

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## APPOINTING A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HUNGER

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Africa is on the brink of a crisis of biblical proportions. I traveled to Ethiopia and Eritrea earlier this year to see the famine conditions, and never imagined that I'd see conditions as bad as I saw in 1984.

In 1984, 8 million were in need of food aid. In January, more than 11 million people struggled for their next meal. I saw women and children that were too weak to feed themselves. This is absolutely tragic in a world with food as plentiful as ours.

Today, the situation is even more distressing. I recently read a cable from the American ambassador in Ethiopia describing a grimmer outlook for the coming months than had previously been expected. I will be submitting into the RECORD the cable and the latest NOAA weather forecast, which revises expectations for crop viability downward. This paints a bleak outlook for millions more Ethiopians for months to come.

In March, I wrote U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urging him to appoint a special envoy for hunger. Many European news outlets have run stories in recent days on the growing number of Africans, whose lives are now in jeopardy. The Ethiopian Government is planning another "Live-Aid" concert to re-energize the donor community and draw international attention to the situation. The momentum of this concert, coupled with the appointment of a U.N. special envoy, may help draw enough attention and resources to the continent and save the lives of millions of women and children.

In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the obligation to feed the hungry. The United States has responded to this crisis with an enormous amount of compassion. Many countries have the ability to give more, and may just be waiting to be asked. Time, resources and attention must be devoted to mobilizing and coordinating the resources required. This is a crisis that will require enormous coordination between international aid agencies, religious leaders and governments from every corner of the globe.

The war in Iraq has demanded our attention, but we can not allow this silent emergency to grow worse. The lives of millions of women and children depend on this story being shared loudly and boldly. I hope you'll do your part.

FROM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1559

SUMMARY

1. The mission believes that the number of people in need of emergency assistance will continue to increase from current levels of 11.3 million to 14 million people over the

course of the year, forcing a deliberate shift from the mid-case to the worst-case scenario as described in the October 2002 USAID/Ethiopia Contingency Plan.

2. Life-saving interventions are ongoing throughout Ethiopia, with special attention to pocket areas with high malnutrition. However, poor belg rains to date continue to raise vulnerability and needs and potentially threaten grave consequences, including increased mortality.

3. The sheer magnitude, severity and duration of Ethiopia's food security emergency has left people in an extreme state of vulnerability where coping strategies have been exhausted and livelihoods destroyed leading to widespread destitution. Increased destitution and continued shocks threaten a sharp increase in mortality levels as any possible harvest is still months away and health status of the most affected continues to decline.

4. Pre-famine indicators are present in Ethiopia for a significant portion of the at-need population and support the movement of contingency planning efforts to a worst-case scenario.

### BACKGROUND

5. As per Reftel (A), USAID/Ethiopia issued a contingency plan (October 2002) to the horn response working group in USAID/W outlining a mid-case and two worst-case scenarios as well as a mitigation and response plan.

6. The mission believes that the response to date, particularly led by the GFDRE and the USG, has provided the necessary resources to mitigate against the absolute worst-case scenario (Worst-Case Scenario Two as per the plan). However, current rains are again inadequate and NOAA projections indicate "normal to below normal" rainfall is anticipated.

7. Continued drought can be expected to increase the beneficiary caseload beyond current levels of 11.3 million people to 14 million or more over a wider geographic area. Thus, we can expect to meet criteria for the plan's Worst-Case Scenario One.

8. A worst-case scenario will result in unacceptable levels of mortality over a wide area and further breakdowns of long-term livelihood and coping strategies. In addition, one can anticipate further depletion of productive assets (destitution), distress migration, increased rural and urban vulnerability, malnutrition, and mortality will occur over the coming months based on current indicators. The pre-famine indicators will only worsen if rains continue to be much below average.

9. The current crisis is not likely to result in the mortality levels of the 1980's, in large part due to an early response by the GFDRE, donors, and institutions such as the Emergency Food Security Reserve, and early warning systems. In the likely event of pipeline breaks and/or epidemic outbreaks, the worst-case scenario could result in a significant spike in mortality.

### FACTORS LEADING TO A WORST-CASE SCENARIO

#### A. MASSIVE CROP FAILURE AND NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN NEED

10. Following the December 2002 crop assessment (estimated 25 percent decrease from the 2001/2002 harvest and 21 percent decrease from the last five-year average (FAO) production decline), DPPC and multi-agency teams concluded that 11.3 million people

would require emergency assistance, a further 2.9 million people were identified as being under close monitoring.

11. A March 14 addendum to the appeal (SEPTTEL C) increased needs slightly from 1.44 to 1.46 million metric tons and those under close monitoring from 2.9 to 3.1 million.

12. Production is most severely affected in Eastern Ethiopia, particularly in lowland areas, where losses range from 70 to 100 percent. However, food production is also down in surplus areas in the west. Reduction in food production in surplus areas will limit timely local purchase of food aid and cereal prices will increase further through the hungry season (July-September) when more than 90 percent of farmers' cereal holdings will be depleted.

13. Note: The 1999-2000 food shortage emergency (labeled as localized famine retrospectively by CDC with respect to excess mortality in the Gode Zone of Somali Region and low-level famine in the Ethiopian highlands by experts such as Stephen Devereaux) was largely limited to belg producing and pastoral areas. This is not true in 2003. Current pre-famine indicators are found in many areas that are main meher-season producers. In the 1999 and 2000 contingency plans, the mission warned that a true worst-case scenario would be a failure of production in main season agricultural areas. This is in fact the situation that we now face in Ethiopia.

#### B. CHANGED DISEASE ENVIRONMENT

14. As per Reftels B and E, mortality and morbidity indicators are deteriorating. Of the 130 worst drought-affected districts, surveys with mortality data are now available for 30. Of these, 18 districts with a total surveyed population of 2.1 million report mortality rates at or above emergency thresholds of 1 per 10,000 per day for crude mortality or 2 per 10,000 children under five years of age per day.

15. Recent nutrition surveys in areas where interventions are ongoing suggest that nutritional status has stabilized or improving in a number of districts. Other areas, particularly those in the southern nations, nationalities and peoples region (SNNPR) and other pocket areas in the north-central highlands, however, are now deteriorating (including the development of pellagra).

16. Of particular concern are reports of pellagra and other micronutrient deficiencies from UNICEF nutrition experts traveling in North Wello. Pellagra results from a lack of niacin, often occurring in populations reliant on a homogenous diet of corn. After several months of dependency upon relief food comprised of corn or wheat only, (blended foods and pulses are in short supply), micronutrient deficiencies such as pellagra are not surprising. UNICEF nutrition experts reported seeing cases in most villages they visited. As the rash-like symptoms of pellagra are only visible at advanced stages of the micronutrient deficiency, pellagra is very likely to be affecting a much larger proportion of the population than was observed.

17. Since early February, measles outbreaks have been reported in Bale Zone in Oromiya, Silti Zone in SNNPR and the WAG HAMRA Zone in Amhara.

18. Cases of meningitis have been reported in Tigray, SNNPR, Afar, Benishangul and Amhara. The ministry of health is making

• 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.

aggressive efforts to determine the strain. The threat of cholera increases with the advent of rain in the northern part of the country. Malaria cases are increasing and will likely increase further as people move to lowlands

C. A DEEPENING CRISIS, COUPLED WITH POOR RAINS IN 2003

19. On March 25, 2003, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) launched a multi-agency assessment team to Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regions (SNNPR). The assessments will revise the status of 3.1 million people under the "close-monitoring" category and verify any additional need. Early indications point to an increase in needs beginning May 1, 2003, of 1.5 million people as a result of the emerging and deepening crisis and the lack of relief provided by the current belg season. Assessment results will be known on April 25, 2003.

20. On April 9, the DPPC Commissioner commented that he believes the assessment would show significant movement of those under "close-monitoring" to the beneficiary group requiring immediate assistance.

21. Fewer net assessments of the rains to date indicate that although there are sporadic intensive rains in a few pocket areas, the belg is below-average to much below-average in the eastern portion of Ethiopia generally, and specifically in the Afar, Somali, West Hararghe and SNNPR regions. Given that a good belg season in recent years is more the exception than the rule, we anticipate, based on experience, that the outcome this year will likely be much below-average. A significant reduction in area-planted for belg producers are already being reported over a widespread area.

D. INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

22. To date, the effect of the much below-average belg is a deepening of the severity of the drought in already affected food deficit areas, pastoral areas, and newly emerging areas (SNNPR and some parts of the Oromiya Region). Assuming at this time, a much below-average belg performance (and poor pastoral rains), but not a total failure, we expect an increase of an additional 1 million people in need of assistance over a widespread area beginning in July or a revised total beneficiary caseload of 13.8 million (initial caseload of 11.3 million beneficiaries, projected may increase of 1.5 million people, and July increase of 1 million).

23. Based on this estimate, the following can be expected:

—Rather than needs peaking between April and June and declining in July, the mission believes that overall needs will increase initially in May and then remain at peak levels for the period June, July and August, and possibly through September.

—The overall increase in beneficiaries by 2.5 million people will result in increased cereal needs by some 170,000 mt (using 12.5 kg/person) and blended food requirements of 39,375 mt between May and September. This will increase overall needs during the appeal period from 1.46 mt to 1.66 mt (or an increase of about 210,000 mt overall (cereals and blended food) for the five month period).

E. PIPELINE BREAK FOR CEREALS AND BLENDED FOOD

24. The most recent USG contribution totaling 186,500 mt, as well as new contributions from other donors, brings the total pledges against CY 2003 to more than 1 million mt including 939,252 mt of cereals, 65,685 mt of blended food and 15,267 mt of vegetable oil. This represents some 70 percent of the estimated needs for 2003.

