ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Angela L. Stone for her achievements in the entertainment industry. Her status and visibility in music and film is worthy of much praise and pride from her family, friends, and all in her native state of South Carolina.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHIL
BURTON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the Dean of the California Delegation and someone who was honored to serve in Congress with Phil Burton, I wanted to join with my colleagues in celebrating the life of this remarkable man.

When I hear the name Phil Burton what comes to mind is the memory of an elemental

force of nature. The fact that we reflect today on this man of the House twenty years after his death reaffirms this sense. It reminds me of black holes as astronomers describe them. While they can't be seen, they exert an awesome attractive force.

Phil once yelled at me, "If I'm shouting at you, it means I love you!" To be on the receiving end of such tough love was not always pleasant, but it was effective. And, it explains, in part, why Phil was a legislator's legislator.

One of his biographers describes him as "one of the most effective and forceful congressmen ever to pass through [these congressional] halls." She adds that, "His force would be missed by those who shared his views after he was gone." That is very true. But what is also true is that his force is still felt by those of us who were lucky enough to know and serve with him.

I learned much from Phil Burton and continue to use those lessons today.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN ENGLE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, all around great Kentuckian, and someone I am proud to call a friend, Karen Engle. As Executive Director of the PRIDE program, Karen has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people throughout southern and eastern Kentucky. I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for her many contributions.

Born and raised in Pike County, Kentucky, Karen has spent much of her life working to make her region a better place. I first had the opportunity to get to know Karen when she joined my congressional staff in 1994. From the very beginning, it was clear that she was bright, motivated, and a natural born leader. For almost five years, she served as a Project Manager and Field Representative in my Pikeville District office. Her knowledge of the region and its people, along with her professionalism and commitment to service, made her a most valuable part of my team.

In 1999, I asked Karen to put her insight and leadership skills to work by taking the helm of the PRIDE program. Under Karen's leadership, this federal, state, and local partnership has made significant strides in cleaning up our region's rivers and streams, helping our counties address sewage and trash problems, and educating our children about the importance of a clean environment. Since the program's creation in 1997, more than 74,500 PRIDE volunteers have worked over 225,000 hours cleaning up 286 streams, 1,294 illegal dumps, and 3,000 roadways. Additionally, PRIDE has eliminated 20,560 straight pipes and failing septic systems that have long polluted our region's waterways. Thanks to Karen's unwavering commitment, the PRIDE program has soared to amazing heights and is going strong. There is no doubt that the people of Kentucky will continue to benefit from her contributions for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank my friend Karen Engle for the time, energy, and devotion she

has put into the lives of others. I am especially grateful for her unwavering commitment to the PRIDE program and the people of southern and eastern Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S TROOPS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to bring to your attention a poem that was read at a "Support the Troops Rally" on March 22, 2003, in Jefferson City, Missouri. These words were given to the crowd by Rita Turley of Jefferson City, though they were written by an unknown author. Ms. Turley understands the words of the poem, as she has a son serving in Iraq, in the Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the members of the House should welcome these words of support and dedication.

I am a small and precious child, my mom's been sent to fight.

The only place I'll see her face is in my dreams at night.

She will be gone too many days for my young mind to track.

I may be sad, but I am proud. God, protect her in Iraq.

I am a strong and loving wife, with a husband soon to go.

There are times I'm terrified in a way most never know.

I bite my lip, and force a smile as I watch my husband pack.

My heart may break, but I am proud. God, protect him in Iraq.

I am a caring mother, my son has gone to war.

My mind is filled with worries that I have never known before.

Everyday I try to keep my thoughts from turning black.

I may be scared, but I am proud. God, protect him in Iraq.

I am a Soldier, Serving Proudly, Standing Tall.

I fight for freedom, yours and mine, by answering this call.

I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.

Say a prayer that I'll come home. . . . God, protect me in Iraq.

HONORING WWLP-TV22

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 50th anniversary of WWLP-TV22, which on March 17, 1953 became the first station to broadcast on the air in Western Massachusetts.

As an NBC affiliate, WWLP is a leader in broadcasting, news, and ratings in Western Massachusetts. In 2003, the station was recognized by the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Associated Press as having the Best TV Newscast, the Best Sportscaast, and the Best Public Affairs Program. Also, the station hosts

the longest running high school program in the country, "As Schools Match Wits." WWLP's history of public service programming includes the live broadcast of the Gubernatorial Democratic Debate, which originated in the new, all digital studio, in Chicopee. The corporate owners of WWLP, the LIN Television Corporation, opened the Northeast Operations Center out of the Chicopee office to accommodate five television stations being controlled out of a single, state of the art facility.

WWLP continues to provide quality service to the community through their innovative Skylink program, which utilizes mobile satellite technology to broadcast live from anywhere within driving distance. Additionally, WWLP has a back up generator on Provin Mountain, and a UPS system and back up generator in Chicopee. Therefore, the back up systems will provide uninterrupted service to the viewers even in the event of a power outage at the transmitter or studio location.

As the station celebrates its 50th anniversary, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to their continuous service to the community. WWLP is the only weekday morning news at 5 am, and the only weekend morning newscast in the area. Through the 31 hours of weekly news broadcasting and live Doppler radar updates, WWLP is a leader in news coverage.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important decisions for the founder of a business is "choice-of-entity," or the decision to operate as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company (LLC), or other form of business.

The law regarding choice-of-entity has changed enormously in the last 15 years, particularly with the widespread adoption of laws authorizing the creation of the LLC. As a result, many small business owners have more "choice of entity" flexibility than ever before.

First authorized in Wyoming in 1977, LLCs are organized under state law, and are now recognized in all 50 states. In essence, LLCs are allowed corporate treatment for local law purposes and partnership treatment for Federal income tax purpose. LLCs also provide for more than one class of ownership, allowing for increased flexibility to allocate income or losses to different investors. The flexibility and protections of the LLC has led to a rapid expansion in the number of small businesses electing to operate in this manner.

In 1995, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adopted the position that general partnerships could be converted into LLCs with little or no tax effects. Unfortunately, as incorporated entities, this does not hold true for small businesses operated as subchapter S corporations (S Corp).

Created in 1958, the S Corp structure allows for no more than 75 shareholders, can issue only one class of stock, and cannot have partnerships or corporations as shareholders. Yet, until the rise of the LLC, the S Corp structure provided, for all practical pur-

poses, the only way that a small business could enjoy the corporate protections of limited liability without being burdened with corporate taxation. Taxed much the same way as partnerships, many older, family-owned, small businesses operate as S corps.

Clearly, the original intent for creating the S Corp structure was the same reasoning that led to the creation of LLCs—to provide a simple and flexible tax category for small and family-owned businesses. However, despite the similarities to LLCs, S Corps are not granted the same conversion flexibility as other partnership-like entities and are instead grouped with larger companies under a cumbersome corporate structure. My bill would modernize the tax treatment of S Corps, allowing them the same choice-of-entity flexibility offered to other small businesses operating as LLCs. This is a common sense change that is overdue.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WALTER L.
WATSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian and an outstanding member of our community, Colonel Walter L. Watson, Jr. For his more than 25 years of service to our country and to the field of Aerospace Science, the Columbia Housing Authority will induct Colonel Watson into its Wall of Fame on April 17, 2003.

A native of Columbia, Colonel Watson attended public schools in Richland County School District One. Upon graduation from C.A. Johnson High School in 1967, Watson enrolled at Howard University where he would earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1971. In addition, he earned a commission through Reserve Officers Training Corps and entered the Air Force as an avionics maintenance officer.

In 1973, Colonel Watson was selected for aviation training, beginning a career that would take him around the globe. His many assignments included flight instructor, flight commander in tactical fighter and strategic reconnaissance squadrons flying F-4C/D/E, F111 D and SR-71 aircraft. Colonel Watson was the first and only African American to qualify as a crewmember of the SR-71, a super secret aircraft that set altitude and speed records that still stand today.

Holding a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from Chapman College, Colonel Watson is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Humanitarian Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Colonel Watson's steadfast commitment to educating our youth is evidenced by his current position as the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for the C.A. Johnson High School Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) unit. Under his tutelage, the unit has experienced

an increase of more than 8000 percent in funds for unit operations. Computer and technology assets have also increased by more than 700 percent.

Colonel Watson was recently selected as an Outstanding Senior Aerospace Science Instructor during the 1997-98 and 2001-02 school years. He was also chosen as C.A. Johnson High School's Teacher of the Year in 1998-99.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to be on hand for Mr. Watson's induction and ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognition of Colonel Watson's lifetime of high achievement. I congratulate him on his induction, and wish good luck and Godspeed to him and his family.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill Concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I must oppose the conference report on the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Resolution. I am saddened that I must oppose the conference report, because I believe passage of a budget resolution is very important. A budget resolution is essential to allow the House and Senate set the overall limits for spending and taxes that guide all other legislation for the rest of the year. This final conference report is an improvement over the House budget resolution, but still falls short of a balanced plan for fiscal responsibility at a time when we are facing the tremendous challenges of international terrorism, war and reconstruction in Iraq, domestic needs here at home and the return of large federal budget deficits which could hinder future economic growth.

This conference report is an improvement over the House budget resolution because it provides for limited but fair funding for key programs like education, Medicaid, Medicare, and veterans, while meeting the essential needs of national defense and homeland security. I am pleased that the budget negotiators listened to those of us who said that the reductions in the original House budget resolution were not sustainable and restored funding for key areas like education, health care and veterans. I appreciate Chairman NUSSLE'S responsiveness to these concerns. The spending limits for domestic discretionary programs will be tight, but probably manageable at a time when spending must be restrained.

However, this resolution does not apply the same restraint to tax cuts. It calls for a total of \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts over the next ten years, and more important, it sets up an expedited process to assure passage of up to \$550 billion in tax cuts. It is simply not sound policy to go forward with tax cuts of this size at a

time when we are facing the growing and, as yet, unknown total costs of completing the war against Iraq, fighting terrorism, protecting the homeland, while meeting essential needs like health care for our seniors and education for our young people. The Federal Government's role in addressing these issues is especially important at this time because state governments, including my state of Delaware, are experiencing severe budget problems forcing them to reduce funding for virtually every program at the state level.

The fact of the matter is that deficits do matter. Due in part to the economic slowdown and the costs of the war on terrorism, we are now facing federal deficits over the next ten years that could approach \$4.2 trillion. Adding debt at these levels can hurt the economy. In addition, they will come at a time when we will begin to face tremendous demands to fund the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and the growing health care needs of an aging population. If the tax cuts called for in this budget resolution are ultimately approved, we are really rolling the dice on whether they will strengthen the economy significantly or add to the growing deficit challenges we face.

I must also oppose this resolution based on the poor process that has brought us to this point. We are voting on this budget in the middle of the night because a compromise on a more realistic tax cut level could not be reached and the decision was made to try to force this through. Instead of attempting to find consensus on a more limited level of tax cuts of \$350 billion, which would provide more rapid tax relief for families and small businesses, this resolution not only expresses support for a total package of \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts, it attempts to get around the fact that the Senate is on record for limiting the tax cut to \$350 billion. This resolution creates an unprecedented loophole in the budget process to protect up to \$550 billion in tax cuts through an expedited Senate vote. Despite the fact that budget resolutions are supposed to establish one set of rules for considering tax legislation. This resolution makes it possible for a second, higher tax cut bill to get a protected vote in the Senate.

This is not a time when Congress should be attempting to force through the largest tax cut possible regardless of its economic effectiveness when we face the costs of war, serious challenges at home and the return of long-term budget deficits.

My constituents tell me that it does not make sense to rush forward with tax cuts of this size before we have won the war with Iraq, understand its true cost, and evaluate the recovery of the economy and what is needed to help working Americans.

A better solution would have been to seek agreement on a more affordable tax relief package that would help the economy now; allow us to pay for our national security needs abroad and at home; and provide limited, but fair funding for key needs like education and health care, all within a realistic long-term plan to balance the federal budget.

Unfortunately, because of the decision to push for maximum tax cuts over the reservations of Members of both parties, this resolution does not meet the overall test of fiscal responsibility and common sense. This budget plan is seriously flawed and I must oppose it. When it comes time to pass the actual tax and spending legislation to implement this budget

plan, I hope more reason and fairness are applied and we take action that helps the American people now without mortgaging their future.

CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP BURTON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my great appreciation for and admiration of the late Congressman Phillip Burton. During his two decades in the House of Representatives—from 1964 to 1983—Congressman Burton was a great champion for the interests of the people of the Bay Area. Time and time again, Congressman Burton fought for the little people, ranging from the underprivileged to seniors to workers. His voice was loud and strong for these people. And his voice was persuasive in bringing people of all backgrounds and different ways of life together.

I had the privilege to know Congressman Burton while serving as a Hill staffer to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums. He was brilliant, compassionate, and a political whiz. During a reapportionment year, I remember Phil explaining to Ron the rationale for the boundaries of Ron's proposed new long District, and he said, "Don't worry, Ron, you are in your brother's arms."

Powerful voice that he was for his constituents, Congressman Burton will probably best be known for his respect for the environment. His record of establishing and preserving parks, wilderness areas, trails, and rivers may be unparalleled in the history of this country. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, the Congressman did everything that he could to protect our precious natural resources. His National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 represents one of the most sweeping pieces of environmental legislation ever to pass Congress. That legislation doubled the national wild and scenic rivers system, tripled our national trails systems, and, by adding more than 2 million acres, doubled the wilderness acreage in the National Park Service.