25. However, it should be noted that these are pledges, not deliveries and continued co-

ordination and robust deliveries are necessary to avert a pipeline break. Any delay could result in a pipeline break, which will have lasting repercussions for relief deliveries for the rest of the year, and could cause all major indicators to spike (morbidity, malnutrition, mortality, migration, etc.)

26. Actual deliveries are lagging. For example, the USG has pledged some 535,000 mt in CY 2003, but over 250,000 mt has not yet been purchased or shipped from the US and remains unscheduled in terms of delivery to Ethiopia. Consequences of a prolonged pipeline break include:

—Sharp increase of severe malnutrition and mortality;

—Ration reductions further compounding high levels of malnutrition;

—Limited pre-positioning of food to inaccessible areas;

—Reduction in distributions, requiring parallel import measures to the distribution sites and the emergency food security reserve, or partner warehouse;

—Mass migration during the agricultural season will affect this year's overall production and next year's assistance requirements; and

—Mass displacement and rural to urban migration.

27. With the addition of some 2.5 million people in need, it is expected that current pledges and delivery schedules for cereals will fall short of needs beginning in late-July with delivery lulls and gaps as early as May.

28. The blended food availability remains dangerously low with only 50 percent of the supplementary food needs pledged. Current available information points to a break of supplementary food availability in the middle of June.

29. Maintaining a pipeline at a minimum of 83 percent (representing the reduced ration of 12.5 kg-per person) of needs is necessary, not just to meet less-than-minimal nutritional requirements and limit spontaneous migration in search of food, but also to ensure that stability is maintained.

30. The mission is concerned about continued targeting difficulties and dilution of rations from the reduced level of 12.5 kg per person-per month, to even lower-levels as local officials stretch food available for an increasing number of people in need. The long-term impact on health status of keeping people barely within nutritional requirements is a serious concern.

31. The mission continues to stress the importance of improved targeting to increase the effectiveness of the emergency aid and in particular the present supplementary distributions. However, this often falls on deaf ears at the local level where absolute numbers in need are immediately apparent.

PLAN TO MEET INCREASING NEEDS

32. To date, the major stabilizing factor has been the USG contribution of 712,000 mt (\$319 million) of emergency food aid since the crisis emerged in July 2002. Non-food contributions include ofda grants (\$7.2 million with additional grants expected in the coming weeks), and USAID/Ethiopia grants totaling \$17 million. Accordingly, the USG has played the leading role to meet critical needs.

33. Recently signed grants will complement and increase the immediate health response, including increasing the number of nutritional surveys, health services and measles campaigns in the worst affected areas. Funds will also support services to emerging hotspots, increase potable water and expand the school-feeding program through the summer and fall.

A. Health and Non-Food Interventions:

34. But more is needed. One of the most significant and damning criticisms of the

1999-2000 response in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, was the inability of the UN Agencies and non-government organizations to undertake a timely measles immunization campaign and appropriately link food and health interventions to minimize excess mortality. The following critical actions need to be undertaken by the GFDRE, DONORS, NGOS, etc. In the next ninety days in order to avoid further excess deaths:

—Implement mass measles immunization campaigns (currently underway). In all, 16.2 million people under the age of 15 will be reached by June.

—Provide basic health, water and sanitation services at food distribution and supplementary feeding sites.

—Provide food and basic health services to displaced, mobile and other difficult to reach populations, including out-reach services;

—Improve targeting and ensure that food distributions are integrated generally with an overall health response;

—Increase availability and improve targeting of CSB;

—Implement an aggressive outbreak investigation and response to diseases of epidemic potential (e.g., meningitis);

—Implement a nutrition and mortality survey to cover the worst drought affected districts in order to obtain a better estimate of the overall magnitude of the problem (this is a follow-on to previous Center for Disease Control (CDC) support. USAID/Ethiopia is working with OFDA to identify appropriate assistance.); and

—Increase preparedness for therapeutic feeding by creating mobile teams of trained medical personnel that can move to sites where malnutrition rates rise to require specialized therapeutic feeding.

B. Support a Livelihoods Approach To Meeting Needs:

35. It is critical that the USG look to an increasing broad pool of implementing agencies to meet the widening humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. A significant surge-capacity is required to integrate food, non-food, livelihood and counter-famine responses to address the depth of the crisis.

36. Millions of families have lost their assets and require protection from further asset losses. Households also require access to a safety net and other opportunities for asset building. Provision of drought and disease resistant crops and pastoral interventions to assist in the recovery of populations in need, is critical prior to the onset on the main rains and the hunger-season in June.

C. Support Counter-Famine Measures:

37. Counter-famine measures such as the introduction of marketing interventions to improve access to grains and support the stabilization of, and access to, food and seeds, must be identified and funded now to ensure a continuation of the proactive and robust emergency response.

38. In support of USG efforts to minimize the effects of the food crisis in Ethiopia, the mission began receiving technical assistance from the Feinstein International Famine Center (FIFC) At Tufts University, through joint funding from OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia. The assistance will project the widespread nature of the current crisis, identify pre-famine level indicators in Ethiopia, AND assist in the identification and design of strategies to support livelihood and counter-famine measures and interventions that directly mitigate and minimize outcomes such as malnutrition, destitution and mortality.

39. Comment. The characteristics of the current crisis depict one of widespread and severe-hunger where 20 percent of Ethiopian households are dependent on relief distributions. This is a crisis that could be exacerbated immensely with a pipeline break, an epidemic outbreak or continued under-response relative to needs. Pre-famine indicators are in place in Ethiopia, including:

irreversibility, increased morbidity and mortality beyond acceptable levels and migration.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

40. Given the continued deterioration of the situation, and the likelihood of increased needs and a wider affected population experiencing irreversible outcomes of the crisis, the mission recommends the following:

A. Issue demarche to other donor countries and request further assistance (see Reftel F).

B. Establish a reserve allocation of 150,000 MT from the Emerson Trust that can be used to respond to needs at the height of the hungry-season (July–September). Food would be distributed through NGOs and the World Food Program.

C. Continue CSB contributions and deliveries through NGOs and the World Food Program to meet the deterioration of nutritional status in developing hot-spots. Based upon needs, up to 25,000 MT of CSB should be made available for delivery in July and August 2003.

D. Use additional agency funding to meet immediate needs and put in place livelihood interventions and counter-famine measures particularly through U.S. non-governmental organizations now implementing the joint emergency operation.

E. Broaden the normal pool of implementing agencies and the tools to meet needs (i.e., beyond traditional food and non-food programs). It has become clear over the last several months that our NGO partners are quickly coming to a saturation point regarding their capacity and additional surge capacity is needed.

F. Provide follow-up CDC assistance to track epidemic outbreaks and implement appropriate nutritional and mortality surveys to deepen the understanding of the overall magnitude of the crisis.

G. Press the United Nations for the appointment of a special envoy and/or a senior operational humanitarian coordinator to establish an effective and credible emergency response across UN agencies. This point cannot be over-stated. Brazeal.

## FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

## HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the words of John Marc Sianghio, Jr., a young man from Oswego, Illinois, to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. John was recently named a winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest for 2003.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars holds a Voice of Democracy competition each year in order to give high school students an opportunity to express their patriotism. This year, an overwhelming 80,000 students across the country participated in the contest. John's essay reflects upon the responsibilities inherent to life in a free nation—freedom's obligation.

I commend the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their continued commitment to fostering a sense of patriotism and responsibility in the youth of our great nation. And I congratulate John on his success and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

2002–2003 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

## "FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION"

(Illinois Winner.—John Marc Sianghio, Jr.)

Lady Liberty stands vigil over a city, and a nation that does not sleep. In her torch shines perpetual daylight, fueled by the great virtue that is tireless action. "Action" she demands. Even her silence cries out to the world, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Though the words say "give me" the subtext shouts "come!" It is not an invitation, it is a command: not a gift, a demand. The imprisoned lightning in her torch thunders with a message understood in every language, that the Republic over which she stands with its liberties and justices, is not for all. It stands only for all those with the boldness to take it, for all those willing to pay its price. This precious freedom is open only to those who can meet its obligation.

That obligation can only be action, for America is a republic born of a hard and painful labor, a republic that earned its freedom at the point of a gun, and that has held its freedom with the same. America is a nation that did not emerge as the random offspring of intermingling tribes. It emerged by the active will of its people. Nor was its revolution won in the minds of inert philosophers, rather in the hearts of the masses; hearts that not only had passive sentiment, but that physically pumped charged blood into live limbs, stirring them to action: Hearts that bled freely so that the flag of independence might be striped in scarlet . . . But that once vibrant crimson has faded through uncounted years of stagnancy.

Stagnancy is the greatest treason. We justify it in this age by referring to it by an alias. Like the devil it is, it has many names. It is called caution, debate, delay, filibuster, complaint, apathy, and inaction. If it is not action . . . it is treason.

Treason was not a word in my vocabulary when I immigrated to this country. I was two at the time. Freedom when I first set foot on American soil meant that I would be out of the coach class seat that held me for twenty two hours, that I could stretch my legs on solid ground. Was that true freedom? Of course not. I had to learn freedom. I had to earn freedom.

From the moment I was first old enough to realize the opportunities and liberties gifted to me by American Freedom, the enormity of Freedom's obligation was already creeping onto my shoulders. As I have grown older and learned more and more about my rights, the responsibilities wrapped inside these rights also began to emerge.

As immigrants to this country, there was a long difficult process which my family and I had to undertake to stay in this country. This process required much sacrifice by each individual involved. However, we wanted to work to earn the freedoms we enjoyed. Had we not done it, we would have debased our honor and lowered ourselves to the state of common thieves. The sacrifices I have made earned me my freedom. Your story, your struggles, your road to earning freedom is probably much different. However, our obligations to freedom are in essence the same.

So what is the spirit of our obligation? What is the common labor that must be undertaken to be worthy of Lady Liberty's embrace? It is simply love. Patriotic love.

I speak of a patriot's love, not as the lust of a fool who thinks he serves his country by ignoring her laws and making his own rules because he believes they are better. I speak of true love, like that in marriage. Freedom's obligation is the marriage of our minds and our souls. It is a dreamer's desire

for the ideal, guided by the rational hands of what is real. Our obligation is to strive for that ideal. Realistically, we know that true freedom can only come when every human being is rid of their every chain, chains of poverty, chains of addiction, and chains of hatred. Still we are obligated as individuals to strive for the ideal of freedom. The ideal that every person is created equal because every person creates himself equal. It starts with one. It starts with me, and it starts with you. If we do not meet our obligations, this ideal can never be reached. If we do not meet our obligations, we cheapen freedom, and we cheapen ourselves.

For it is freedom's obligation, the great price at which freedom comes, that gives it its value. That is why we must act, so freedom may retain its value, and that we as individuals may maintain our integrity and human worth as well. For the obligation of freedom is Lady Liberty's call to the individual who longs to be free. Who, like a newborn child that struggles for its first life sustaining breath, expands his lungs against the weight of apathy so that he may breathe free.

HONORING 2002 PRE-TEEN AMERICA SR. TITLEHOLDER KATIE BECK

## HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Katie Beck for being named 2002 Pre-Teen America National Sr. Titleholder, and thank her for her outstanding contributions to her community. Competing against talented young ladies from all across the country, Katie distinguished herself through a demonstrated commitment to community, steadfast character, and drive: all the values that we, as parents, teachers, community members, and legislators, hope to instill in our next generation.

As a parent, I understand the demands that our young people face, which is why I am so encouraged by what Katie has accomplished. In addition to being an active member of her church, captain of the dance team, and the starting pitcher for her softball team, Katie has maintained an A average in school from grades first through eighth. Her energy and dedication have earned her numerous accolades and honors including: Duke University TIP Award, President's Education Award, and the National Science Award. At a time when our country needs youth leadership more than ever, Katie has answered the challenge and set a course that can serve as an example for us all. This is a young lady who exemplifies the Arkansas spirit, and who is destined for great things.

Just qualifying for the rigorous Pre-Teen program speaks volumes for the character and accomplishments of the young women who compete; however, by being named Pre-Teen America Sr. Titleholder, Katie has also shown maturity and poise beyond her years on top of her many accomplishments. And already, at such a young age, Katie has demonstrated leadership, and exemplary character and grace.

Again, I say to Katie, "Congratulations." You are a credit to yourself, your wonderful parents, your community, and your state, which is

why it is such an honor for me to be able to thank you again for your contributions to the community and residents of White Hall.

RECOGNITION OF AL HENDERSON

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Al Henderson of Boise, Idaho as the recipient of The Salvation Army's William Booth Award for service to community. The William Booth Award is one of the highest awards that may be conveyed upon an individual by The Salvation Army.

Al Henderson's many past civic associations include being co-founder of Idaho Working Partners and the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame, The Salvation Army advisory board chairman, Chamber of Commerce board member, Rotary Club member, American Cancer Society, West Side Optimists Club and the Boise City Library Board. Mr. Henderson is also closely involved with the good works of the University Christian Church in Boise. Currently he serves part time as an employee for the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Al Henderson for his receipt of this distinguished award. I have had the honor of being personally acquainted with Al for many years, and I can think of no other person more worthy or deserving of such an award. I have been inspired by Al's principled character and his steadfast commitment to the State of Idaho. His achievements, continued unselfish work, and sense of community serve as a lustrous model of exemplary citizenship.

IN HONOR OF A DECADE OF MARK SIMON'S PENINSULA INSIDER COLUMN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Simon, who for ten years has educated, amused, irritated, informed and instructed the readers of the San Francisco Chronicle with his well-written, well-read column.

"From beaches to redwoods," Mark Simon loves the region of which he writes. Over the years, the people, politics and problems of our region have all become grist for his Chronicle column. He has regaled us with tales of John Madden's taste for tamales and kept us up to date on the unfolding of the Century Loan scandals. He has raised awareness and informed his readers on issues as diverse as campaign finance reform, gunshot locators, Devils Slide, and breast cancer treatment for low income women in our community. Mark has reported on every side of Stanford, from sports to the opening of the Cantor Art Museum. His columns have traced the dynamic changes in our community: Silicon Valley's ups and downs, the birth and death of a San Francisco Bay Olympic bid, and the constant rising and falling of housing prices. He has

filled the narrative of our region with a variety of colorful events and characters, spotlighting the Tour de Peninsula, former monks, great achievers such as LaDoris Cordell, and even his own beloved sons. We know them all now and we're grateful to Mark as a son of the Peninsula, for his unswerving love of it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mark Simon for his service to our community as the Chronicle's chronicler of life on the San Francisco Peninsula and the magnificent 14th Congressional District. No one has done it better or with as much knowledge, guts, intelligence or love of our area.

APPLAUDING THE ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Anaheim City School District for emphasizing the importance of literacy in their curriculum.

With a few thousand dollars left in its Proposition 10 budget, the early childhood education office put together "literacy baskets" that included crayons, alphabet books, puzzles, and other educational materials.

These baskets will be given to adults to take home and throw "literacy parties" where they can invite neighbors, friends and relatives over and discuss practical tips on teaching toddlers how to read. The program has been so successful, that it is quickly running out of baskets.

A survey by UCLA and the Field Institute shows that nearly half of all adults do not read to their children. Educators believe that rate is worse for low-income families.

I want to applaud the Anaheim City School District for working hard to promote literacy to young children. The "literacy baskets" will help to improve early literacy and make a difference for thousands of kids.

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL'S CONTINUED TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it was only two years ago that I was congratulating the Warren High School Lumberjacks, and their head coach, Bo Hembree, for winning the Arkansas AAA Boys High School State Football Championship, and here we are again. It is an impressive feat just to win one state title, but winning two in three years is a real testament to preparation, character, and purpose. I think it also demonstrates the spirit of determination and hard work that has always distinguished Arkansas.

As a concerned parent, I understand even more that paramount among my duties as a U.S. Congressman is to provide the necessary resources to our students, teachers, and schools that will enable our young men and women to excel and succeed in all their endeavors. Educating the next generation is an

important issue not only in the classroom, and the halls of Congress, but also around our kitchen tables at home.

I have long been an advocate of athletics and extracurricular activities as a supplement to academic excellence for their ability to instill leadership, character, and perseverance. Activity outside the classroom instills a habit of serving the community, preparing them to take leadership roles and eventually shape the larger world around them.

Championships are won in the heart as much as on the field. The will to overcome adversity, the daily drive to succeed, and the mental toughness to perform under pressure carried the young men during their championship season, and will provide them with a well to draw from throughout their entire lives.

That is why it brings me so much pleasure to again congratulate the Warren High School football program on winning the AAA Boys High School Football Championship: It is evidence of a culture of excellence and hard work among the student body, coaching staff, Warren High School faculty, and the community. We can all take great pride in the accomplishments of this team, and how they achieved their goals. I am proud of you. It is an honor for me to salute the coaches, parents, and players who stayed the course, and met adversity and challenge to become champions.

RECOGNITION OF COURTNEY FLOYD

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the distinguished accomplishments of Courtney Floyd of Boise, Idaho. Courtney is the recipient of the Salvation Army's Emily Reno award for service to community.

Courtney, the daughter of Greg and Suzanne Floyd, is a senior at Centennial High School in Boise, Idaho, where she serves as a student council officer, cheerleader, and member of the Key Club. In addition to her extensive involvement in school activities, Courtney has served her community in various volunteer capacities—through her involvement with Special Olympics, soup kitchens, humanitarian aid projects, and retirement centers.

A key element in the Salvation Army's Christmas food drives; Courtney has initiated the collection of more than 590,000 pounds of food for the needy during the past 3 years. Mr. Speaker, I wish to convey a special thanks to Courtney Floyd for her hard work and sense of community. Courtney's unselfish actions epitomize the ministry and mission of the Salvation Army.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM R. BRODY

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William R. Brody, M.D., Ph.D., who has

earned the J.E. Wallace Sterling Lifetime Achievement Award and will be presented with it by the Stanford Medical Alumni Association and its Board of Governors on May 2, 2003.

Dr. Brody is a native of Stockton, California, who earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from MIT and his M.D. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. Following post-graduate training in cardiovascular surgery and radiology at Stanford, the National Institutes of Health and the University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Brody was professor of radiology and electrical engineering at Stanford. He's been a co-founder of three medical device companies, is responsible for over 100 publications and one U.S. patent in the field of medical imaging. He has made contributions in the fields of medical acoustics, computed tomography, digital radiography and magnetic resonance imaging.

Dr. Brody, who became the 13th president of the Johns Hopkins University on September 1, 1996, has extensive ties to the 14th Congressional District which I'm proud to represent. He and his family lived in Palo Alto for many years and his children attended several years of school in our community. In addition to his extraordinary accomplishments in the fields of engineering, medicine and education, Dr. Brody is a talented musician, a great athlete, a loving husband, a proud father, and an exceptional friend to many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. William R. Brody for his lifetime of service to others and for his extraordinary contributions to medicine. He has made our country stronger and better, and for this we salute and honor him.

HONORING CATHERINE SPEAR OF ORANGE COUNTY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Spear of Orange County, California.

A published poet, and leader in her community, Catherine was recently named executive director of the nonprofit Catholic Charities of Orange County.

Catherine is known in her community as an expert fundraiser, raising millions for schools in Orange County. This talent serves her well as executive director, bringing sound business experience to a nonprofit to help Catholic Charities serve the community.