In California, the Congressman's legislation ultimately protected nearly 5 percent of the state's land, including Redwood National Park. Even closer to my 9th Congressional District, Congressman Burton strengthened the beautiful Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Congressman Burton's contribution to our state and country has become recognized as an impressive legacy in the two decades since his death. Our appreciation of Congressman Burton and his efforts will no doubt grow only stronger in the coming decades as we struggle to preserve our precious, finite resources.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
REQUIRING DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY SERVICE FOR SENIORS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would require door-to-door delivery service for senior citizens.

Over the years, I have been contacted by many seniors who live in adult-restricted communities and receive their mail in "cluster" mailboxes. This means that their mail is delivered to one central location instead of being placed in a mailbox at their own doorstep. With this type of mail delivery, seniors are forced to endure steps, curbs, bad weather, and moving cars in order to pick up their mail. Under these circumstances, something as simple as receiving mail can be one of the most inconvenient and dangerous daily tasks for those who are elderly.

Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to require the U.S. Postal Service to make door-to-door deliveries in senior housing areas. Under this bill, 80 percent of the residents in a community must be 55 and older in order to qualify to receive this service. Door-to-door deliveries would begin six months after enactment. Also, the bill clarifies that senior apartment buildings are specifically excluded from this bill.

It is imperative that we help our seniors receive their mail without putting their lives in danger, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE
PHILLIP BURTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who served in this House with the late Phillip Burton, who remember his vibrant, unrelenting and passionate leadership, and who share his dreams for an America where every resident enjoys dignity and equality—for those of us fortunate enough to have known and collaborated with him, today is a day of rededication.

It is almost impossible to believe that 20 years have passed since Phil Burton departed this scene, far too early and, I am sure he would admit, with far too much work left undone. He served with distinction in this Chamber from 1964 to the day he died, 20 years ago today. They simply do not make politicians like Phil Burton anymore, or at least, not enough of them, and this House and the country are much the worse for the shortage.

Those who worked with Phil never forgot the experience, for good or bad. He was a brilliant tactician, an unrelenting liberal, and a tireless advocate. He was not especially lovable, but he wasn't looking for love; he was looking for results, and he won the respect of friends and adversaries alike.

Phil would not like what he would see in American politics today. After decades of struggle and a decade of unparalleled economic prosperity, Americans work the longest work hours, for the lowest disposable income, with the smallest pensions and health insurance coverage and the least vacation time or maternity leave of any Western industrial nation. Today, the distribution of wealth in this country is more unequal than at any time since the New Deal, and is the most unequal of any society in the advanced industrial world. This is not the world Phil Burton would have wanted two decades after his death.

And yet our country in 2003, however enduring its problems, is a vastly better place for

Phillip Burton's service. Virtually all of the important steps forward taken in America during the turbulent 60's and 70's—civil rights, labor protections, pension security, education, land preservation, national parks—were deeply affected by Phillip Burton's tireless efforts. He was, in the words of Ted Simon in the Los Angeles Times, a "stupendous and original figure" who changed the political and legislative landscape as few before him ever dared to imagine.

Surely the greatest disappointment of his life was his failure to become Majority Leader, a race he lost by a single vote. And yet how proud he would be to know that one of his political godchildren—of which I happily count myself as one—would two decades later occupy the highest position in this House held by a Democrat, and the first woman to ever lead a party in Congress, his fellow San Franciscan NANCY PELOSI.

I knew Phil Burton throughout my entire life. He and my father worked together to build the modern California Democratic Party in the years after World War II. Many of the outstanding political leaders of our state, including George Moscone, Willie Brown, scores of members of the Legislature and Congress—including our current senate president John L. Burton—were students, friends and collaborators of Phil Burton.

When I came to Congress in 1975, I was placed on the same committees as Phil—Interior and Education and Labor. As a junior member, I saw first hand his extraordinary political acumen in meeting after meeting, often in his secret office in the Longworth Building, as he planned everything from minimum wage increases to welfare policy, to his historic mega-parks bill, or his even more impressive reapportionment map in 1982. Phil knew more details about any issue than just about anyone I have known here, and he knew more about almost everyone's district, too. Members might beg him to draw a line a little more in their favor, but Phil would be able to recite from memory, and without computers, the precise registration numbers in the newly configured district. "You're in your mother's arms," he'd tell disappointed colleagues, "now get to work."

The Congress and the Nation are very different from when Phil served here. The tone is different; the agenda is different; and our dedication to using the power granted us by the voters to improve the lives of the working people, minorities, the poor, the immigrants and to improve the environment—well, that's very different, too. I'd like to believe we'd be a better country if Phil Burton had gotten to be Majority Leader and Speaker of the House.

Instead, 20 years ago today, we lost a "brawling character and legislative strategist extraordinaire," in the words of Richard Cohen. In the sprawling, wildly popular Golden Gate National Recreation Area that he created—the Nation's most popular urban park—stands for all time an imposing statute of Phil Burton, tie askew, jacket flapping, arm outstretched. It is Phil at full throttle, in command, perpetually barking out a command direction and organizing the troops. There are a number of smaller models of that statute in some offices on the Hill, reminding us what it was like to serve with a true congressional legend, and continuing to summon up the best we have to offer for all the people of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

As the most comprehensive dental museum in the world, it is a national and international resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. The museum uses state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health. Currently, the museum is displaying an exhibit entitled, "The Future Is Now! African Americans in Dentistry."

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, not the least of which is George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable, and good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50 years, these improvements have not occurred evenly across all sectors of our population, particularly among low-income individuals and families. Too many Americans today lack access to dental care. According to the report, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General", an estimated 25 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate dental services.

Unfortunately, states are facing extremely tight budgets, and have been forced to implement difficult cost containment measures and unpopular proposals to generate revenue savings—tax increases, cuts in education and cuts/elimination of Medicaid services. As a result, Medicaid programs have taken a direct hit, and dentistry has already become a target for program cuts—17 states reducing or eliminating adult dental services between 2002–2003. As a result, medically needy groups, including the frail elderly, will no longer have access to necessary dental treatment.

Passage of my resolution to make the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will shine a bright light on the problem some Americans face in accessing dental care.

The museum is endorsed by the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, among others.

Please join me in supporting this national treasure by becoming a cosponsor of this important resolution. Thank you.

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the following brief statement speaks for itself with respect to my appreciation for the State of Israel. Israel is presently in the midst of an intense violent struggle which has led to the accumulation of many progressive critics. While I sympathize with the plight of the Palestinian people, I am also convinced that they are primarily the victims of their own leaders—and the jihad fanatics around the world who insist on the use of savage violence to achieve their goals. Israel has no choice but to meet the fanatic violence with violence. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have set the stage and made the rules for this ongoing destructive engagement. Even if you accept the assumption that the Palestinian people have some legitimate grievances, one can still not condone the method they have chosen to seek solutions. For any group confronted by an overwhelming governing power, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela have shown the way. The use of nonviolence to petition for the redress of assumed grievances was and still is a choice for the constructive forces among the Palestinians. On the other hand it is a certainty that Israel will never negotiate any change while confronted with the savagery of suicide bombings. We would all like to see this kingpin conflict in the Middle East resolved. I am convinced that it can be resolved permanently and peacefully because Israel is not just another government held together by greed and military power. Israel is the democratic nation guided by a long history of suffering and inspiring human spirits that I describe in this speech at the AIPAC Capitol Club Dinner on March 30, 2003:

I consider it an honor to have an opportunity to reaffirm my unconditional support for the State of Israel. On any major matter involving Israel my vote is always there. I believe firmly and fervently that the salvation of the kind of civilization I want my grandchildren to inherit and enjoy cannot be realized unless we establish many more truly democratic nations all over the globe. Those who believe that more democracy is the answer should also automatically be advocates for Israel. Starting with a constitution which is probably more thorough and more practical than even the United States Constitution, Israel is a model democracy. And woven into the tapestry that makes Israel a great nation are the spirits of Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin and other similar great sages. These spirits accomplish for Israel what the spirits of Jefferson, Lincoln, Truman and others contribute to the definition of America as a nation. We all agree that a nation is more than anyone administration or one set of policies and diplomacy postures. Founding principles and ideals interwoven with the great spirits permanently define a nation. Those who say that Israel is a Middle East outpost for the U.S. or that the

enduring interests of Israel are inextricably interwoven with the interests of the U.S. may not be correct in a formal and legal sense, but the spirit of these positions should be welcomed and appreciated. From the ashes of any temporary crisis or stresses we expect Israel and the U.S. to emerge strongly, fighting together for the same long-term principles and ideals. Temporary disagreements about strategy and tactics must never be allowed to separate us. Based on our individual perceptions and interpretations some of us oppose the war in Iraq; and some others support it. This difference does not break out along any clear ethnic, racial or religious lines. What we must jointly never forget during this current crisis is that there are hostile enemies of democracy and that Israel must be kept strong in order to remain as a model on the front lines fighting to save the kind of government which Abraham Lincoln said should never perish from the earth.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING FELLOWS ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Teaching Fellows Act of 2003 with fourteen original cosponsors.

The most critical education issue we face is the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers. In order to keep pace with anticipated retirements and the growing student population, local school districts will need to hire an estimated 2.5 million teachers over the next ten years! These projected shortages are especially serious in some states and districts—especially inner cities and the rapidly growing West and South—and in subjects such as special education, mathematics, physical sciences, and foreign languages.

While all the education improvements and reforms we envision are dependent on a first-rate teaching force, neither political party has given teacher recruitment and retention top billing on its education agenda or has moved beyond stereotypical responses to the challenge.

Neither offering federal stipends or student loan forgiveness to prospective teachers—as proposed by the Clinton administration—nor exhorting individuals to pursue teaching careers—an approach favored by the current administration—is likely to produce the kind of intensive, sustained effort we need to nurture prospective teachers, strengthen their professional identity, and help them succeed once they enter the classroom.

There is no single, simple solution, but I believe that North Carolina's successful Teaching Fellows program offers a model for national emulation. The Teaching Fellows Act would create two federal programs to encourage our best and brightest students to enter and remain in the field of teaching by offering them scholarships as well as professional development and mentoring assistance. One program would offer fellowships and intensive training for high school seniors and college sophomores who want to become teachers, while another would enable teaching assistants and other community college students to

earn their four-year teaching certificates. In exchange, these scholarship recipients would be required to teach for at least four years in a public school or three years in a low-performing school following graduation.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that every teacher be "highly-qualified" by the 2005–06 school year. In order to meet that need, we must embark on an unprecedented teacher recruitment and retention effort. The Teaching Fellows Act gets to the heart of the need for quality and quantity in America's teaching force. We know that such programs work, and with the federal support this bill would provide, these state programs could be building blocks for the intensive national recruitment and retention effort that is essential to strengthening our public education system.

I would like to invite all members of the House to cosponsor the Teaching Fellows Act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure our schools will have the teachers they need to be successful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, and 126 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 119; "No" on rollcall vote 120; "No" on rollcall vote 121; "No" on rollcall vote 122; "No" on rollcall vote 123; "Aye" on rollcall vote 124; "Aye" on rollcall vote 125; and "Aye" on rollcall vote 126.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2003

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2003." This legislation removes a barrier which has prevented some organizations from donating surplus fire fighting equipment to needy fire departments. Under current law, the threat of civil liability has caused some organizations to destroy fire equipment, rather than donating it to volunteer, rural and other financially-strapped departments.

We know that every day, across the United States, firefighters respond to calls for help. We are grateful that these brave men and women work to save our lives and protect our homes and businesses. We presume that these firefighters work in departments which have the latest and best firefighting and protective equipment. What we must recognize is that there are an estimated 30,000 firefighters who risk their lives daily due to a lack of basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In both rural and urban fire departments, limited budgets make it difficult to purchase more than fuel and minimum maintenance. There is not enough money to buy new equipment. At the

same time, certain industries are constantly improving and updating the fire protection equipment to take advantage of new, state-of-the-art innovation. Sometimes, the surplus equipment may be almost new or has never been used to put out a single fire. Sadly, the threat of civil liability causes many organizations to destroy, rather than donate, millions of dollars of quality fire equipment.

Not only do volunteer fire departments provide an indispensable service, some estimates indicate that the nearly 800,000 volunteer firefighters nationwide save state and local governments \$36.8 billion a year. While volunteering to fight fires, these same, selfless individuals are asked to raise funds to pay for new equipment. Bake sales, pot luck dinners, and raffles consume valuable time that could be better spent training to respond to emergencies. All this, while surplus equipment is being destroyed.

In states that have removed liability barriers, such as Texas, fire companies have received millions of dollars in quality fire fighting equipment. The generosity and good will of private entities donating surplus fire equipment to volunteer fire companies are well received by the firefighters and the communities. The donated fire equipment will undergo a safety inspection by the fire company to make sure firefighters and the public are safe.

We can help solve this problem. Congress can respond to the needs of fire companies by removing civil liability barriers. This bill accomplishes this by raising the current liability standard from negligence to gross negligence. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the Judiciary Committee to bring this bill to the House Floor.

CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit the following interesting and insightful article for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WHY THE CRACKDOWN IN CUBA?

(By Wayne S. Smith)

Various newspaper articles reporting the deplorable crackdown on dissidents in Cuba have correctly noted that the situation there earlier had seemed to be inching toward somewhat greater tolerance. During his trip to Cuba in May of last year, for example, President Carter met with Cuban dissidents and in his televised speech to the nation spoke of the Varela Project, an initiative of theirs calling for greater political freedoms. And both before and after Carter's visit, many other Americans, myself included, regularly and openly met with the dissidents as part of a broad effort to expand dialogue and improve relations between our two countries.

Oswaldo Paya, the principal architect of the Varela Project, was even recently allowed to come to the United States to receive the W. Averell Harriman award from the National Democratic Institute in Washington, and from there he went on to Europe. The Cuban government may not have liked what he had to say while abroad, but he wasn't punished for it when he returned home. It did indeed seem that things might

slowly be moving toward somewhat greater tolerance of dissent on the island.

Why then the recent arrest of dissidents? Is it, as some in the United States quickly posited, that Castro was simply hoping the rest of the world was so distracted by the war in Iraq, that no one would notice or react to the detention of a few dissidents in Cuba?

No, that explanation simply doesn't hold up. First of all, no one in his right mind (and whatever else he is, Castro is that) would have expected the arrest of over 80 dissidents, many of them well-known international figures, to go unremarked. The Cubans expected a firestorm, and they got it.

Second, the timing could hardly be worse from Castro's standpoint. The UN Human Rights Commission has just begun its annual deliberations to decide, among other things, whether to condemn Cuba for violations of human rights. Given the greater tolerance discussed above, there had seemed a good chance that Cuba would not be condemned this year. The crackdown, coming just now, makes that far less likely.

Given all that, why the crackdown and why now? To answer those questions, we must first note that the greater leeway for dissent noted above came in response to the overtures of groups in the American Congress and the American public, not to any easing of the hard line on the part of the Bush Administration. Quite the contrary, its policies and rhetoric remained as hostile and as threatening as ever. It ignored all Cuban offers to begin a dialogue and instead held to an objective of regime change. As Mr. James Cason, the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section has stated publicly, one of his tasks was to promote "transition to a participatory form of government."

Now, we would all like to see a more open society in Cuba; that indeed, is what we are all working toward. But it is not up to the United States to orchestrate it. In fact, it is not up to the United States to decide what form of government Cuba should have. Cuba is, after all, a sovereign country. To the Cubans, for the chief U.S. diplomat in Cuba to seem to be telling them what kind of government they should have seemed a return to the days of the Platt Amendment.

The Bush Administration was uncomfortable with signs of greater tolerance on Castro's part, for that simply encouraged those in the United States who wanted to ease travel controls and begin dismantling the embargo. New initiatives along those lines were expected in the Congress this spring. What to do to head them off?

What the Administration did is clear enough. It ordered the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to begin a series of high-profile and provocative meetings with dissidents, even holding seminars in his own residence and passing out equipment of various kinds to them. He even held press conferences after some of the meetings. The Administration knew that such "bull-in-the-china-shop" tactics would provoke a Cuban reaction—hopefully an overreaction. And given that the purpose was "regime change", the Cubans came to see them as "subversive" in nature and as increasingly provocative. Those arrested were not charged with expressing themselves against the state, but with "plotting with American diplomats."

The circumstances are different, but to understand Cuban sensitivities in this case, let us imagine the reaction of the U.S. Government if Cuban diplomats here were meeting with members of the Puerto Rican Independence Party to help them promote Puerto Rico's transition from commonwealth to independence. Perhaps the Attorney General would not arrest everyone involved, but I wouldn't take any bets on it.

And the beginning of the war in Iraq did play a role in the crackdown. The Cubans saw it as a signal that the United States was determined to throw its weight around and to blow away anyone it doesn't like through the unilateral use of force. As one Cuban official put it to me recently: "This new pre-emptive-strike policy of yours puts us in a new ball game, and in that new game, we must make it clear that we can't be pushed around."

It was this kind of mind set that led to the crackdown and that turned the latter into a massive overreaction. The Cubans did exactly what the Bush Administration had hoped they would do. Virtually the whole active dissident community has now not only been arrested but put on trial (or notified that they soon will be) and given extremely heavy sentences. Tragic. This is a blot that will not be easily erased and that will impede any significant progress in U.S.-Cuban relations until there is some amelioration of conditions in Cuba. The Bush Administration meanwhile will certainly continue the pressures, and the provocations, so as to prevent any such amelioration.

It has been argued that Castro simply saw this as a propitious moment to halt dissent in Cuba, and there are doubtless some elements of truth to that argument. Castro has never liked to be criticized. Still, over the past few years, he had tolerated criticism of the system. All things being equal, he might have continued to do so. But the situation has changed, not just between the U.S. and Cuba, but internationally, in ways that the U.S. public is just beginning to understand.

In the dark days that lie ahead, people of good will in the United States who want to see a more normal relationship between our two countries, and to see a more open society in Cuba, should hold to the demonstrable truth that the best way to bring about both is through the reduction of tensions, the beginning of a meaningful dialogue and increased contacts. As Elizardo Sanchez, Cuba's leading human rights activist, has often put it, "the more American citizens in the streets of Cuban cities, the better for the cause of a more open society; so why do you maintain travel controls?" The policies followed by one administration after another over the past 44 years have accomplished nothing positive. True to form, the policy followed by the Bush Administration, and the clumsy tactics of the U.S. Interests Section, have produced only a crackdown. Exactly what we should not want!

Wayne S. Smith, now a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy, was Third Secretary of Embassy at the American Embassy in Havana from 1958 until the U.S. broke relations in January of 1961, and was Chief of the U.S. Interests Section there from 1979 until 1982.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE TERRORIST VICTIM CITIZENSHIP RELIEF ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that would grant citizenship to the spouses and children of legal immigrants who were killed on September 11, 2001. Additionally, this legislation would grant honorary citizenship to those legal immigrants who were killed in the attacks. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left approximately 100

surviving spouses and children of legal immigrants in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center. While the USA PATRIOT Act allowed these individuals to stay in the United States until September 10, 2002, that reprieve has expired. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

GUY LEWIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ELECTED INTO THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to learn that this past Monday, Guy V. Lewis was not elected into the Basketball Hall of Fame, despite of his obvious qualifications and contributions to the game.

Coach Lewis has had a tremendous impact on the game of basketball throughout our country and in Texas, having coached the University of Houston Cougars for more than 30 years. This university is my alma mater, and the school pride that he instilled during the tenure still lingers today.

This exemplary coach led the Cougars to 592 wins, 5 final fours, 14 NCAA title games, and 2 NCAA titles.

He also coached his team in the historical 1968 UH vs. UCLA game, which was the first collegiate game ever nationally televised and the largest crowd to watch a collegiate game at that time. I'm proud to say I was there as a University of Houston student.

Star players Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler, and Elvin Hayes, all named among the NBA's 50 greatest players of all time, got their start at the University of Houston with Coach Lewis. But despite all of Coach Lewis' accomplishments, he was still overlooked for the Hall of Fame.

Coach Lewis is only 81 years old, and although he may not have been elected this time around, I want him to know that sports fans everywhere consider him to be a true pioneer of basketball.

I know that I speak for all Houstonians when I say that we are very proud of Coach Lewis. I look forward to congratulating him on his election into the Basketball Hall of Fame in the very near future.

COMMENDING MR. RONNIE RAPER

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery of Rhea County Commission Chairman Ronnie Raper. Earlier this week, Chairman Raper risked his own life to save Melinda Andrews, 13, from the raging waters of the Richland Creek in Rhea County, Tennessee.

On Monday, April 7th Ronnie Raper, a building inspector, happened to be in his car and heard a 911 call over his radio indicating

that a 13-year-old girl had fallen into the dangerous Richmond Creek and needed immediate assistance. Mr. Raper ran 200 yards to the creek and instinctively jumped into the freezing water to help the young girl. Risking his own safety, he quickly secured her to a large concrete structure in the middle of the creek until firefighters were able to throw them a rope. Mr. Raper calmed the young girl and led her to the shore.

The doctor who treated Ms. Andrews said the freezing temperatures of the creek water could have been detrimental to the 13-year-old girl if she hadn't been pulled to safety so quickly.

This story did not have a terrible ending because a man like Ronnie Raper was there and was willing to put the safety of another person above his own. He is not only an excellent public servant through his work as the Chairman of the Rhea County Commission; Mr. Raper is good neighbor and a heroic man.

I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Ronnie Raper for this brave act.

EXPRESSING HIS SALUTATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANN S. FREED, 77TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Ann S. Freed, 77th Regional Support Command, Chief of Public Affairs, on her retirement this week after 28 years of active duty service.

Lieutenant Colonel Freed has been exemplary in her field. She is an award-winning public relations professional with 28 years of experience in public and internal communications including public affairs support for military exercises, operations, and events. She has run media relations campaigns at home and overseas; directed the Combined and Joint Information Bureau in the Philippines in 2000 and 2001 during the overthrow of President Estrada and the return of the U.S. military to the Philippines, handled media relations for the 77th Regional Support Command during Desert Shield/Desert Storm to include planning and execution of the reserve participation in the NYC "Welcome Home" parade down the canyon of heroes. During the post-9/11 era, Lieutenant Colonel Freed published the award winning 77th RSC Liberty Torch magazine for the soldiers of the 77th, handled media relations for New York and New Jersey Army Reservists during their mobilization and deployment in support of the Global War on Terror (GWT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Freed has run public affairs operations for the 12,000 soldier 77th Regional Support Command. She has conducted media relations, produced the command magazine, and developed community relations projects. Lieutenant Colonel Freed has worked hard to ensure that the New York and New Jersey publics are aware of the legacy, and continuing contribution of the 77th to America's Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Freed has received numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Medal with third Oak Leaf Cluster for outstanding achievement in Public Affairs, the Department of the Army Keith L. Ware journalism award for the World Trade Center Memorial Issue of the Liberty Torch. She has also received six awards for excellence in broadcast or print journalism from First U.S. Army, Second U.S. Army, Forces Command, and Department of the Army.

I wish Lieutenant Colonel Freed all the best in this new stage of life, and continued health and success for many years to come.

JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Jobs Protection Act of 2003, legislation which will respond to a recent World Trade Organization ruling that held that our export-related tax benefit, the FSC/ETI provision in our tax code, violates our trade agreements. It is my distinct pleasure to be joined in this effort by my good friends CHARLES RANGEL and DON MANZULLO.

This legislation achieves two goals: it brings the United States into compliance with the WTO, and it keeps the playing field level for our manufacturers, which will keep jobs here. I'd like to address each of those issues.

As Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, I have a strong interest in preserving and promoting free trade throughout the world. Trade is fundamental to our relations with other nations, and free trade has been the greatest civilizing force throughout modern history. I have fought ardently for many years to ensure that the United States, which is the largest exporter in the world, maintains its rightful role as world leader when it comes to trade.

Like my colleagues who have joined me in introducing this legislation, I believe that we must comply with our international agreements. To do otherwise could precipitate a trade war, which would be an unacceptable result. Therefore, this legislation repeals FSC/ETI and brings the United States into compliance with our WTO obligations.

The issue, then, is how to best replace FSC/ETI. In recognition of the fact that the repeal of FSC/ETI raises the tax burden of current beneficiaries by at least \$50 billion over ten years, this legislation returns that money to the U.S. manufacturers. In order to understand why that is so crucial to protecting our job base, it is important to understand why the FSC/ETI benefit exists in the first place.

U.S. corporations that export manufactured goods pay a 35 percent corporate tax rate on their profits. In addition, the corporation pays an additional value added tax when they sell its products in Europe. However, European manufacturers get a portion of their VAT rebated. FSC/ETI compensates manufacturers for this double taxation, thus leveling the playing field between U.S. and European manufacturers. That means jobs stay here. Were this benefit to be repealed with no replacement, U.S. jobs and wealth would be artificially transferred to Europe. This is another unacceptable result.

Therefore, the Job Protection Act of 2003 provides a permanent new deduction, which is an effective rate reduction for U.S. manufacturers, that is consistent with our trade agreements. It is structured in such a manner as to preserve and strengthen U.S. jobs. Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is a goal we should all support!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be clear as to the process we should follow as we debate how best to replace FSC/ETI. We have faced challenges to export-related benefits in years past. As in the past, it is my fervent belief that our common goal must be to protect the interests of the United States, not our foreign competitors. While I expect a great deal of vigorous debate as we seek to comply with our WTO obligations, I remain hopeful that we will resolve any differences in a dignified manner, not giving our opponents the benefit of a public spectacle.

A summary of the provisions of the legislation follows.

THE JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003—STRENGTHENING U.S. MANUFACTURING AND ADDRESSING THE WTO CHALLENGE TO FSC/ETI (APRIL 2003)

REPEAL OF FSC/ETI

The Job Protection Act of 2003 (the "proposal") would repeal the current-law FSC/ETI benefit effective for transactions after the date of enactment.

Transition relief: The proposal would provide two types of transition relief—

(1) Binding Contracts: The proposal would not affect transactions pursuant to binding contracts in effect on the date of introduction of the legislation. This provision ensures that pre-existing arrangements of U.S. taxpayers are not retroactively penalized merely because of the WTO ruling.

(2) General Transition Relief: The proposal also would provide general transition relief based on the company's average FSC/ETI benefit during 2001. A company would receive a deduction for 100 percent of its base period amount (indexed for inflation) for 2004 and 2005, 75 percent for 2006 and 2007, and 50 percent for 2008 (no general transition relief thereafter). A permanent benefit for production activities in the U.S., described below, would begin to phase-in as the general transition relief phases out. The general transition relief is not contingent upon future exports and, therefore, is WTO compliant.

PERMANENT BENEFIT FOR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

Strengthening U.S. Manufacturing: The proposal would provide a permanent new deduction which reduces the effective corporate tax rate that would apply to so much of the company's taxable income as is attributable to "U.S. production activities". U.S. production activities would be defined as the manufacture, production, growth, or extraction of property eligible for the current FSC/ETI benefit whether or not actually exported.

Calculating U.S. Production: The portion of the taxable income attributable to U.S. production activities would be calculated by computing total gross receipts from sale, rental or license of eligible property produced in whole or part by the taxpayer in the United States, and then subtracting from those gross receipts inventory costs, directly allocable deductions, and a pro rata portion of other deductions. Allocation would be done in a manner similar to the method used in allocating deductions between U.S. and foreign source income.

Corporate Tax Rate Reduction: For companies with 100 percent domestic production, the effective rate reduction would be 3½ points (35 percent corporate tax rate reduced

to 31½ percent) once fully phased-in. Other companies would receive a sliding-scale effective rate reduction based on the value of their U.S. production of eligible products compared to the value of their worldwide production.

REVENUE NEUTRAL

The bill has been structured to be roughly revenue neutral year-by-year and over the 10-year budget period. The proposal does not include any extraneous revenue offsets.

THE OAK TREE BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today, as the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrates its Arbor Day, to introduce legislation to recognize the people's selection of the oak tree as America's national tree. Selected by the American people during a 4-month-long open voting process sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the oak tree earned the title of America's Chosen National Tree. To recognize this distinction, I am proud to introduce legislation today that officially establishes the oak tree as America's national tree.

As a member of Congress representing a heavily forested district in Virginia, I know firsthand how trees add to our quality of life. As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I appreciate how trees and forests enhance the environment, add recreational opportunities and provide for the livelihoods of millions of individuals in the forest industry. Whether enjoying a product generated from a forest, or the simple satisfaction of lying under a shaded giant, trees contribute to all Americans.

The strong and stately oak tree is of particular importance in America's history and culture. Not only is this majestic tree an aesthetic beauty that characterizes the landscape of much of our great Nation, it also provides us with wood products in our homes, our offices and our places of gathering. Common to all 50 states, the oak has played a huge role in America's history as a valuable resource. It helped our founding fathers establish a new Nation, supplying building materials for the ever-expanding 13 original colonies. It served as a familiar sight to pioneers as they forged across the new republic to the west coast. And to this day it has remained an enduring, valuable, and highly prized raw material from which beautifully crafted furniture, sturdy door and window framing, ornate flooring and paneling, and the like, are made. This enduring and mighty tree, which has long been a part of our national heritage and strength, fully merits the distinction of America's National tree.

The oak tree has also played a key role in many specific historic moments in our Nation's history. Abraham Lincoln found his way across a river near Homer, IL, using the Salt River Ford Oak as a marker. The Richards White Oak in Cecil County, MD once served as a landmark on a 1681 map used by William Penn. Andrew Jackson took shelter under Louisiana's Sunnybrook Oaks on his way to the Battle of New Orleans. And "old iron-sides," the USS *Constitution*, earned its nickname from the strength of its live oak hull, famous for easily repelling British cannonballs.

Chosen by the people in a broad-based election, the oak tree represents the true characteristics of this great Nation: strength, beauty and endurance. Please join me in making official what we have known for many years—that the oak tree is America's national tree.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, it is ironic that we are voting on this resolution today when not one of the working people or business leaders visiting my office recently has asked me to support this budget or its tax cuts. Rather, they want the Federal Government to pass a budget that will help jump start the economy and improve our communities in Oregon and across the country by investing in transportation infrastructure, environmental cleanup, "hometown" security, education, and health care.

The concerns I voiced last month regarding the budget resolution remain valid and unaddressed in this conference report. It sets the stage for the largest budget deficit in our history and without even taking into consideration our significant financial commitment to rebuild and stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. As our economy remains stagnant, this budget provides little help for our states, which are struggling to balance their budgets among decreasing revenues, higher Medicaid costs, and colossal homeland security demands.

Our Nation's cities are paying an estimated \$70 million per week on additional homeland security as a result of the war and high terrorism threat alerts. Instead of helping our communities with these costs, the proposed elimination of the dividend tax would reduce Oregon's 2003 revenue by \$91 billion, contributing to Oregon's current budget gap of \$1.3 billion. I oppose this budget which sacrifices these fundamental priorities and long-term fiscal stability.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE
TAYLOR FOR WINNING THE 2003
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST**HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte Taylor, a senior at Elkhart Memorial High School, in Elkhart, Indiana, who has been named a National Winner in the 2003 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. This annual contest, sponsored by the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, is especially significant this year given America's fight for democracy at home and abroad. The theme for this year's contest, "Freedom's Obligation" is echoed poignantly in the words of Ms. Taylor. I share with you these words, and applaud Ms. Taylor not only for her success, but her desire to champion the cause of liberty.

The tone of America has changed and it is a sound that is comforting us in times of pain. Growing up in America, I am familiar with the grand tradition of the country, but it is in the present I can truly identify what patriotism is. A flame has been lit inside my soul and I understand that with my freedom comes an obligation. An obligation to sacrifice, and to believe.

I work in the Hospital on a Geriatric unit. My job is to talk with the patients, most of whom were either veterans, or lost loved ones in one of the wars. I listen to their stories, and watch the pain in their faces as they recount the price they paid for my freedom. One woman's sacrifice stands out in my mind. Her father fought in World War I. He came home a changed man, abusive and suffering from posttraumatic stress syndrome. He terrorized her, until finally she became old enough to leave home. Eventually she got married and her husband served in World War II. While he faired well fighting in the war, she was left alone raising three young children. One of those children would grow up to die in Vietnam; a victim of Agent Orange. The entire time I sat and chatted with this woman, she never expressed resentment toward her country or the men she lost who served it. She understood her obligation of sacrifice as I do. If I refuse this duty, the millions before me who lost their lives will have lost their lives in vain.

It also is my obligation to support freedom. Believing in a system that has supported me is the least I can do. I study current events, and problems through out the world. Every time I read about the plight people in non democratic countries face, I realize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to make something of my life. Because of these opportunities I am obligated to support freedom by becoming a productive member of society. It is my obligation to pay taxes and more importantly to vote. While I am not old enough to vote in this year's election, I convinced both of my parents to register to vote. My solitary voice caused two people to cast ballots this election year. Single voices being heard is what freedom is all about.

More than anything I am beginning to understand what patriotism feels like. Last Friday night I played America the Beautiful on the xylophone with our high school marching band during half time. The fans sang along, and never in my life have I felt so united with my country. I drive down the road with an American flag sticker on my car, and I see that hundreds of others have done the same. On the Wednesday after the world trade center attacks I went to the hospital to see if I could help the blood bank. I was turned away because so many volunteers had already come to offer their services. The Senior Auxiliary was touched that so many young people were trying to help and that more importantly we understood the magnitude of what was happening. At a time in our lives when much of what we do is centered around ourselves, Young people do understand our obligation to defend America's Freedom with our time and energy, or even our lives.

The tone of America is changing, and it is the pleasant sound of unity. While the country may not be singing the same song, at

least we have the freedom to do so. My Peers and I are beginning to understand the sacrifices and support Veterans made to give us the freedom we enjoy today. I Thank veterans for fulfilling their obligation to freedom as I am beginning to fulfill mine.

APRIL SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Gotham Avenue School in the Elmont Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2003. Mr. Marshal Zucker is the Principal at Gotham Avenue School, and Dr. Maria Palandra is the Superintendent of Schools in the Elmont Union Free School District. I also acknowledge Joy Madera, a Trustee on the Elmont Union Free School District Board of Education who helped arrange the school's selection. The school has 840 students in grades Prekindergarten through 6, with 65 members on staff.

The Gotham Avenue School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children. The Elmont Union Free School District is a model of excellency with over 4,000 elementary school kids, which encompass over 70 spoken languages.

The school was one of two schools in the district, and one of the total 24 chosen schools in New York State, to win the 2003 Business Council of New York State Pathfinder Award. The award is given for Outstanding Educational Improvement. The recognition and honor is truly extraordinary in light of the 2,900 New York State elementary schools eligible for the Pathfinder Award.

Principal Zucker credits Gotham Avenue's recent success to the school district's new curriculum initiative. The school is focusing more attention on teacher planning and class curriculum mapping. Teachers try to instill in every student that every one of them has the capability of being a successful learner.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Gotham Avenue School and I am proud to name them school of the month for April.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, in his State of the Union address to the Nation in January, President Bush acknowledged that the country faces many challenges and rightly said that "(w)e will not deny, will not ignore, we will not pass on our problems to other Congresses and future generations." These were noble words that spoke to the true spirit of America.

Unfortunately, the budget conference report denies or ignores many of the challenges we face and passes them along to our children and to our future leaders.

By insisting on new tax cuts for the wealthiest that we simply cannot afford, the budget blueprint will explode Federal deficits and debt for years to come. These piles of debt will be passed on to future generations and will severely weaken our ability to meet the funding challenges facing Social Security and Medicare because of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

This budget projects record deficits while paving the way for up to \$550 billion in new tax cuts. This budget agreement marks the worst deficits in our Nation's history. This historic achievement is at the same time that Republicans control both the Congress and the White House. What a sad legacy that is.

The result of this budget will be higher interest rates, the crowding out of private sector investment, and a reduction in long-term economic growth. Amazingly, in just two and a half years the \$5.6 trillion surplus that was projected when President Bush took office has been eliminated.

And not surprisingly, to make room for the latest round of non-stimulative tax cuts, the budget conference agreement again proposes cutbacks in domestic priorities like education, health care, transportation, and law enforcement—cuts that would have a significant negative impact on the vast majority of Americans.

I am not here just to condemn the Republican plan. In fact, I voted for an alternative, as did a few Republicans who objected to the Speaker's budget plan. The Democratic resolution would have adequately provided for education, would have provided \$528 billion for Medicare prescription drug benefit, and would have provided some tax cuts. We wanted to put some money in the pockets of American consumers likely to spend it to give this economy a boost, a jump. We wanted to give some money to businesses to encourage them to invest, some tax cuts to businesses to encourage them to invest. We had tax cuts too, just not as massive as those included in the president's proposal. Our proposal would have been balanced in the year 2010. We accumulated a trillion dollars less debt than the Republicans. We had a budget that was commendable. It was rejected.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that this budget takes us further down the wrong path. This policy threatens the long-term fiscal health of our nation.

I am proud to vote against this flawed policy.

HONORING LEXISNEXIS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize LexisNexis, a Dayton, Ohio company celebrating a very important milestone. LexisNexis, the first commercial, full-text legal information service, is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary this year. This company has more than 3,000 employees in Ohio and is headquartered in my district. It provides a service that has become a valuable information research tool to a wide range of professionals in the legal, government, business, and academic arenas.

Thirty years ago, LexisNexis launched the first online legal research system, an innovation that revolutionized the way legal and business research was conducted. Today, LexisNexis continues to revolutionize legal and business research by providing up-to-date information covering a variety of topics from legal documents to worldwide publications to legislative records. LexisNexis provides over a million and a half subscribers with a wealth of knowledge that is easily accessible.

As a lawyer and a lawmaker, I rely on the services provided by LexisNexis and am honored to recognize them today as a global leader in legal, news, and business information services. I congratulate LexisNexis on the success it has achieved over the past 30 years and wish the company and all of its 13,000 employees worldwide, continued success.

LexisNexis is truly deserving of this recognition and I am confident that it will maintain its commitment to deliver superior services and solutions to its customers over the next 30 years.

FALLEN HEROES IMMIGRANT
SPOUSE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act, to address a situation of fundamental unfairness under current immigration law. Many of our active duty military are married to alien spouses who have applications pending for permanent legal residence. As the current law is written, should the U.S. citizen spouse die before a 2-year period of marriage is reached, the pending application of the non-citizen spouse is vacated. Widows and widowers of our men and women in uniform who are in the process of applying for a green card should not have their application process terminated if they are unfortunate enough to have lost their loved one prior to reaching the 2 year threshold.

In the 3rd District of North Carolina, where there are numerous military installations and facilities, one of my constituents, a Marine, was killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The spouse of this Marine is a

legal immigrant seeking to become a citizen and had been living in the 3rd District for 2 years and one month prior to her husband's death. Consequently her paperwork for a green card will proceed. However, it is incomprehensible to me that should this foreign spouse have been married for 1 year and 364 days her paper work would have been voided due to the death of her husband. That is wrong. The time limit should be eliminated for foreign spouses whose loved ones have given their life serving our Nation.

The Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act would amend Section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the 2 year marriage requirement for foreign spouses of U.S. citizens who die while serving. Additionally this legislation seeks to remedy a practice of charging families of non-citizen soldiers who are killed in the line of duty an \$80 fee for processing an application for posthumous citizenship. These brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the freedom and interests of the United States. There is no action more patriotic than dying for one's country. As such, the imposition of a fee to restart the application process for posthumous citizenship is an insult to the contribution these service men and women made to our national defense.

Please join me in supporting these common sense changes to our immigration process. We should not punish the families of our soldiers simply because they are unfortunate enough to have incurred the greatest loss of all with the death of their loved one in the service of our country.

COMMENDING AYNOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Aynor High School, of Aynor, South Carolina, for earning the prestigious Palmetto's Finest Award, recognizing it as the best high school in the state.

The Carolina First Palmetto's Finest Award is sponsored through a partnership between Carolina First Bank and SCASA. The award is based on extensive evaluations by colleagues and educators, and the school and community share the honor. This is the 25th anniversary of the award. The award was announced by Governor Mark Sanford on March 11, 2003.

Last fall, 38 schools submitted 17-page applications. The application process included elements on student achievement, faculty training, program goals and delivery systems, office practices and community involvement. Each nominee received an on-site visit by a peer review committee, and the 13 finalists received a second visit. From this process the four most outstanding schools are selected: two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

Dr. Darrell W. Ricketts, Principal of Aynor High School, as well as the teachers, staff, and students, have all worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone. Through their hard work and dedication, they serve as a great example to other schools in the First District and the state.

I wish Aynor High School further successes and achievements in the future.

HONORING LUNA ODLAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luna Odland, a volunteer who will be receiving the President's Award of the Alzheimer's Association for her work and tireless effort on behalf of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. The non-profit Alzheimer's Association currently has 81 local chapters throughout the Nation. For the past 25 years as a volunteer of the San Diego Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Luna Odland has been leading a support group for caregivers and professionals dealing with the challenges of Alzheimer's disease. She has served as a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association longer than anyone else in the Nation, and her group in Escondido, CA, is the Nation's longest running Alzheimer's support group.

Luna began her group unofficially in August of 1978 from her home before the San Diego Chapter was incorporated. She went on to become one of the founding members of the Chapter, serving on its Board of Directors from 1980 until 1990, and chairing the Patient and Family Services Committee.

Little was known about Alzheimer's disease back in the late 1970's, and Luna's group quickly began drawing large numbers of people from as far away as Santa Barbara, CA. When her group moved to the Joslyn Senior Center in 1980, where it still meets today, the second meeting was so large it had to be relocated to the auditorium.

Luna does not limit her involvement with caregivers to simply facilitating her group every month. She phones group members in between meetings to inquire how they are doing or remind them of the next meeting. She also assists them in locating resources and contacting the Association to help with whatever current issues that need attention.

Luna was also instrumental in the development of the "Morning Out Club", which was the first early-stage daycare program in the country for Alzheimer's patients. The "Morning Out Club" model is still in operation today and has been replicated in many sites.

Mr. Speaker, people who take the time to care for others in need are the best example of being an American. It is the dedication and selfless efforts of people like Luna Odland that make our country great and I ask that you join me in congratulating her for receiving this award, an honor which is well deserved.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to enhance and development, to provide for security and di-

versity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes:

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment that will do little more than punish the auto industry for the sin of building cars that people want to buy.

This amendment will force Americans to drive smaller cars that are less safe than what we drive now. Smaller cars mean more traffic fatalities, as noted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and confirmed by the National Academy of Sciences. Safety should not be sacrificed.

The auto industry is already moving on its own to increase fuel economy through the development and use of advance technologies such as hybrids and fuel cells. But they are doing so in a way that will produce cars that are safe and that people will actually want to buy. That is what we should be supporting.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the American people's right to drive safer cars and the ability of the auto industry to finish the job it is already doing.

DON'T RUSH TO EXTEND PATRIOT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, recent news reports indicate that some are proposing that Congress make permanent some or all of the provisions of the "USA PATRIOT Act" now scheduled to expire at the end of 2005. I find that a matter of concern.

Terrorist attacks must not go unanswered, and our law enforcement authorities need adequate tools to fight terrorists. However, I think that need must be carefully balanced with the need to preserve our civil liberties. In that context, I have had serious reservations about the additional authorities provided by the "Patriot Act."

My concerns have been somewhat allayed by the fact that many provisions of the Act are not permanent. So, I share the view expressed by an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News: "The jury is still very much out on whether the Patriot Act and its administration are consistent with constitutional safeguards and basic civil liberties. The sunset provisions should stay and the law should be subjected to a strong dose of sunshine."

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Apr. 11, 2003]

DON'T DROP SUNSET OF PATRIOT ACT

As a precautionary measure to ensure that legislation works as planned, Congress often adds a "sunset" date, meaning that the targeted provisions of the law will expire after a certain period unless Congress reauthorizes them.

The idea is to ensure Congress returns to the law for a thorough re-examination.

Congress wisely added sunset provisions to the USA Patriot Act, the anti-terrorism bill it passed one month after Sept. 11, 2001.

That 342-page act gave federal law enforcement sweeping new search-surveillance powers, including covert access to computers and financial records—even the right to take a secret peek at what's being checked out of the local library.

Congress has still not thoroughly examined how the act is being used—or abused. But the sunset provisions don't kick in until Dec. 31, 2005, so there's still plenty of time—except that congressional Republicans want to lift those provisions now, making those broad new powers permanent.

Why there's a sudden rush to make the Patriot Act permanent is something of a puzzle. The old axiom "act in haste, repent at leisure" comes to mind.

The jury is still very much out on whether the Patriot Act and its administration are consistent with constitutional safeguards and basic civil liberties. The sunset provisions should stay and the law should be subjected to a strong dose of sunshine.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROD JULANDER

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CANNON of Utah. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Rod Julander for his devotion and dedication to the students, faculty and staff of Weber State University. For 43 years, he has been an integral part of the Political Science Department.

Dr. Julander began his teaching career at Weber State College in 1960 after receiving a Bachelors of Science from the University of Utah in 1958 and a Masters Degree in Philosophy in 1963. He returned to the University of Utah in 1986 for his Ph.D. and has been a highly valued member of the faculty throughout his years of service.

His hard work and dedication has been acknowledged at the local and national level. He has received numerous National, Regional, State and Community recognition and honors, including the Dello Dayton Teaching Award in 1992, the Crystal Crest Mater Teacher Award in 1995 and the Coretez Honors Award in 1974, and was Social Work Legislative Advocate of the Year.

His exceptional service has also been appreciated by the University and Alumni Association, where he has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the WSU Faculty senate, Past President of the WSU UUAP Chapter, a member of the Search Committee for the WSU Assistant to the President for Diversity, and part of the WSU Continuing Education Lecture Series. Rod Julander has also been active in the community through his involvement in civic and public service. Dr. Julander was a Utah State Senator in 1972, a Member of the Utah Radiation Control Board, a Legislative Consultant for the National Association of Social Workers and has served as the Vice Chair for the Utah State Democratic Party from 1997 to the present.

Dr. Julander's research has been published in the Western Political Science Quarterly, the Institute of Public Administration and in unpublished reports for the United States Air Force. In 1993, Dr. Julander became the chair of the Political Science department at Weber State University. Under his direction the department has grown and thrived. Dr. Julander has distinguished himself throughout his career as a devoted educator, teacher, mentor and skillful leader.

In 42 years of teaching Dr. Julander has influenced thousands of students. He has through his teaching, inspired, taught and been an example for all those whom he came in contact. We wish to add our thanks to Dr. Julander for his long time service to Weber State University, its students and the state of Utah.

His lovely wife Paula served four years in the Utah State House and is currently serving her second term as a Utah State Senator. Between them, Rod and Paula have 5 children and 14 grandchildren. Therefore, we are proud to join with his many colleagues and former students in extending our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Julander for his years of dedicated service to Weber State University. We wish him luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRAVERSE BAY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COR-
PORATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation for their outstanding service to the small businesses of the Traverse Bay area.

The Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation is highly dedicated to the small businesses and commerce of its region. This tremendous organization has greatly assisted to improve the quality of life in the community it serves. Its unwavering commitment has been rewarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which has recognized them as America's top small town for business growth. This is not the first time TBEDC has been recognized for its efforts to attract and expand business in the Grand Traverse County area.

I am honored today to recognize the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation for their commitment to their region.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, American families have fallen victim to an unfair and burdensome tax code. Duplicative and outdated tax policies—even dating back to the Spanish American War—are forcing families across the Nation to sacrifice health insurance, car payments or their child's education in order to fulfill their tax obligations.

The IRS plays too big of a role in the everyday lives of American families. In 2001, alone, the IRS spent close to \$9 billion administering the tax system. Americans spent \$135 billion and three billion hours complying with the tax code that same year.

As we quickly approach April 15th, Americans struggle to comply with an increasingly

unfair and complex tax code. Unfortunately, we can no longer justify our own system of taxation. The marriage penalty and the death tax epitomize the unjust taxation millions of families are impacted by each year.

Duplicative taxes also plague our tax code. The double taxation of dividends, for example, impacts the 52% of Americans invested in the stock market—half of which are seniors. The elimination of this injustice will create over 500,000 jobs each year and will eliminate a great burden on American investors.

Americans deserve a tax code that is simple, fair and encourages economic growth, not financial crisis. Our tax code provides disincentives for marriage, jobs and savings.

While many in this Chamber have spoken about reforming our tax codes, it has become clear that rhetoric does not produce results. Comprehensive tax reform and reform of the IRS must take place in order to ensure the economic stability of America and the financial stability of the American family.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 141, which acknowledges that our tax code is in desperate need of major reforms. Let us all stand committed to reforming a system that is sacrificing job growth, financial stability and economic recovery in order to build more bureaucracies like the IRS. I stand in strong support of this resolution.

THE GUARD AND RESERVE SELEC-
TIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS EQ-
UITY ACT OF 2003. APRIL 11, 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Guard and Reserve Selective Reenlistment Bonus Equity Act of 2003. Joining me today are my colleagues Rep. MARK KIRK, himself a Navy reservist, and Reps. STEVE BUYER and GENE TAYLOR, Co-chairs of the House Guard and Reserve Caucus.

This bill would correct an unfortunate situation affecting guard members and reservists across the country that were mobilized for service to their country. Many have found that they can no longer receive payments on their reenlistment bonuses because of their mobilization status.

The primary purpose of the reenlistment bonus has been to maintain an adequate level of experienced and qualified enlisted personnel in the peacetime forces of the military services. In fact, legislative authority for a reenlistment bonus of one form or another has existed continuously since shortly after the Revolutionary War under a number of different names.

However, our experience with Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom has highlighted the fact that payments to mobilized guard members and reservists are suspended while they serve on active duty. For many, this creates a financial hardship and for others, a significant speed bump in their financial plans. This legislation would enable them to receive the payments due to them.

Currently, for U.S. operations pertaining to Homeland Security, and deployments in Afghanistan, and Iraq, 275,000 reserve troops

and National Guardsman have been mobilized. The activated troops serve along side active duty men and women.

It surprises me that inequities still exist between reservists and active-duty service members serving side by side to protect the interests of the United States and I am pleased to work with my colleagues in correcting one of them.

Knowing that the Senate has already acted on a similar measure, I am confident that this bill will enjoy swift approval by the House and will soon be at the President's desk for enactment into law.

JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to be joining my good friend, Philip Crane, in introducing the Job Protection Act of 2003. I am very pleased both with the substance of this bill and the bipartisan cooperation exhibited by everyone in its development. This bill is a model for how we should be addressing national issues in this Congress.

The bill responds to the recent World Trade Organization ruling that held that our export-related tax benefit, the FSC/ETI provision, violates our trade agreements. I believe that it is necessary for this country to comply with its international agreements. But I believe that the response to the ruling must be designed in a way that preserves jobs in the United States.

The FSC/ETI provisions currently benefit companies manufacturing and producing goods in the United States. One company executive described the beneficiaries of FSC/ETI as companies "doing business the old-fashioned way," producing goods in the United States and selling them overseas.

Merely repealing FSC/ETI without returning the revenues to companies producing in the United States could result in further job losses in the United States. This would be unacceptable, particularly now when there has been a steady erosion in U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Our bill will comply with the WTO ruling by repealing the FSC/ETI benefit, but it also will provide a permanent effective rate reduction for U.S. manufacturers that is consistent with our trade agreements. It will create positive incentives for companies to expand their operations in the United States, not overseas. It will preserve, not threaten U.S. jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we have had similar challenges to our export-related benefits in the past. We always have responded in a bipartisan, bicameral basis. Such a response is appropriate because that type of challenge is not a partisan issue. It is a legal dispute between our country and our foreign competitors. In that dispute we all represent the same client, the United States. We should proceed just like a group of lawyers representing the same client, perhaps disagreeing in private, but never sharing those disagreements or competing legal briefs with our opponent.

Attached is a summary of the provisions of the bill.

The proposal would repeal the FSC/ETI benefit effective on date of enactment. The

proposal would include binding contract transition relief and general transition relief. The general transition relief would be based on the company's FSC/ETI benefit for 2001. The company would receive a deduction of 100% of its base period amount for 2004 and 2005, 75% for 2006 and 2007 and 50% for 2008, with no general transition relief thereafter.