The agency's mission is to serve the poor, help immigrants settle into their new communities, and serve food to needy families. The agency is open to persons of other religious faiths, and is separate from the Diocese of Orange.

Catholic Charities served over 92,000 people last year. And with the leadership of Catherine, I believe that Catholic Charities will become even more of an asset to its community. I wish Catherine the best of luck.

A TRIBUTE TO BART LINDSEY

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Bart Lindsey, a beloved resident of the community of Helena and a distinguished Arkansan, who recently passed away at age 56. Mr. Lindsey's life-long contributions to family, community, and country will be missed.

Bart Lindsey first made a name for himself in the banking business. Always active in the community, and with an early interest in banking, Bart would come home for summer breaks from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to work as a teller for First National Bank of Phillips County. After graduating college and serving in the military, where he earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam, Bart returned home to the community he loved and accepted a position at that same bank, where he would eventually rise to become chief executive officer.

Bart's life provided an example to us all. He found time to serve as an elder in his church, and to serve as vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Presbyterian Foundation. He served his State and community by sitting on the Board of Directors of the American Bankers Association, and by serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, and president of the Helena-West Helena Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

But of all his professional accomplishments, I think the one that demonstrates the true depth of Bart Lindsey's character was the Best Boss Award. For 5 years running, Bart held this title because, as one employee put it, "All of the employees loved him and he always took time to speak to everyone." It is a fantastic tribute to Bart's memory that he put people first, and was able to leave for us a lasting legacy of hard work, service, and compassion. While Bart Lindsey may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall Nos. 146, 147, and 148. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 146, 147, and 148.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRED LUND TO THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Fred Lund for his many years of public

service. Fred devoted fifty years working for the City of Somerville and his contributions to the community he served are numerous.

Fred Lund began working for the City of Somerville in 1953. Over the past fifty years he worked with eleven different mayors, including myself. In his capacity as Somerville's senior draftsman, Fred has drawn every map for the City of Somerville by hand. He also prepared mayoral citations by hand, creating pieces of art.

When the City of Somerville's Office of Housing and Community Development honors Fred on April 30th for his fifty years of service, this will not be the first time his community has honored Fred. The Art Department at the Cummings School was named in his honor.

Fred is not only an accomplished public servant, but an avid historian as well. He plans various historic events in the City of Somerville and attends them in his Colonial Soldier uniform. He can be found every New Year's Day on Prospect Hill for the flag raising reenactment, celebrating the first raising of the Colonial Flag.

After fifty years, Fred Lund has no intention of stopping his service. He comes into work every day and has no plans to retire. His dedication is remarkable and an inspiration to those around him. Fred Lund deserves our admiration and our thanks.

FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED COMMUNITY BANK IN DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the five-year anniversary of the United Community Bank in Denton County, Texas. The United Community Bank opened its doors on May 27, 1998, in Highland Village to provide hometown service to the local community. Coordinated by local area shareholders, the customers in need of exceptional attention to both their individual as well as commercial needs are provided with outstanding service. Not only has United Community Bank been honored with the Reader's Choice Award as the #1 financial institution in Denton County, but it was also selected as the Business of the Month by the Lewisville, Flower Mound and Old Town Business Association during 2002.

Today I honor the employees of United Community Bank for their continued hard work in garnering the community support that has significantly contributed to the expansion of the bank's assets as well as to a contented customer base. I also thank the numerous customers of United Community Bank who have shared in creating such success over the last five years. May there be many more years of thriving business in Denton County.

ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month it came to light that a limited number of

companies were invited to bid on post-war reconstruction contracts in Iraq. Most prominently, Bechtel, an engineering and construction firm, was awarded an initial contract of \$34.6 million that could potentially grow to \$680 million over the next year and a half. It is critical that openness and transparency are the hallmarks of the reconstruction process, and for that reason, I am introducing the "Sunshine in Iraq Reconstruction Contracting Act."

Although legal, the bidding process thus far leaves much to be desired. Left unanswered are questions about why open competition was not allowed, and the size and scope of the reconstruction contracts awarded. We should all be able to agree that the U.S. government's reconstruction bidding process should be as open to disclosure as possible to ensure that there is no question of political favoritism or backroom deal making. After all, these contracts are spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and our constituents deserve to know to whom their money is going and why.

My legislation, which mirrors a bipartisan Senate measure, simply requires federal agencies that award contracts for Iraqi reconstruction activities to publicly disclose how a non-competitive contract was awarded, and the justification for foregoing an open-bid process.

These details, along with a brief description of the contract's cost and scope, would have to be published in the Federal Register within 30 days of the date the contract was awarded. Any classified information would only be provided to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Government Reform Committees, as well as whichever committee has jurisdiction over an agency that awards a non-competitive contract.

It only makes it more difficult for the United States to hold ourselves up as a model for a future Iraqi government if the contracts the federal government awards are done with little or no competition and without adequate public disclosure. The Iraq reconstruction process should be as open as possible. This is not a partisan issue, but one that concerns the public interest and American credibility. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF RONALD  
LAGRONE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the life and legacy of Ronald LaGrone, a colleague and a friend of mine from Hamburg, Arkansas. I was honored to have known Mr. LaGrone, a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as a husband, father, businessman, and church and community leader.

Ronnie LaGrone owned and ran the LaGrone Drug Store in Hamburg with his brother Fred. For 38 years, he helped to care for the health of his friends and neighbors. Ronnie leaves behind him a proud legacy of service and compassion. He served as Deacon of the First Baptist Church, as Hamburg City Councilman, and as board member of the Arkansas Pharmacy Association.

As a pharmacy owner, I owe him a debt of gratitude for his long service of leadership to

our profession. Ronnie set out to improve the lives of others through both his professional and his private life. As a member of a small community, I know what men like Ronnie mean to their neighbors; his service was out of true concern for their livelihood.

Ronnie's contributions were recently recognized by the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, as he was named winner of the Fred LaGrone Lifetime Achievement Award for his role as community pharmacist and as community leader. Clearly, his community mourned his loss. I know Ronnie's passing was especially difficult for his wife, Patricia, and their three daughters, Terri, Kelli, and Staci, and I have kept all of them in my thoughts and in my prayers. While Ronnie LaGrone may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOWNINGTOWN LIONS CLUB

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown Lions Club during its 75th anniversary celebration. The Downingtown Lions Club was chartered in January of 1928 and they were sponsored by the Coatesville Lions Club.

As we all know, Lions Clubs across the nation are made up of active and energetic citizens who undertake numerous initiatives and projects to make their communities better places to live and raise families. They are particularly committed to providing help and service to the blind through a wide variety of support activities. The Downingtown Lions Club hosts four major fundraising events each year—White Cane Day, a golf outing, Good Neighbor Day and a pancake breakfast. These efforts have helped many charitable organizations over the years, including the Chester County Association for the Blind and the Downingtown Area Senior Center.

The good works of the Club have also resulted in contributions to the Downingtown Area Veterans Memorial Fund, Downingtown Historical Society and various health appeals. And the entire community has benefited from the Club's particular attention to the development of Kerr Park, including a pavilion, the war memorial, and a water fountain.

I am proud to be a member of and represent an organization that has spent so many years in the service of others. I wish to extend my thanks, and the thanks of all those who have been helped by members of the Club. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Downingtown Lions Club on reaching this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BURNEY  
L. ADAMS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a great

man and leader, Mr. Burney L. Adams. A man who has given much to his community, Mr. Adams will be honored this Friday, May 2, 2003 by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's National Alumni Association with their 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award.

After graduating from Florida A&M, Mr. Adams was signed with the Canadian Professional Football team, the Hamilton Tigers. Upon release, he journeyed to Newark, New Jersey where he took a job with the Newark Board of Education. Mr. Adams made Newark his home, and has been a role model and significant contributor to the community for the past 40 years.

Through his work with the Board of Education as well as Football Coach at Weequahic High School, Mr. Adams saw the need for assistance of minority students in pursuing higher educational goals. Since 1963 he has been instrumental in obtaining college scholarship assistance for more than 900 youth in both my district as well as neighboring areas.

As a former teacher and current member of the Education & the Workforce Committee here in the House of Representatives, I appreciate the drive and determination of educators such as Mr. Adams. Coach Adams has a dedication and devotion not only to his players on the field but also to the youth of his community. Investing personal time, effort, and money into his students, Coach Adams believes in the spirit of his students to succeed. It is members of our community like Mr. Adams who give so selflessly of their time that enables our youngest citizens to reach their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today as I recognize Burney Adams and his well deserved award from Florida A&M University. I wish him the very best on this special occasion and best wishes in all his future endeavors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE  
LATE FAMU COACH, PROFESSOR  
ROBERT T. "BOB" MUNGEN

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, though it is a sad day for the entire Florida A&M University family, find it a great privilege to pay this posthumous tribute to the late Coach and Professor Robert T. "Bob" Mungen. His untimely demise this past Sunday, April 20, 2003, leaves a great void in our historic institution. He is survived by his beloved wife Doretha, his son Robert and daughters Toyka and Sonya Lynn.

Coach Mungen's magnificent contributions to the personal and professional growth of countless students and scholar-athletes at FAMU, Edward Waters College and Knoxville College are legendary and now emblaze the halls of academia. To his credit, young men and young women who came under his tutelage found a caring professor and an indomitable coach, who was at the same time highly regarded and loved as a confidant and a dotting father-figure.

Nowhere has his role of advocating played out so genuinely in the lives of his students

than in the indelible mark he left on Barbara Thompson, a former student and colleague of his. Captured recently by the daily paper, The Tallahassee Democrat, she cogently characterized him as “. . . someone I could go and get real good advice from like a daughter . . . As a student, I confided in him. As a colleague, I confided in him.”