As the general transition relief phases out, a new permanent benefit for U.S. manufacturers would be phased in. The new benefit would reduce the effective corporate tax rate on income attributable to U.S. production activities. Purely domestic companies would receive an effective rate reduction of 3.5 points (reducing the 35% rate to 31.5%). Companies with operations offshore would receive a smaller rate reduction based on the value of their U.S. and world-wide production. That adjustment would create positive incentives for companies to keep operations in the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE EARNED IN- COME TAX CREDIT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the earned income tax credit (EITC) provides cash assistance to lower income working parents and individuals through the tax system and is an important part of the Federal "safety net" of programs for Americans living in poverty.

Under current law, there are three categories of EITC recipients: those with no children, those with one child, and those with two or more children. One does not need to owe taxes at tax time in order to benefit—the EITC benefit amount may exceed tax liability and be received in the form of a payment from the U.S. Treasury after the tax year's end. Moreover, certain eligible workers with children may choose to receive a portion of the EITC in the form of advance payments throughout the tax year.

While the EITC has been tremendously successful and has lifted more children out of poverty than has any other government program, I believe that our efforts to use this important tax credit to fight poverty can be further improved. Recent studies have shown that 29 percent of all children in families having three or more children subsist at incomes below the poverty level. This is more than double the poverty rate among children in smaller families. Nearly three of every five poor children in this country live in families with three or more children. Our former colleague Rep. Bill Coyne introduced legislation during the 107th Congress that targeted this particular problem and made other needed improvements to the EITC program. Today I reintroduce that bill.

The bill will create a new EITC benefit level for families with 3 or more children, with a credit percentage of 45 percent, to provide a higher benefit than what they currently receive under the "two or more children" category (which has a 40 percent credit rate). The bill would also double the credit percentage for workers with no qualifying children from 7.65 percent to 15.3 percent. This change recognizes the fact that there is virtually no safety

net for people in this category, who face high federal tax burdens. The 15.3 credit percentage is the amount needed to fully offset the amount of the payroll tax, including the employer's share.

In addition, the bill will increase EITC benefits for all family categories by raising the maximum creditable earnings used to calculate the credit. For all eligible individuals with children, this amount for the year 2002 will be \$10,710, the annual wages of a full-time worker earning the minimum wage. For childless workers, the maximum creditable earnings will rise to \$6,000, approximately 60 percent of those wages. In order to balance program costs, benefits will phase out at the same income level, as is the case under current law.

The creation of the additional EITC category involving three or more children will benefit approximately 3.2 million households and further reduce poverty among these larger families. The economic stimulus function of my bill cannot be overlooked, as it will benefit the U.S. economy by providing additional incentives for more people, especially low-income women, to join the work force.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our country is facing so many economic challenges, we must not forget that our low-income families continue to remain at the margins of our economy and are the first to suffer the effects of an economic downturn. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this effort to further enhance the highly successful EITC by cosponsoring this legislation.

CONCERN FOR AMERICA'S TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for America's telecommunications industry.

Service providers and equipment manufacturers are going out of business, workers have been laid off, and capital investment is frozen. Experts agree the industry is experiencing an "economic meltdown." Once an engine of economic prosperity in the 1990s, this important sector is now a driver of the current recession.

Why is this happening?

In order to spur competition in the local phone market, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 required the local Bell companies to rent out their networks to competitors while they developed a customer base and built their own facilities.

That is fine. However, many state regulators set the Bells' leasing rates significantly below the cost of maintaining their lines. For some time now, the incumbent phone companies have been bleeding money while big players, such as Worldcom, take advantage of these artificially low rates that were designed to help new entrants gain access to the market. Without contributing to the local infrastructure, these companies are cherry picking lucrative business and select residential customers, while leaving the Bells to serve everyone else.

Instead of helping the little guys get started and bringing true competition to the local phone market, this regulation is a boondoggle for a few big companies at the expense of the

regional Bells. This is not a sustainable economic model, as we are now witnessing.

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission had the opportunity to turn things around in their Triennial Review. They failed to do so.

Instead of correcting the rate structure and creating the regulatory certainty necessary to stabilize the industry, the FCC managed to produce even more uncertainty by punting to the states the rate decision they were supposed to establish. This means that the rate structure for local telephone service will now have to go through lengthy legal battles in 50 different states and in the District of Columbia before it is resolved. Unless something is done, for years to come, lawyers will profit and the status quo will prevail.

I urge the FCC to reconsider its decision. You cannot fool an industry into recovery by creating a façade of competition.

HONORING THE WINNER OF THE
2003 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING
CONTEST, "FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION"

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Darshan N. Patel, a National winner of the 2003 Voice of Democracy Program. The contest theme this year was "Freedom's Obligation."

Mr. Patel is a sophomore at Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I think you will agree that his entry earned the award. Mr. Patel has communicated a powerful message regarding "Freedom's Obligation." I submit his winning entry for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor Darshan's tribute to the American men and women of the military who have given us the many freedoms we enjoy today.

Mr. Speaker, I also extend my appreciation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for their sponsorship of this program. This year more than 80,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for the 59 national scholarships. Darshan was sponsored by VFW Post 401 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Darshan Patel as a National winner and thanking him for his patriotism.

ENSURE ACCESS TO CRITICAL
DIALYSIS CARE UNDER MEDICARE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today Congressman CAMP and I are introducing legislation, the Medicare Renal Dialysis Payment Fairness Act of 2003, which would require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create and implement by January 2004 an annual updating mechanism for dialysis reimbursement under Medicare.

While the Medicare program pays for about 75 percent of dialysis care, there is currently no mechanism to update the reimbursement to account for inflation, new technology, labor, and other cost increases. In fact, the dialysis reimbursement is the only Medicare prospective payment system that does not have an updating framework. As a result, in their March 2003 Report to Congress, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) states that Medicare is on average paying three percent less than the cost of a dialysis treatment. This payment disparity is even greater for small and rural dialysis facilities, which experience about an 11 percent payment shortfall per treatment.

A primary concern about this underfunding is the inability of dialysis facilities to compete with other providers—who do receive annual updates—for nurses and other health care workers. According to a study completed by Abt Associates, a dialysis center in Baltimore, Maryland is only able to pay \$25.75 per hour while the local hospital has the resources to pay \$35.00 per hour. Similarly, in northern California, a dialysis center pays staff \$32.00 per hour while the hospital pays \$40 per hour.

Across the nation, nursing salaries have increased an average of 27 percent (from \$23,140 to \$31,720) from 1992 to 2002. It has become more and more difficult for the renal community to keep up with these rising labor costs and recruit and retain trained staff for dialysis facilities when other providers have the capabilities to pay higher salaries.

Even more importantly, reports show that low reimbursement rates have started to create access to care problems for Medicare end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients. In 2001, on average 77 percent of patients treated at renal facilities were Medicare beneficiaries. However, among the dialysis facilities that closed in 2001, Medicare beneficiaries comprised 88 percent of patients. This evidence indicates the economic challenge that dialysis centers face in treating Medicare beneficiaries.

I am pleased that this legislation is supported by the Renal Leadership Council and the National Kidney Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, providing for an inflationary annual update would allow the Secretary of HHS to make appropriate, data-driven decisions each year on fair dialysis payment rates. We must ensure that dialysis care for Medicare beneficiaries is not jeopardized due to inadequate reimbursement. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAURA
LYLE LASATER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Maura Lyle Lasater of Las Vegas, NV, Nevada's 2003 Cherry Blossom Princess and dear friend of mine.

I have known Maura since she was a youngster. I have watched her grow from an energetic toddler, through her competitive ice skating and horseback riding years as a young girl, high school at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, college at the University

of Puget Sound graduating with a Communications degree, all the way to the intelligent, poised and personable young woman with a great sense of humor she is today. Maura was an active and valuable participant in her mother's two successful Las Vegas mayoral races and also her run at the Nevada governorship.

Maura is now a trusted and valuable member of my staff. Her first day at work was September 11, 2001. Reporting to work at 9 a.m. that morning, new to this city and without a network of friends, within less than 45 minutes America and the world changed and Maura's own personal world became even more unsettled. My staff, rallying together in the face of their own unknown terror, embraced "the new girl" and kept her with them as they sought and found a safe place to wait out the day's events. In the chaotic days following 9/11—including the anthrax scare—Maura established herself as a tireless, reliable and dedicated public servant, despite her short time on the Hill.

Much has transpired since that day and Maura now is an experienced and knowledgeable Hill veteran, much loved and respected by her colleagues. She has her own network of friends and has continued her volunteer efforts on behalf of candidates and causes. Maura is an excellent representative of her home State of Nevada in the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The story of the Cherry Blossoms has been told many times—the Japanese Government, working with then First Lady Helen Taft, donated 2000 cherry blossom trees. When they arrived, they were found to be diseased and unfortunately had to be destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease to our own agricultural products. The Japanese Government was gracious enough to provide another donation—this time 3000 gorgeous cherry blossom trees. These were planted not only in the Tidal Basin, but all throughout Washington, DC. There are now less than 200 of the original trees remaining, and efforts are underway through new research and cuttings to regrow these trees so there will always be descendants of Japan's gracious gift to America. Maura and the other Cherry Blossom Princesses are an integral part of this time-honored tradition fostering continued good will of our two countries and the beauty the trees provide.

Maura spent a whirlwind week of customs and ceremonies as Nevada's representative to the Cherry Blossom Festival. I was filled with pride when I escorted her in the introduction ceremony at the Congressional Reception, attended by the Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Ryozo Kato. Las Vegas and all Nevadans can be proud to have Maura Lasater as their representative. I look forward to Maura's continued success in life and wish her all the best as she pursues her dreams and goals.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MARY LOU DAVIDSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to a dear cousin of mine, Mary Lou Gordon Davidson. She is a

remarkable woman who continues to remain an active and vibrant part of her community.

Mrs. Davidson was born April 29, 1903, to the late Dr. Alfred Nelson Gordon and Sallie Holden Gordon on a farm in my hometown community of Rutherford County, TN. She has lived through 18 U.S. presidents and has witnessed a dizzying array of technological achievements, including traveling to town by horse and buggy to reaching the stars by way of powerful rockets. She has watched telecommunications advance from a simple hand-crank telephone hanging on the wall to a hand-held digital telephone using signals delivered by way of satellite.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from the old Tennessee College for Women in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Mrs. Davidson raised a child, Sara, and taught school for more than four decades before retiring in 1968. Through her active life, Mrs. Davidson enjoyed a multitude of hobbies, including gardening, cooking and sewing. In fact, she currently leads a knitting class at her home in the McKendree Retirement Village. And she has won nearly a dozen gold medals while participating in the Senior Olympics.

Mrs. Davidson is the epitome of living life to the fullest. Her keen wit and positive attitude have given her a wonderful disposition, one that we should wish to have. I congratulate Mrs. Davidson for her countless contributions to her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP BURTON

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commemorate the life of the late Congressman Phil Burton, who in my humble opinion was one of the greatest and most brilliant legislators in modern times.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with Phil Burton can certainly attest to his unique and outstanding leadership capabilities and his tremendous influence still being felt today. No doubt we all have our Phi Burton stories to tell, most of which center around the life and times of a man who is one of the great legislative giants of our times.

Twenty years ago, over 125 Members of Congress, including House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, traveled to San Francisco to attend a special memorial service in honor of Phil Burton. It was one of the largest delegations of Members, perhaps even the largest, to attend a memorial service of one of its own colleagues.

I remember former California Assembly Speaker and now Mayor of San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown, a close personal friend and associate of Phil Burton, made an interesting observation of Phil's life and career. Mayor Brown said, "Now I know some of you Members of Congress are here to pay your respects and truly offer your sympathies to Sala (Phil's wife) and the family. But I also sense that some of you are here to be absolutely certain that Phil Burton is dead and to be sure that you will never have to confront him again."

At the memorial service, House Speaker Tip O'Neill also made this comment concerning

Phil Burton. He said, "Few in the House of the past or in the present can match his contribution." "Phil had his losses, but he always shoved adversity aside. He fought for the hungry and the sick and against bigotry with tremendous energy and commitment."

Some people describe Phil Burton as an ultra-liberal and very difficult to work with because of his so-called ideology. But I considered Phil a very unique kind of liberal, one who was able to foster relationships with other Members, despite differences in ideologies. It was not uncommon to find Phil in a corner of this chamber talking to a conservative Republican or conservative Democrat. I remember well one of Phil's famous proverbial expressions, "Cut the B.S. and let's be operational."

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are well aware, one of the most ideologically-based committees in this institution is the Committee on Resources. A committee composed mainly of Members from Western states, whose districts are significantly affected by the involvement of the Federal Government regarding the control and administration of millions of acres of land which are located in these states.

Recognizing the atmosphere that existed in the Committee, I once asked former Congressman Sam Steiger, a senior Republican from Arizona, how he was able to get along with a liberal like Phil. Congressman Steiger replied, "Two things Eni. First, Phil is among the few liberals who at least comes and talks to us on this side of the aisle, and second, in all the years that I've known and worked with him, Phil Burton has never broken a promise." Mr. Speaker, Phil Burton was a man of his word.