A Jacksonville native, “Bob” Mungen played under the legendary Coach A.S. Jake Gaither in three choice positions as quarterback, defensive back and running back on the FAMU football team. His prowess in playing those positions were so remarkable that Coach Gaither superlatively dubbed him as “. . . the most versatile athlete I ever coached.”

Professor Mungen served as head football coach at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville and later on at Knoxville College in Tennessee before coming back to FAMU in 1961. Assigned to the physical education department, he took over the men’s tennis program and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1997.

In his role as teacher and coach, he gained the confidence of countless parents who saw in him as the educator par excellence. They entrusted him with the future of their children, fully confident that they too would learn from him the tenets of scholarship and the pursuit of academic excellence under the rigors of a no-nonsense discipline and personal responsibility. In times of crises crowding his students’ quest for learning, his forthright guidance was one that verged on faith in God and confidence in one’s ability to survive the vicissitudes of life.

Indeed, our FAMU family is deeply touched and comforted by the undaunted leadership and personal warmth he exuded to those who came to him through the longevity of his service. This is the genuine legacy he bequeathed to those of us he left behind. In a special way, I am privileged to be a grateful alumnus of a great institution of learning, graced bountifully by his remarkable contributions.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY SUTTON  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT  
OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH  
CIRCUIT

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern over the President’s nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. According to a recent editorial in the New York Times, Mr. Sutton has pursued an extremist agenda against the employment rights of women with breast cancer as well as victims of domestic violence.

Here is what the New York Times reported on April 28th.

“Mr. Sutton argued a landmark disability rights case in the Supreme Court. Patricia Garrett, a nurse at an Alabama state hospital, asserted that her employer fired her because she had breast cancer, violating the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Sutton argued that the Act did not protect state employees like Ms. Garrett. His states’-rights argument narrowly won over the court, and deprived millions of state workers

of legal protection. He also invoked federalism to urge the court to strike down the Violence Against Women Act. It did so, 5 to 4, dismantling federal protection for sexual assault victims.”

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a moderate and independent Member of this House. I don’t believe that extremism on either end of the spectrum can solve the challenges facing our nation. But I am concerned about a pattern of judicial nominations by the Administration which would fill our benches with the most ideologically driven nominees at the most extreme right of the conservative movement. Nominating an individual who has sought to dismantle federal protections against victims of domestic violence and who has advocated denying a woman with breast cancer legal protection is deeply disturbing.

I insert “Another Ideologue for the Courts” in today’s RECORD, and urge my colleagues to consider it:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 28, 2003]

ANOTHER IDEOLOGUE FOR THE COURTS

It seems likely that Jeffrey Sutton, a nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, will be confirmed by the Senate this week. But it is important to recognize why he was selected, and how he fits the Bush administration’s plan for an ideological takeover of the courts. Whichever way the Senate votes on him, it must insist that the administration start selecting judges who do not come with a far-right agenda.

There is no shortage of worthy judicial nominees. Federal courts are filled with district court judges, Republicans and Democrats, who have shown evenhandedness and professionalism, and many would make fine appeals court judges. State courts are overflowing with judges and lawyers known for their excellence, not their politics.

The Bush administration, however, has sought nominees whose main qualification is a commitment to far-right ideology. Mr. Sutton is the latest example. He is an activist for “federalism,” a euphemism for a rigid states’-rights legal philosophy. Although federalism commands a narrow majority on the Supreme Court, advocates like Mr. Sutton are taking the law in a disturbing direction, depriving minorities, women and the disabled of important rights.

Mr. Sutton argued a landmark disability rights case in the Supreme Court. Patricia Garrett, a nurse at an Alabama state hospital, asserted that her employer fired her because she had breast cancer, violating the Americans With Disabilities Act. Mr. Sutton argued that the act did not protect state employees like Ms. Garrett. His states’-rights argument narrowly won over the court, and deprived millions of state workers of legal protection. He also invoked federalism to urge the court to strike down the Violence Against Women Act. It did so, 5 to 4, dismantling federal protection for sexual assault victims. Mr. Sutton has said that he was only doing his job, and that his concern was building a law practice, not choosing sides. But throughout his career, he has taken on major cases that advance the conservative agenda. He has left little doubt in his public statements that he supports these rulings.

At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Sutton faced protesters with guide dogs and wheelchairs, who were upset about his role in rolling back disability law. Naturally, they urged the Senate to reject him. But the senators’ duty to advise and consent goes beyond their vote on any particular nominee. They must make it clear that in a nation brimming with legal talent, it is unacceptable to focus the search for federal judges on a narrow group of ideologues.

U.S. GOLD AWARD FOR MEREDITH  
ELLIS OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4043

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc. in Rock Island, Illinois. She is Meredith Ellis of Girl Scout Troop 4043.

She is being honored for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc., Meredith began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in June 1999. Meredith worked with her partner Maria Witte on painting a wall mural for a local gymnastics facility.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Meredith and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

HONORING JUDGE VERNELIS K.  
ARMSTRONG

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, United States District Court Magistrate Judge Vernelis K. Armstrong, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association’s Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA’s highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the state of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Judge Armstrong my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

The Honorable Vernelis K. Armstrong is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District

of Ohio, assigned to the Western Division in Toledo. She has served as a United States District Court Magistrate since she was appointed to the Federal bench in September of 1994.

Judge Armstrong is a 1956 graduate of Wayne State University, and also received her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 1960. Prior to her appointment as a Federal Magistrate, Judge Armstrong served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Toledo for fifteen years, primarily handling civil litigation matters.

Judge Armstrong has been a member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association since 1993. She is currently a member of the Toledo Bar Association Round Table, the Minorities in the Profession and Federal Court Committees. In the past, she served as Secretary for the Board of Trustees for the Toledo Bar Association, on the Bankruptcy Committee, as liaison to the Bankruptcy and Minorities in the Legal Profession Committees and on the Pro Bono Advisory Board.

Judge Armstrong's past recognitions and awards include receiving the Arabella Mansfield Award by the Toledo Women's Bar Association in 1988, the Excellence in Law Award by the Black American Law Students' Association (BALSA) in 1989 and 1997, the Milestones Award by the Young Women's Christian Association in 1997, and in 1999 she was the recipient of the Athena Award by the Chamber of Commerce.

The OWBA was initially formed in 1991 and is the only statewide bar association within Ohio solely dedicated toward advancing the interests of women attorneys while encouraging networking and the creation of a statewide mentor program for women attorneys.

On May 1, 2003, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick will be presenting Judge Armstrong with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Magistrate Judge Vemelis Armstrong and wishing her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES  
BOUCHER

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Boucher, an exceptional teacher and role model from Burriville, RI. Mr. Boucher has been named the Rhode Island Teacher of the Year for 2003. As an Applied Science and Technology teacher at Burriville High School, he has shown exemplary commitment to making education engaging and exciting. Under his tutelage, Mr. Boucher's students have received more than 30 state and national awards and his Bio Technology class was featured on a Discovery Channel program. His work and creativity have helped hundreds of student transition from school to the working world.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of

our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. Charles Boucher for his dedication to education and vocational training.

HONORING MR. DAVID CHUBB FOR  
HIS CAREER AND SERVICE

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. David Chubb upon the conclusion of his career in education as an Elementary School Principal. Throughout his career in education, David has demonstrated a strong aptitude for and commitment to the field of school administration.

The conclusion of the 2002–2003 school year sees David retiring from his position as the Camelot Elementary School Principal after working as an educator in Fairfax County for more than twenty years. Always held in high regard by his colleagues, he has served as Principal at Fairhill Elementary School and Camelot Elementary School. In addition, David served as Assistant Principal at Newington Forest Elementary School and Bailey's Elementary School. Of course, he first logged many an hour in the classroom. In fact, he almost broke the two-decade mark as a teacher, spending 18 years at the front of the class.

In his 15 years as Assistant Principal and Principal, David developed into a consummate administrator. His relationship with his staff is excellent, fostered by an open-door policy and consistent fair treatment. He is also known for his skill in finances, which will certainly be missed by the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals.

Above all, David commits himself to the school with all of his energy. As his staff warmly noted, "the school is like his home." At Camelot, he knows the names of every single student—all 500 of them! He personally greets the buses as they arrive at school every morning and says goodbye to them at night, thereby achieving a remarkable rapport with the students. David pitches in with any project in need of help, even the smallest jobs that are someone else's responsibility: he's been known to help the custodians with cleaning or painting. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues at Camelot Elementary and warmly remembered by all who were lucky enough to encounter him.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to David Chubb for his continuing commitment to making a difference in children's lives through education. From his very first students, to the staff who speak so warmly of their supervisor, everyone touched by David Chubb's energy and commitment recalls him fondly and has benefited from his help. Fairfax County is grateful for his service and can only hope that our education system will continue to attract teachers and principals of his caliber. I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding David Chubb's remarkable career.

PETRI-KIND TEACHER VOLUNTARY  
EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE  
ACT OF 2003

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today with my colleague from Wisconsin, RON KIND, I am introducing the Teacher Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Act.

It is a common practice across the country for school districts to provide senior employees an opportunity or incentive to voluntarily retire before the age at which they could receive Medicare coverage and full retirement benefits from a state or municipal retirement system. These early retirement incentive plans, ERIPs, are truly a win-win proposition for school districts and employees. School districts are able to lower overall payroll costs and pass the savings on to early retirees in the form of greater retirement options and supplemental benefits. In a profession where many experience "burnout" before full retirement age, ERIPs are a highly valued option among teachers, retirees, and school boards.

Despite the popularity and mutual benefits of these plans, school districts in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa over the past several years have been threatened with age discrimination charges by the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission for their voluntary early retirement incentive plans, and many school districts in other states may be at risk for similar action. We do not believe that it was the intent of Congress that voluntary benefits, negotiated between unions and employers and offered to all employees who reach a certain age, should come under the definition of age discrimination. The Petri-Kind Teacher Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Act of 2003 would clarify the Congress' intent by carving out an exemption in federal age discrimination law for voluntary early retirement plans offered to elementary and secondary school teachers, similar to the exemption that already exists for teachers in colleges and universities.

This bill will go a long way in clearing up the legal uncertainty surrounding ERIPs, thus making available greater retirement options for teachers and giving school districts more flexibility in managing their workforce.

HONORING ALMA MARTINEZ AND  
HER THIRD-GRADE CLASS FROM  
FENLEY-FLANDERS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, educators from Fenley-Flanders Elementary, which is located in my Congressional district, have been preparing their third grade classes for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test. The Express News from San Antonio followed third grade teacher Alma Martinez and her eleven students as they prepared for the test, which they took on March 4, 2003. During Spring Break the results of the test came back, and an overwhelming majority

of Ms. Martinez's class passed the test, which allows them to advance onto fourth grade.

Starting this year, third graders will be among the 2 million elementary, middle and high school students taking a TAKS test. Students who do not pass the exam will have two more opportunities to pass the TAKS test.

I would personally like to congratulate Ms. Martinez and her third grade class on an outstanding job in the preparing for and taking the TAKS test and their advancement onto the fourth grade next year.

Schools are a reflection of our community and it takes everyone working together to make them quality institutions. The administration, teachers, staff, students and their families should be commended for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children of Fenley-Flanders Elementary for their performance on the TAKS tests.

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CONGRATULATING UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 156, honoring the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the police force.

Congress established the Capitol Police during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Ponder how different the world was then, when the U.S. Congress was a young and largely untested deliberative body located in a relatively isolated town that was as much wilderness as it was settled territory.

In the last 175 years, the world has changed immeasurably, and so has the work of the Capitol Police.

Today the U.S. Capitol—which is simultaneously a national shrine, tourist attraction, and working office building—imposes extraordinary security requirements.

For example, more than three million tourists visited the Capitol complex in 2000. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events, and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, concerned citizens, lobbyists, and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

To address these security requirements while keeping Congress as open and accessible as the Framers of the Constitution intended, the mission of the Capitol Police has expanded to provide the Congressional community and visitors with the highest possible quality of a full range of police services. These services are provided through the use of a variety of specialty support units and a network of foot patrols, vehicular patrols, and fixed posts.

In modern times, the Capitol Police have also had to cope with emergencies, bombings and shootings, including the tragic 1998 murders of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, that remain so painfully fresh in our memories.

After that tragic event, Congress properly heightened Capitol security, adopting a pos-

ture that requires considerable additional manpower. Recent events in the Middle East and elsewhere have obviously underscored the need for more officers and greater security. Fortunately, additional resources have been provided.

Congress has appropriated money to fund all the additional officers the Capitol Police can hire and train. Supplemental funds have also been provided to address needs identified since September 11, 2001.

Today, the Capitol Police face evolving threats from those who, for whatever reason, wish our country and our democracy harm. What was unthinkable only 18 months ago, has been done. We must remain vigilant and prepared as we work to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism and preserve and expand the promise of peace and democracy.

We will continue to rely on the Capitol Police as the first line of defense for the People's House and all who work and visit here.

The men and women of the Capitol Police meet their challenges with courage and a level of professionalism not exceeded anywhere. Since the dastardly attacks of September 11, and again after the heightened security level of the past few months, Capitol Police officers, under the able leadership of Chief Terrance Gainer, have worked long hours under adverse conditions. These men and women clearly represent the best that America has to offer.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done and wish the United States Capitol Police a sincere and happy 175th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the H. Con. Res. 156.

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COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT FOR WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exceptional organization in West Virginia on its receipt of a prestigious certification of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Center for Rural Health Development has been working since 1994 to make sure that West Virginians in rural communities have access to the highest standards of health care services. Its dedicated Board of Directors and professional staff have worked effectively to bring essential infrastructure, equipment, technical assistance, and skilled health care providers of all types to rural counties in our beloved State.

Ever mindful of the fact that a community's economic health is linked to the quality of its health care delivery system, the center has played a vital role in the growth and development of many rural and underserved areas, opening up opportunities for jobs, both in health care fields and in new businesses attracted to the high quality of life in West Virginia.

Its loan partners in the private sector and sponsors, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Appalachian Regional Commission

and the State of West Virginia, have long recognized the financial expertise of the Center for Rural Health Development.

It is now my pleasure to note that the U.S. Department of the Treasury, through its Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, has certified the Center for Rural Health Development as a "Community Development Financial Institution". The CDFI designation is a testament to high standards of practice and exceptional results, and serves as a signal to financial markets and West Virginia communities that the confidence they place in the Center for Rural Health Development is well deserved.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Center for Rural Health Development and its Director, Ms. Sharon Lansdale, on its CDFI certification, and in expressing our appreciation for the vital role they have played in the lives of so many West Virginians.

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PROCLAMATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 3, 2003, the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America will honor three of aviation's pioneer women of color, Bessie Coleman, Willa Beatrice Brown and Janet Harmon;

Bessie Coleman journeyed to France in 1920 to enter the field of aviation, planning to return to America to open an aviation program for African Americans; and

Bessie Coleman died on April 30, 1926, while preparing for an air show to benefit the Negro Welfare League of Jacksonville, Florida;

In 1939, Willa B. Brown held a limited commercial pilot's license issued by the United States Commerce Department; and

Managed the Coffey School of Aeronautics, which was awarded a government contract to train the first group of African-American aviators, and was the first African-American woman to hold a United States Civil Air Patrol Commission;

Janet Harmon was one of the first African-American women to purchase an airplane, which she then made available to the Challenger Air Pilots Association for training purposes; and

Served as surrogate advisor to the first group of African-American aviation cadets for the United States Army Air Force;

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Danny K. Davis, duly elected by the people of the Illinois 7th Congressional District, do hereby join with the "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America hereby proclaim;

Saturday, May 3, 2003, to be the day we celebrate as Aviation Pioneer Women of Color Day in Chicago and all over America; and urge all people to take note of the pioneering contributions to aviation made by these women of color;

Done, this 3rd day of May, 2003.

## ENERGY POLICY

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. We should be using this opportunity today to pass an effective and balanced energy bill that will help conserve our nation's resources and lessen our dependence on energy sources that are detrimental to our environment and even our national security. Instead, the bill being debated today harms the environment, threatens public health, endangers wildlife, and hurts consumers.

I believe a balanced national energy policy would be one that helps consumers by increasing energy production and reducing energy demand. Further, I feel that America's current and future energy needs should be met through a balanced approach that supports our fundamental environmental values. We must focus on becoming more energy efficient, investing in innovative technologies, and ensuring that energy markets are fair and competitive. We must also focus on reducing America's dependence on international oil suppliers and developing clean and renewable energy sources. Unfortunately, this bill accomplishes none of these goals.

Before consideration of the bill, I testified before the Rules Committee and requested that I be allowed to offer three amendments. The first would have required retail electricity suppliers to obtain 15% of their power production from a portfolio of renewable energy resources by 2020 and within 5 years add an additional 5%. This would allow us to enhance our nation's energy independence and national security while lowering prices for consumers by mitigating the effects of energy shortages and natural gas spikes. In addition, I believe including a Renewable Portfolio Standard in our nation's energy policy would create jobs and expand economic development, while simultaneously reducing air pollution and the threat of global warming.

The second amendment I hoped to bring to the floor was in support of the thousands of farmers, ranchers and homeowners across the west that are directly impacted by oil, gas and coal bed methane development activities on their lands. This amendment would have required surface use agreements between landowners and the oil and gas industry prior to any development of subsurface mineral rights owned by the federal government. Many farmers and ranchers own split estate interests, meaning that they own the surface resources and the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights that it leases to the oil and gas industry. Currently, it is not required that the oil and gas companies repair and clean up a project site during or after its completion. Instead, the surface use agreements are only voluntary. Oftentimes as a result, many surface owners suffer loss of income, impairment of water quality, erosion and contamination of soil, harm to livestock and wildlife species, and they have no recourse because they did not have surface use agreements with the oil and gas companies. My amendment would have given these landowners the legal recourse they deserve.

Unfortunately, neither of these amendments was accepted by the Rules Committee. However, I was able to offer before the full House an important amendment that would strike an unnecessary and potentially dangerous subsidy included in H.R. 6 pertaining to uranium in situ leach mining. As written, the subsidy allots \$30 million to the domestic uranium industry. The in situ leach mining procedure could cause radioactive uranium and other toxic chemicals to leach into groundwater. The area where this mining could potentially be undertaken in my district is near a high-quality aquifer, which is the sole source of scarce drinking water for over 10,000 people of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. This subsidy compounds past disasters by promoting mining that could have dangerous health and environmental implications. Although my amendment was defeated, the roll call made it clear that there is bipartisan backing for striking this unfair and unwise subsidy. As this bill is negotiated in conference, I will continue to work to protect my constituents in New Mexico who have suffered so much from uranium related activities near their homes.

As we move into the future, we must act responsibly in ways that take into account the changing landscape of the world's energy situation instead of exacerbating the already dire energy dependence problem our nation faces. Conservation—getting the maximum value out of every bit of energy we use—must become a central feature of our nation's energy philosophy. We praise those who maximize the value of every dollar they spend; we should do the same with our energy. America should prize efficient and productive use of all our important resources, including energy. Conservation is real, achievable, and crucial.

Again, in those areas, this energy bill falls short. H.R. 6 weakens consumers protections, allows companies to contaminate water, allots over \$18 billion in unnecessary subsidies to big oil and gas corporations, and takes one more step toward drilling in the untouched wilderness of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This will not enhance conservation or provide for the security of the energy supply for the American people as proponents of this bill claim. What it will do is reward the energy companies and leave the responsibility of keeping secure the nation's energy supply to yet another generation.