Long before I knew that I was going to be a member of this great institution, I served as a member of Phil's staff. From him I learned a lesson that I have carried with me ever since. "Eni," he told me, "the only thing that matters and is worth anything working in this place—is your word. Don't ever forget that."

Mr. Speaker, I haven't forgotten this lesson, and the many others I learned from Phil. He was a man of principle, conviction and determination. A man who left behind a legacy of integrity. A man who was my mentor and friend.

TRIBUTE TO PULITZER PRIZE WINNING BOSTON GLOBE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boston Globe on their Pulitzer Prize for public service, journalism's highest honor, for their coverage of the clergy abuse scandal in Boston. They are to be commended for their outstanding and comprehensive reporting.

In January of last year the Globe ran a Spotlight series, which showed a widespread pattern of sexual abuse by priests, covered up by the Archdiocese of Boston. Throughout the year, a team of reporters, including Spotlight reporters Walter V. Robinson, Matthew Carroll, Sacha Pfeiffer, and Michael Rezendes; investigative reporters Kevin Cullen, Thomas Farragher, and Stephen Kurkjian; and religion reporter Michael Paulson, managed by editors

Ben Bradlee Jr. and Mark S. Morrow, produced nearly 800 stories related to the scandal.

The Globe executed courageous and timely reporting and coverage of the scandal. They reached a level of reporting and coverage unparalleled in recent times in its depth and force of reporting. As a result of their coverage, the scandal received international attention, and culminated with the resignation of Cardinal Bernard F. Law in December.

At a time when we need public servants, and we call on our citizens to offer their services to our communities and to our country, the Globe proved that newspapers too can rise to the challenge and provide an incredible public service. There is no doubt that the thousands of families, who found a voice through the pages of the newspaper's coverage of this scandal, are far better off for the Globe's work. We all owe them our thanks and a debt of gratitude for their service.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION BY KACEY L. REYNOLDS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young lady in my District, Ms. Kacey L. Reynolds of Calvert City, Kentucky. Ms. Reynolds is the Kentucky winner of the 2003 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest. Ms. Reynolds's script, entitled "Freedom's Obligation," has great meaning as our armed forces are in the process of liberating the Iraqi people and giving them the freedoms we enjoy everyday. At sixteen years old, Ms. Reynolds has a true understanding of what freedom means and what individuals must do to preserve it. I have attached a copy of Ms. Reynolds's script to be placed in the RECORD. I urge all my colleagues to read her inspiring thoughts on the true value of freedom.

[From the 2002-2003 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest]

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Kacey Reynolds—Kentucky Winner)

Our forefathers viewed freedom as a quest—a goal they lived, and gave, their lives fearlessly pursuing. Today, most of us view freedom as a privilege we deserve, a complimentary right owed to us, simply because we are American. But our liberty must never be taken for granted and we must never delude ourselves into believing freedom is free. Independence has always come at a price, and we have a responsibility to ensure that it continues so the heroic sacrifices made to secure it were not in vain. Freedom is a blessing and a responsibility and our obligation to it is threefold.

Our first obligation to freedom is that of education. Thomas Jefferson once said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant AND free, in a state of civilization, then it expects what never was and never will be." Ignorance is the first enemy of liberty. It is through education that we possess the freedom, not only to provide for ourselves, but to choose the manner in which we do so. It is through learning that we open our minds to new concepts and courageous ideals to better govern ourselves. It is through a knowledge of our history that we take pride in who we are and our rich heritage as Americans. Education

provides opportunity—the opportunity to be self-sufficient, the opportunity to understand, the opportunity to be free.

Our second obligation to freedom is that of obedience. America's government is "of the people, by the people and for the people", but our founding fathers knew that no people can be truly free if any individual person is allowed to violate the rights of others. Obedience to the law is essential for equality and security. If we expect our government to provide freedom for us, then we have a responsibility to respect each other. Crime is the second enemy of liberty. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "No man is above the law and no man is below it. Nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience is demanded as a right, not asked as a favor." Obedience by each individual provides freedom for all.

Our third obligation to freedom is that of service, of giving back to our community, our government, and our country. We, as citizens of that freedom, hold a responsibility to dedicate our time, our resources, our passion, and, sometimes, even our lives for the greater good. It is in serving one another that we become united. If we fail to give of ourselves, then we fail the memory of those brave souls who went before us to sacrifice everything. Selfishness is the third enemy of liberty, but volunteering our service affords us the opportunity to give back what we receive. Only in this service can our country provide us with true freedom.

Without education, how can we be free to govern ourselves? Without obedience to our laws, how can we ensure safety and security for all people? Without service, how can we expect others to fight and die for our freedom? We cannot. We must dauntlessly pursue education, bravely stand up for what is right through obedience and unselfishly give of ourselves through service so freedom can continue to flourish. This is our obligation. It is in being the "home of the brave" that makes us "the land of the free".

THE FREEDOM FLAT TAX ACT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Freedom Flat Tax Act.

Albert Einstein once said, "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." If you look at the current Tax Code, it is easy to see his genius.

The cost of the current income tax system in both time and dollars is just too high. Each year, Americans spend 6.1 billion hours preparing their tax forms and businesses spend 800 million hours complying with the Tax Code. In 2001 alone, Americans lost at least \$183 billion in opportunity costs—calculated at \$30/hour—that people spent working on their taxes instead of working on money-producing activities for themselves.

Two-thirds of Americans think the income tax system is too complex. We need a simpler system for all Americans to understand. Taxpayer phone calls to the IRS help line doubled during the 1990s from 56 million to 111 million, even though the number of taxpayers only grew by 12 percent. The Federal tax rules are over 45,500 pages in length, which is double the number of pages since the 1970s, including the full Tax Code, IRS rules and regulations, and tax court rulings. As of

May 2000, the Tax Code contained 1,395,028 words—nearly 319 times the number of words in the U.S. Constitution. The average taxpayer pays \$1,839 per household in compliance costs. In other words, that taxpayer must work 6 days per year just to pay for the cost of preparing his or her taxes for that year. These complexities are completely unnecessary.

I believe Americans need to keep more of their money they work for each day. Valuable resources are being lost to taxes; resources that could be used for productive, job-creating economic behavior or for spending time with our families. As you can see, the costs imposed by our tax system are just too high.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Freedom Flat Tax Act. This legislation will allow Americans to opt out of the current convoluted and complex tax system and into a pro-growth tax system that will restore fairness, simplicity, and efficiency to our Tax Code. Congress has the obligation to remove those obstacles to American economic growth and health.

The Freedom Flat Tax will phase-in the flat tax over a 3-year period, with a 19-percent rate for the first 2 years and a 17-percent rate in subsequent years. It will have no deductions or loopholes, but will allow some personal exemptions, including a \$5,510 exemption for each dependent.

We've heard of the flat tax before. Here's how my proposal differs from other versions of the flat tax bill: First of all, it is optional. This bill will allow individuals and businesses to choose if and when they will opt into the system. Second, it is permanent. The decision to opt into the flat tax system will be permanent to prevent possible tax evasion resulting from taxpayers jumping back and forth from the current income-based system to the flat tax system.

The Freedom Flat Tax will create a system that promotes fairness and economic prosperity by treating everyone the same, regardless of income or occupation, and removing the special preferences and disincentives for economic growth that characterize our current tax system.

The goal of the Freedom Flat Tax is to create a tax system that minimizes the number of market-distorting investment decisions that are made as a result of the current tax system; people will base their financial decisions on common-sense economics, not the tax code. When savings are no longer taxed twice, people will save and invest more, leading to higher productivity and greater take-home pay. The flat tax will spur economic growth by eliminating the current tax code's bias against savings and investment. Because the flat tax treats all economic activity equally, it will promote greater economic efficiency and increased prosperity.

It is estimated that the flat tax system will save taxpayers more than \$100 billion per year. This increase in take home pay will give people more money to spend in the economy, which will help boost economic activity. In these difficult times, Congress will soon be debating the need for an economic stimulus. Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to stop and imagine what a stimulus that \$100 billion would provide to our economy if we put it in the hands of average Americans! I yield the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes today due to memorial services being held in my district of El Paso in memory of the nine soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company who were killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. If present, I would have voted no on the Rahall Amendment (rollcall 143) which did not provide for the productive use of petroleum resources in Alaska that could benefit local indigenous populations and our energy security. On the motion to recommit (rollcall 144), I would have voted aye. On final passage of H.R. 6 (rollcall 145), I would have voted no. I am concerned that the energy bill we voted on today lacks sufficient consumer protections and provides too many taxpayer handouts at a time when our federal budget is under the strain of record deficits and the costs of war.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Twenty-four 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 achievement and I wish them the best of luck in the national finals.

TRIBUTE TO LIZA JACKSON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liza Jackson Preparatory School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida on their recent designation as a Model Charter School. As one of only six schools in the state of Florida to receive this designation, Liza Jackson Preparatory has proven itself to be in a class of its own when it comes to the education of our young individuals in Northwest Florida. It is an honor and a privilege to express my sincere congratulations to the entire Liza Jackson Preparatory community on their well-deserved recognition.

Founded by a group of education professionals who wanted more from public education than what was available through the traditional district schools, dedicated staff and extraordinarily involved parents have built Liza Jackson Preparatory into the remarkable institution that it is today. It is a place where the children come first and are taught to obtain the highest levels of achievement that they can.

Liza Jackson Preparatory prides itself on bringing together its dedicated parents in an effort to help guide and design the school's mission. Liza Jackson Preparatory used information gathered by organized parent groups to write its charter, which was subsequently submitted to the Okaloosa County's school board in 2000 and unanimously approved. Initially, the school opened its doors to 560 students in August of 2001 and today I am proud to say that enrollment is filled to capacity with an additional 700 children on the waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, over its first 2 years, Liza Jackson Preparatory School has shown that it is succeeding in its mission; to provide a comprehensive approach to education in order for students to successfully compete in the global community. On this occasion, I offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Liza Jackson Preparatory School on their designation as a Model Charter School, and wish them the greatest of success in all that is to come.

YOUTH PRIDE DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 12 marks the culmination of Youth Pride Week in Washington, DC with our Seventh Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender young people, which has brought over 10,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,800 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved into Youth Pride Week, which comprises over a dozen events ranging from a conference, dances, and poetry readings, to Youth Pride Day on Saturday.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight. The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us every young person deserves to live, to love, and to be loved.

We, who live in our Nation's Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that has been denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. I remind the House that Washingtonians are taxed without representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was absent for roll No. 140 and 141. I respectfully request the RECORD to reflect that, had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on each.

HONORING JOHN JACOB RHODES
WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to announce that John Jacob Rhodes, former Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, is one of the first recipients of the Congressional Distinguished Service Medal. Together with Leader GEPHARDT, I established this award to recognize former Members of the House who served the American people with extraordinary distinction and selfless dedication. Leader GEPHARDT chose to honor Louis Stokes as his first award recipient, and I can think of no better person than John Rhodes to share this first tribute.

John Rhodes was born in Council Grove, Kansas, attending public schools and eventually Kansas State University. After moving east and graduating from Harvard Law School in 1941, he practiced law in Mesa, Arizona. He started his service to our Nation early as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps and a staff judge advocate of the Arizona National Guard. These experiences served him well during his thirty year career in the United States Congress.

First elected as a Republican to the 83rd Congress, John Rhodes went on to serve in fourteen succeeding Congresses. After twenty years in Congress, he had earned the respect of his peers and was elected Minority Leader of the House for the 93rd through 96st Congresses. These years saw John Rhodes lead his party from the dark days of Watergate to the resurgent presidency of Ronald Reagan.

And through it all, John Rhodes was considered a man of exemplary values, a true lead-

er, a great listener, and steadfast peacemaker. Those who know him best would say he has a quiet dignity, an implicit trustworthiness, and a tireless devotion to the people of America. Pulitzer prize-winning columnist George Will said it best:

One glance tells you. God had a Congressman in mind when he made John Rhodes. And he is just what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they designed the House of Representatives, the body intended to be the closest to the common man.

I can think of few equals to John Rhodes whose life and legislative careers merit the Congressional Distinguished Service Medal. We cannot thank him enough for his service to this Chamber and to our great country. I am truly honored to be able to present him with this award.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH G. ROBERTS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Joseph G. Roberts, beloved husband of Lia Roberts. Joe will be laid to rest on Saturday, April 12, 2003, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Joe was born on September 19, 1915 in Springfield, Missouri and died on April 7, 2003 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Growing up during the depression, Joe was best known for being a man of great integrity and honor. In 1941, Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force and served as a captain and pilot during World War II. He was later discharged with honors.

In 1949, Joe moved to Las Vegas and founded Roberts Roofing and went on to become a very successful businessman in the Las Vegas community. His dedication and generous contributions to the many charities he helped support will not be forgotten.

Joe, we thank you for your true spirit of life and your gracious manner. You will be missed by your many friends and loved ones.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Lia and family during this time of sorrow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STICK A
CORK IN THE CORK TARIFF ACT
OF 2003"

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to introduce my "Stick A Cork In The Cork Tariff Act of 2003," a bill that will assist small business and sportsmen by reducing the unfairly high import duty on cork.