It is my hope that a conference committee will help produce a more sound compromise energy bill that does not threaten the future of either the environment or the country's energy needs. I will continue to work to see that our nation implements an energy plan that is balanced and addresses environmental concerns in a way that also provides for our continued economic success.

## A TRIBUTE TO MELISSA ELLIS BARTLETT

**HON. RICHARD BURR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a fellow North Carolinian and an outstanding member of our community, Melissa Ellis Bartlett. I commend her for her dedication to children and education.

Melissa has been a distinguished teacher for the past 18 years, sharing her gift of teaching both nationally and internationally. For the past four years, Melissa has taught at Iredell-Statesville Schools, where she is a cherished language arts educator. Previously, Melissa taught social studies and worked with at-risk students in central North Carolina. She also taught English in Cairo, Egypt, and remedial reading to students in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Melissa's commitment to her students and her excellence in the classroom has brought her to Washington today to be honored by President George W. Bush at the National Teachers of the Year ceremony. Melissa represents the finest of teaching professionals nationwide, and I am proud of all that she has accomplished. Teachers who share Melissa's dedication are a true treasure.

I ask my colleagues and fellow North Carolinians to join me in extending our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Melissa Bartlett for her years of selfless service. May she continue to inspire and enlighten students for many years to come.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY PAY COMPATIBILITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Pay Compatibility Act of 2003. Joining me is my dear friend and colleague Representative IKE SKELTON, the ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee. He is a man of great wisdom and preeminence with respect to all things military and I appreciate his guidance and support.

In short, this legislation will ensure that military pay raises keep pace with civilian pay growth.

Please allow me to explain why this is important. Military pay tables were overhauled in 1971, with the advent of the all-volunteer force, and basic pay was set to provide reasonable pay comparability with private sector pay for civilian workers with similar skills, education and experience.

But military raises were capped for budgetary reasons during the 1970's, and serious retention and readiness shortfalls followed. These problems were addressed with double-digit raises in 1981 and 1982, after which it was generally acknowledged that military pay was reasonably comparable with private sector pay.

Despite this hard-learned lesson, the extended retention rebound of the 1980's, coupled with rising budget deficits, led multiple Administrations and Congress to continue capping military raises below private sector pay growth in 12 of the next 16 years.

In 1999, the cumulative military pay raise shortfall since 1982 had reached 13.5 percent—predictably accompanied by a new retention and readiness crisis.

Congress responded by enacting provisions in the FY 2000 Defense Authorization Act specifying that, for years 2000 through 2006, each year's military pay raise is to exceed the civilian pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost

Index, or ECI, by ½ percent per year. The 2001, 2002 and 2003 pay raises actually exceeded this standard and cut the gap from 13.5 percent to 6.4 percent.

In May 2002, the Department of Defense released its Ninth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which acknowledged that current pay structure lags considerably behind pay for civilians of comparable age and education. And, the Department of Defense has been supportive of increased raises to restore a new comparability standard.

In summary, the capping of military pay raises below private sector pay growth for extended periods during the past 30 years has led to significant retention problems among second-term and career members of the Armed Forces.

Such retention problems cost the United States more in terms of lost military experience, decreased readiness, and increased training costs than maintaining the principle of pay comparability.

The remaining so-called pay comparability gap should be eliminated as quickly as possible, and military pay increases must sustain full comparability with increases in the Employment Cost Index.

My bill would ensure that military pay raises never again lag civilian pay raises. Existing authority to close the pay gap expires in 2006. This legislation adds to that authority by specifying that military pay raises must be at least at the level of civilian wage growth beginning in 2007.

I have been asked if I am doing this because of our troops returning from the Middle East and the war in Iraq. The answer is no and yes. No because this legislation builds on the legislation I offered in the 107th Congress and addresses the same problem of the pay gap with a different approach. This issue is not new to me.

The answer is also yes because I can think of no better way to show continued support for our troops than to send them a clear signal that the Congress and the nation value their service and sacrifice, both today and in the future.

This measure has the full endorsement of the Fleet Reserve Association and the Military Coalition, and I have attached their letter of endorsement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation and work to ensure its quick passage. Nearly identical legislation was introduced in the Senate yesterday. Working together with our Senate colleagues, I urge my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to include this legislation as a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

THE MILITARY COALITION,  
Alexandria, VA, April 30, 2003.

Hon. SUSAN A. DAVIS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans' organizations representing more than five and one half million current and former members of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors, strongly supports legislation you are preparing to introduce that would amend title 37, United States Code, concerning future military pay raises and their comparison with private sector pay growth. Under the provisions of your proposal, increases in pay for members of the

uniformed services would match the growth in the Employment Cost Index (ECI).

This is a priority issue, and the Coalition strongly supports the introduction of such legislation. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) already recommended that future military pay raises be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). If that were adopted, military personnel would not receive comparable pay increases with those in the private sector, thus halting progress in closing the pay gap between military and civilian pay levels. In addition, the Administration budget request would cap FY2004 pay increases for NOAA and PHS personnel at the CPI level.

The ECI measures private-sector wage increases, while the CPI is an inflation gauge to preserve the purchasing power of retired pay, veterans' benefits and other programs. Retaining the ECI will ensure that pay increases for all seven of the uniformed services mirror those in the civilian economy. This is important to maintaining adequate recruiting and retention within the services and subsequently to our Nation's military readiness.

The Coalition appreciates your leadership on this issue and will work toward the enactment of this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

THE MILITARY COALITION.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA BEAVER  
AND ASHLEY WATSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Amanda Beaver and Ashley Watson of Grand Junction, Colorado. Amanda and Ashley are making a difference in their community and touching the lives of many of their neighbors in the Grand Valley, and today I would like to honor their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Amanda and Ashley are fourteen-year-old students at Grand Mesa Middle School. This past year, they planned a fundraiser, "Answer to Cancer," to honor families who have been touched by cancer and to support the American Cancer Society. The girls, who both have grandparents with cancer, have spent nearly a year planning the event, which features dancing, games, and refreshments. They have seen outstanding support from the local community, receiving donations from local businesses and numerous individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Amanda Beaver and Ashley Watson have shown extraordinary leadership as young citizens of Grand Junction. Their volunteer efforts are offering hope to an important segment of the community and creating greater awareness of cancer among their peers as well as their elders. These two talented and determined young women clearly have great things ahead of them, and it is my great honor to recognize their hard work before this body of Congress and this nation today. I wish them all the best in the future.

HONORING THOMAS RONAYNE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas Ronayne, a decorated veteran and Commander of the Huntington Station Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After entering the United States Navy in January of 1980, Tom served aboard the USS Vogelgesang and the USS Vreeland. In September of 1983, he was Honorably Discharged from the Navy. For his service, Tom was awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two Navy Battle "E" ribbons, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Navy Pistol Expert Ribbon, one Atlantic Fleet Command "Golden Grammy Awards" for Gram Analysis Excellence and two "Silver Grammy" Awards for Gram Analysis Excellence.

Tom became a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in 1996, joined Post #1469 in Huntington Station in 1998 and held various offices before being elected Commander in 2000. He still serves as Commander of the Huntington Station VFW, Nathan Hale Post 1469, the oldest VFW Post on Long Island and largest in downstate New York.

Tom also participated significantly in the operations and efforts at Ground Zero. He was injured as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center and remained on scene for over seven months, participating in the recovery, clean-up and rebuilding efforts. Tom still visits regularly with the workers at Ground Zero.

Tom has three sons and lives in Greenlawn, NY with his wife Linda. I commend Tom Ronayne for his dedicated service to our country during his time in the Navy and in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, and for his hard work on behalf of veterans on Long Island.

TRIBUTE TO FRED FLOWER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity and pay tribute to an icon of the Montrose, Colorado community who recently passed away. Leo Fred Flower, Jr. died at the age of 84 and as his family and friends mourn his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Fred for his many contributions throughout his life.

Fred was a longtime civic and business leader in Montrose whose affiliations ranged from the Western Slope Livestock Commission to the Montrose Industrial Development Board. He graduated from Montrose High School in 1934 and began working at a grocery store, later driving a truck for the Montrose Flour Milling Co. and pursuing further education. Eventually Fred began doing office work for the flour mill and for a local ranch and livestock business, which he would later purchase.

In 1940 Fred began a career in banking, interrupted by his service in the Army from 1942

to 1946. He eventually became president of Montrose National Bank and Montrose Savings and Loan, and also spent a few years as a rancher. In 1968 he bought the family business, Flower Motor Company, which his son now owns.

Fred was a dedicated community leader and played an integral role in establishing Montrose Memorial Hospital. He established the first Kiwanis Club in Montrose, and served on the local school board and on the board of the Colorado Western College. He gave his time and efforts to innumerable community organizations, and was most recently involved in Montrose's senior center.

Mr. Speaker it is with profound sadness that we remember the life and memory of Fred Flower who so deeply touched the Montrose community. As family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Charlie lived. He will be missed.

HONORING LIEUTENANT  
COMMANDER GLENN SULMASY

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of my staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Connecticut's Second Congressional District. Lieutenant Commander Glenn Sulmasy will soon conclude his service in my Norwich, Connecticut office and become a distinguished teacher of International Law at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Since my term started, Glen has been a liaison in my office to the Coast Guard Academy. As the vice-chairman of the Coast Guard Subcommittee, I came to rely on this relationship. What's more, I rely on his input and his perspective—built from years of expertise and driven by his faith in our country.

Glenn's commitment to me and to my congressional office should be no surprise—he has long had a passion for public service. A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and 1997 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law, Glenn has given 15 years of service as a "coastie" in the U.S. Coast Guard—with time spent in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm, and more recently as a teacher of law at the Coast Guard Academy.