Makers of fishing rods, and particularly fly-fishing rods, are under pressure to significantly increase the price of their equipment because of prohibitively high duties on cork. Cork is the primary component of a fishing pole's grip. It is not available domestically and must be imported. While the tariff on already-finished cork is 6 percent and lower, unfinished cork is subject to a 14 percent duty. Such unfinished cork is imported and subsequently handcrafted by

American workers onto the custom-made fly fishing rods that so many sportsmen enjoy. Mr. Speaker, it just doesn't make sense that Customs would charge a 6 percent tariff on a pre-finished product while levying a much-higher 14 percent duty on a good that is finished with American hands.

In my own district, REC Components of Enfield (CT) employs more than twenty highly skilled individuals to create such fly fishing rods. Mr. Speaker, REC Components and the working men and women at the company are dependent upon imported cork. The current duty being levied upon such cork jeopardizes this company and these jobs. Other manufacturers in this industry face the same problem. Whether in Wisconsin, Washington, Montana, or Georgia, small businesses are being made to bear this unfair burden for no good reason.

This is why my legislation has such bipartisan, national support, including the American Sportfishing Association, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, It has always been my understanding that Customs duties were established to protect American industry. If cork is not available in the United States and it is the only product that can be used to manufacture the grips on fly fishing rods, I fail to see why we are charging such a duty.

At a time when many Americans are still experiencing economic insecurity, it is critical that we take steps in the Congress to create more jobs and strengthen the ones we have. While Congress is working to craft a jobs and growth package, we also must consider other measures that, although less comprehensive, similarly take steps to boost our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of small businesses, American workers, outdoor retailers, sportsmen everywhere. Support the "Stick A Cork In The Cork Tariff Act of 2003."

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY NELSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Nevada's finest. One of the legends of the west passed on to his reward last week. Ninety-year-old Tommy Nelson came to Nevada in 1931 to help build the mighty Hoover Dam and wound up being employed forty years on the site. Tommy was an outstanding individual who was admired by all who knew him. He was also an excellent musician and played his trumpet at many patriotic ceremonies and funerals of our service men and women.

Nevada has lost a great American whose spirit will live on in the hearts of Nevadans.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY A. CROWTHER

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, Peggy A. Crowther has served, with distinction, as the Executive

Director of the Rotary Club of Sacramento since August 1991. Established in 1913, this club is one of the oldest Rotary Clubs in the world, and the 12th largest, made up of nearly 500 members representing the top business, civic, and professional leaders in the region.

In May 2003, Peggy will be retiring to enjoy the personal passions of her life . . . husband Bob, her children, and grandchild, travel, and golf . . . to name only a few of her interests. What she leaves behind is a legacy of leadership that will be missed by all who came to rely on her professionalism, graciousness, and warm smile.

Devotion to the non-profit world has always been her passion, and is reflected throughout her life. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she began her career as associate director of the YWCA, and YMCA, and then continued in that capacity in Salt Lake City, Modesto and Fresno, California. For a time she worked as director of development for Central Catholic High School in Modesto, before becoming district chief of staff for a State Assemblyman. Her next move was to Sacramento where she became the director of development of United Cerebral Palsy.

It was in 1988, that Peggy joined the Rotary Club of Modesto, but her involvement with Rotary began earlier when she assisted her husband with the leadership of a Group Study Exchange Team to Melbourne, Australia. As women were welcomed into Rotary, she was one of the first to join, and with the move to Sacramento, became a member here in April 1991.

During this past 12 years, with Peggy's dedication, patience, and guidance, the Rotary Club of Sacramento has continued to grow in membership, prestige, and has been a contributor of well over two million dollars to the local and world community. Leadership within the membership changes yearly, but Peggy has continued to be the one person that we have all come to appreciate as the significant contributor of our success. None of us will forget how we have come to rely on her organizational skills, her adeptness at multi-tasking, problem solving, and talent for diplomacy as she interfaces with hundreds of volunteers . . . all of which she greets by name at our weekly meetings.

We thank you, Peggy, and wish you and your family all the blessings life has to offer.

JOHN J. MCGUIRK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the naming of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outreach Clinic, located on the grounds of the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, as the "John J. McGuirk Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

As an enlisted salvage diver in the United States Navy during World War II, John McGuirk worked his way across the South Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Manila, Philippines aboard the USS Layson Island. For his service, John was awarded the World War II Vic-

tory Medal, American Theatre Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theatre Medal and Philippine Liberation Medal.

When John J. McGuirk's contractual obligation to the United States Navy ended with an honorable discharge, his personal obligation to his country and fellow veterans' remained engraved upon his heart and became a lifelong commitment.

His efforts helped to contribute to the VA Connecticut Healthcare system planning and operating a series of CBOC's across the state, providing primary care on a daily basis. Additionally, John played an instrumental role in the opening of the Veterans' Outreach Clinic located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

John actively served in Post #9 American Legion for the remainder of his life: twice as the Legion's Commander, additionally as the Finance officer and the Service officer. He was also a member of the Disabled Veterans of America and U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc.

Mr. Speaker, John J. McGuirk was constant in his mission to serve his nation and fellow veterans. On behalf of the Members of the Connecticut House delegation, Disabled Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and AMVETS, I would like to extend the opportunity for Members of the Subcommittee to support this measure and honor the memory of John J. McGuirk.

RECOGNIZING BOULDER CITY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boulder City on a number of awards it has received over the last year. I have had the tremendous honor of representing Boulder City as a Councilman, Mayor, and now as Congressman. The following awards show the quality of life Boulder City is famous for. These awards include: the Howland Award, given by the National League of Cities to the best small community in the country; the "Excellence in Aquatics Award" from the National Recreation and Parks Association. This honor was given for the exceptional quality of all the aquatic programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department; the "Excellence in Education Hall of Fame Award" from the Clark County School District; the Boulder City Municipal Golf Course was recognized statewide as number 10 in top values throughout the State and best course under \$100 in southern Nevada by the "Las Vegas Golfer Magazine;" National Geographic Adventure Magazine named Boulder City's Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Trail facility as one of the top 50 Favorite Adventure Places, November, 2002.

I urge my colleagues in this House and people across the country to visit Boulder City, Nevada, and see this wonderful, award-winning community first hand.

FAMILIES LIVING IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF ARIZONA WHO HAVE LOST CHILDREN IN THE IRAQI CONFLICT

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express a deep and abiding gratitude to the families living in the second district of Arizona who have lost children in the Iraqi Conflict. They include: Carol Howland of Kingman, who lost her son James Kiehl; Sandy Watson of Peoria whose son Michael Williams was killed in action, the Piestewa family—and the entire Hopi Nation—who mourn the loss of their daughter Lori Ann. I have spoken to each, and have been inspired by their unwavering faith and enduring strength.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic stories of this war are not unique to Arizona. So many Members of this Congress can recall fallen heroes from the communities they represent, and those noble families who personify the sacrifice of war. America's sons and daughters have fought bravely in this battle and some have died defending their homeland and bringing freedom to a people they have never met. Today, Mr. Speaker, the American flag flies at half-staff in all of our hearts as this Nation tearfully lays these valiant sons and daughters of freedom in the loving arms of God.

Words fail me to express the unspeakable debt of gratitude owed to the families of America who have sacrificed their own loved ones for the cause of human freedom. So may I respectfully appropriate the words of Abraham Lincoln who sought to offer comfort in a letter to a precious mother who had lost five sons on the battlefield. It is my prayer that his words can be received into the hearts of all of those who mourn the loss of their beloved soldier: Mr. Lincoln wrote: "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom."

May all of us this day take poignant inventory of American freedom, and may we never forget those who paid for it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY LONERO, SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Mr. Tony Lonero, as he is inducted into the Pennsylvania Hills Sports Hall of Fame on April 25, 2003.

Mr. Lonero's story is one of courage and inspiration which makes all of us proud. An avid

athlete, he excelled in baseball during his college years and later played in Italy's baseball major league in Nettuno. He participated in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics as part of the Italian Baseball Team.

After retiring in the late 1980s, he remained involved in coaching and pursued another passion, cycling. About a year and a half ago, while preparing for a race, he collapsed and was later diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He refused to let the diagnosis stop him from following his dreams. He continued running and cycling, and he is now qualifying for the longest and most difficult race in the history of cycling, the Paris-Brest-Paris.

Although living in Italy, Tony Lonero has always remained a patriotic American. He has maintained his U.S. citizenship and always carries out his civic responsibilities by voting via absentee ballot.

Mr. Speaker, let us join in offering our warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued success to this outstanding athlete and American, Mr. Tony Lonero, as he receives the special honor of being inducted into the Pennsylvania Hills Sports Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Nevada National Guard and their Commanding General, Major General Giles E. Vanderhoof.

Since September 11 the Nevada National Guard has been on the front lines of the war on terror, providing troops for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. With more than 700 soldiers and airmen activated, Nevada has one of the highest percentages of mobilized troops in the country. The 152nd Airlift Wing, 152nd Security Police Squadron, 72nd Military Police Company, 152nd Intelligence Squadron, 777th Engineer Detachment, and other units have all responded with valor and dedication to their country's call.

The Nevada National Guard has a long history of service to this nation, serving in the Pueblo crisis, the Persian Gulf War, and Bosnia. I salute each and every member of the National Guard and pledge my full support for them and their families. General Vanderhoof and his staff are to be commended for their success in training and leading such a force.

IN HONOR OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSIONER ROEL C. CAMPOS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Securities and Exchange Commissioner Roel C. Campos for the dignity with which he has assumed his responsibilities at the SEC. The City of Harlingen, Texas, his

hometown, has proclaimed April 10th as Roel C. Campos Day to celebrate the success of their native son, someone who has worked hard, stayed true to his values, and found success as an Air Force officer, a lawyer, a prosecutor, a businessman, and now the first Hispanic commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sworn in on August 20, 2002, Commissioner Campos has proven himself an independent-minded commissioner who advocates for protecting investors and eliminating corporate abuses. Both Democrats and Republicans have been impressed with his commitment to restoring fairness and integrity to the financial markets. Mr. Campos also focuses on supporting emerging companies and minority entrepreneurs.

He has used his position to make the securities industry and corporations aware of the changing demographics of America, and the great potential the Hispanic, African American and Asian American communities have to offer in the financial markets. These important segments of American society have historically been overlooked by corporate America.

Commissioner Campos, born in Harlingen, Texas to Mexican American parents, was the first in his family to attend college. He earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1979, an M.B.A. from UCLA in 1972, and a B.S. from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1971. Mr. Campos began his career serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. After his stint in the U.S. Air Force, he worked for major law firms in Los Angeles as a corporate transactions/securities lawyer and litigator for fifteen years. Beginning in 1985, he served as a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles. After several years as a federal prosecutor, he returned to private practice and co-founded El Dorado Communications, Inc. He is married to Mini Villarreal and has two sons.

I commend Commissioner Campos for his efforts on behalf of minority communities, businesses and investors. His actions demonstrate his commitment to expanding opportunities for all Americans, regardless of background. His dedication to proper enforcement actions against those who commit corporate fraud will help restore the American people's confidence in our financial institutions.

Perhaps most important, though, is that his impressive resume and achievements have not changed the strong character of this man from South Texas. I appreciate his commitment to people, his understanding of the challenges that so many Americans face, and his desire to create an SEC that responds to their needs. Roel C. Campos is a true asset to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the American people.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my support

for renewed efforts to find a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem. Such a resolution is consonant with American values of promoting stability, freedom, and democracy around the globe.

I strongly support a unified Cyprus. I am disappointed that the recent historic opportunity to resolve the Cyprus issue has failed, despite the hard work of United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan over the last several years, to bring the parties together and to facilitate an agreement.

I am disturbed that today, some 35,000 Turkish soldiers, armed with the latest weapons, are still stationed in the occupied area of Cyprus, making it, according to the United Nations Secretary-General, one of the most militarized regions in the world. At an estimated cost of \$300 million annually, Turkey continues to defy the international community and the U.N. resolutions with its policies towards Cyprus. Eighty-five thousand Turks have been brought over from Turkey to colonize the occupied area with the aim of changing the demography of the island and controlling the political situation. The Greek Cypriot community that remains enclaved within the occupied villages continues to live under conditions of oppression, harassment, and deprivation.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a national interest in fostering peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean region. We as a Nation cannot continue to pretend our NATO partner is not in clear violation of international law for its continued illegal occupation of its neighbor.

We in the United States pride ourselves for our respect for fundamental freedoms. Human rights norms are the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for Turkey to end its longstanding occupation of Cyprus.

Despite recent setbacks, I am still optimistic that the Cyprus situation can be peacefully and amicably resolved.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PETER
THOMAS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences for a dear family friend, David Peter Thomas. David passed away un-

expectedly on January 2, 2003, at the age of 28. I had the honor of knowing David and his family for many years. He was a devoted husband, son, brother, and grandson. Despite his young years, David had found a love of the law. He had attended UNLV School of Law for a year and then went on to the University of Utah, where he was in his last year of school. This past year David clerked at a local law firm, where he was to begin his career as a lawyer. David was also an avid skier and artist, which he inherited from his mother. He loved to spend his free time skiing, painting, or playing music. David was a beautiful person, a well-loved person who could brighten a stranger's day. His untimely death shall be regretted by all the people who knew David. To his family—his wife Natalie, his parents Peter and Nancy, his siblings Megan, Lindsey, and Adam, and his grandparents Monroe and Shirley, Parry and Peggy, I just want to say may he rest in peace. May God bless him.