Using his experience to enhance that of our other cadets, Glenn demonstrates an admirable loyalty to his values and the Coast Guard tradition. He has also taught at the Roger William School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island and serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for International and Comparative Law, the National Coast Guard Museum Association, the New London Parks Conservancy, and the Connecticut Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Glenn Sulmasy lives by the daily commitment of the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. And while I will miss Glenn's presence in my Connecticut office, I wish him well and feel confident that I can still count on him.

On behalf of the rest of my staff, I wish to express our affection and gratitude to Lieutenant Commander Glen Sulmasy for his dedicated work.

Glenn, thank you for your service to me, best wishes and Semper Paratus.

HONORING DREAM WEAVERS OF  
SOUTHERN COLORADO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding community organization in my district, Dream Weavers of Southern Colorado. For twenty-one years, Dream Weavers has been working hard to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses and today I would like to honor their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

Dream Weavers is an inspirational all-volunteer organization founded in 1982. Over the last twenty years Dream Weavers has fulfilled the dreams of nearly 230 children, organizing vacations at Disney World, fishing trips and family reunions. Sometimes a child simply wishes for a computer, which the organization is only happy to provide. Dream Weavers also hosts frequent events and parties for its wish recipients, providing critical and continuing support for children and their families. To achieve its goals, Dream Weavers depends on community support from local corporations and individuals as well as its annual Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser.

Mr. Speaker, Dream Weavers of Pueblo is an inspirational organization that truly makes a difference in the lives of children struggling with life-threatening diseases. By focusing on family involvement, Dream Weavers provides wonderful opportunities and memories for children, parents and siblings, and I am honored to have such a compassionate program serving the citizens of my district.

10 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE: THE  
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay special tribute on the 10th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. During the past decade, the institution and its dedicated staff members have worked tirelessly to promote remembrance of the Holocaust and to draw lessons for the future from this very dark chapter of mankind's recent history. When the Museum was dedicated and formally opened in late April 1993, this event culminated over 10 years of preparation that started in 1980 with the chartering of the institution by a unanimous Act of Congress. Recognizing the work of the Museum this week is very fitting, as it is the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time for honoring the millions of Jews who died almost 60 years ago under Nazi tyranny.

As set forth in its mission statement, the Holocaust Memorial Museum has become America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holo-

caust history, and is this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust. The Museum and its International Archives Project focuses on all individuals who suffered during the Holocaust, in addition to the six million executed Jews, the horrific Nazi treatment of millions of Roma, disabled, religious and political prisoners, and prisoners of war. The Museum plays a critical role in advancing and disseminating information, documenting the historicity of the Holocaust, while also preserving the memory of individuals who suffered.

While insuring that the lessons of the past will not be forgotten, the Museum has actively and creatively developed ways to work towards a better future. The institution's dedication to dealing with the horrors of genocide, whether in Nazi Germany, Bosnia, Rwanda or Cambodia is a critical part of the effort to mobilize international action against this plague on all humanity. The Committee on Conscience plays a particularly significant role in bringing timely attention to acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity.

The Museum has rightfully become one of Washington's most revered attractions. The hundreds of thousands of visitors who have toured the Museum since its opening have left with an unforgettable experience and the opportunity to reflect on the deep moral questions stemming from the tragedy of the Holocaust. The Museum's research center has served as a critical resource for scholars who try to help us better understand the lessons of this terrible chapter of human history. The creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has also encouraged other countries to move to establish comparable institutions including, most significantly, in Berlin, Germany.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, has worked with the Museum on several occasions, from pushing for the release of documents from the Romani concentration camp in Lety, Czech Republic, to urging Romania to give greater meaning to its stated commitment of rejecting anti-Semitism by removing Antonescu statues from public lands. In response to the alarming spike of anti-Semitic incidents found last summer in Europe, myself and other Members of the Commission have been very active in urging governments and elected officials to denounce the violence and ensure their laws are enabled to prosecute the perpetrators. In support of this effort, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 49, urging, among other things, European states to "promote the creation of educational efforts throughout the region encompassing the participating States of the OSCE to counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and attitudes among younger people, increase Holocaust awareness programs, and help identify the necessary resources to accomplish this goal." It is my hope that other countries will copy the unique and effective model of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Congress has designated April 27th to May 4th as "Days of Remembrance," when our nation will commemorate again the victims of the Holocaust. May we use this time of reflection that will reinforce our common determination to learn from history's harsh lessons.

## TRIBUTE TO TOM SHARP

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Tom Sharp, a helicopter pilot from Telluride, Colorado and thank him for the contributions he has made to local search and rescue efforts. Tom recently risked his life and his helicopter to save two avalanche victims trapped on a steep slope near Telluride Ski Area, and today I would like to honor his service before this body of Congress and this nation.

Tom has been a pilot with Helitrax, a heliski guide service, for over twelve years. When he was called to assist in the rescue of two skiers caught in an avalanche, he immediately responded along with two Helitrax guides, braving a dangerous landing near one of the injured skiers before picking up more rescuers and dropping off more medical supplies. Then Tom made a daring attempt to reach the other skier, flying close to dangerous jagged rock in spite of unpredictable afternoon winds. Though he was unsuccessful, Tom and his fellow rescuers dropped supplies to the stranded skier that allowed him to climb out of the couloir and communicate with rescuers.

Mr. Speaker, pilots with the expertise and skill of Tom Sharp are crucial to successful search and rescue operations, and it is a great privilege to honor Tom here today. His years of experience and his willingness to take risks are a tremendous asset to the citizens of Telluride and to all of Colorado.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. MISHLER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2003 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in conjunction with the Altoona Area School District and the Blair County Arts Foundation, will be dedicating a long-deserved historical marker commemorating Isaac Charles Mishler, the original owner of the Mishler Theater, located in downtown Altoona, Pennsylvania.

I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mishler for his vision of bringing the arts to his fellow citizens. The theater and the community's dedication to the arts have stood the test of time. Indeed, since its opening in 1906, the Mishler Theater has hosted the cream of the entertainment crop for almost 100 years.

The hallowed halls of the Mishler have seen the likes of John Drew, the Barrymores, Houdini, the Zeigfeld Follies, Bernadette Peters and George Burns. With over \$1.3 million in improvements over the years, the Mishler continues to provide the community with top-notch entertainment today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had the opportunity today to recognize the efforts of the Altoona community and the numerous organizations that have worked together to preserve the Mishler Theater. Their efforts are a fitting tribute to Isaac Mishler's vision of a theater that serves as a center of arts and entertainment for the entire community.

TRIBUTE TO REV. HOLMES  
ROLSTON III**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform this body of a brilliant man from my home state.

The Reverend Holmes Rolston III, a philosophy professor at Colorado State University, is the winner of this year's Templeton Prize. The award recognizes research and discoveries that advances the understanding of God and spiritual realities. In winning this prestigious award, Reverend Rolston joins such luminaries as Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Holmes grew up poor in rural Virginia in a home without running water or electricity. From that humble beginning, he rose to become what many consider the father of environmental ethics. Along the way he has lectured on all seven continents, written books that are used as texts at more than 150 universities, and co-founded the leading journal in his field, "Environmental Ethics."

Even though he has degrees in physics, theology, and philosophy, he still—at the age of 70—sits in on science classes. Learning is so important to this professor that he plans to donate his prize, which is worth more than \$1 million, to establish an endowed chair in science and religion at his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Holmes has distinguished himself as a professor, theologian, ethicist, environmentalist and philanthropist. He is not only a model citizen, but also an inspiration to his students, peers, and the community. It is an honor and a privilege to inform this body of his achievements. Congratulations on winning the Templeton Prize, Reverend Holmes, and best of luck with your future endeavors.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1559,  
EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 12, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1559, the Emergency Wartime Supplemental bill. I support this bill to honor our troops and provide relief to Americans suffering through these difficult economic times.

In this time of war and economic crisis, we do not need massive tax cuts. I applaud my Democratic colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their tireless efforts to reach a Budget Resolution that achieves mutual reconciliation, supports our military, and helps to stabilize the economy in this time of economic crisis. We need mutual reconciliation right now, not disagreement.

I applaud the supplemental funds allocated for homeland security. I applaud the 26-week provision designed to help provide relief to the unemployed. Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, I have fought on this floor for

the employees of the airline industry. I believe this bill goes a long way to providing the employees of the airline industry economic relief.

My Democratic colleagues on Appropriations did a wonderful job reducing many of the Administration's inflated fund requests. We lowered the President's request for a "flexibility fund" from \$59.9 billion to \$15.7 billion. We reduced the alien nations fund from \$50 million to \$25 million. These fund reductions, and the many others included in the supplemental will provide relief to every American.

The original emergency supplemental was illogical legislation. Never before have I seen such an outrageous departure from established Congressional procedure. The Senate approved an emergency supplemental bill for \$350 billion. Instead of following the wisdom of the Senate, the House proposes an emergency supplemental bill for \$550 billion. Never before have I seen Congress make such a frivolous budget decision.

I congratulate the hard work of the Appropriators. However, I would have preferred to see funds, such as a portion of the \$2.4 billion used for the reconstruction of Iraq, used to help domestically. I would like to see funds allocated to reach out to our small and minority-owned businesses, and not to large conglomerates and multi-national corporations.

I am on my way to visit Tommy Franks, and the many brilliant military strategists at Central Command. Plus, I recently visited several of the valiant soldiers who suffered injuries fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Having met these brave young men, I know how much their sacrifice means to America.

I support H.R. 1559 to support our troops and to support the U.S. Economy.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 146, 147, and 148, I was unavoidably detained with important matters in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 146, Congratulating Charter Schools Across the United States, "yea" on rollcall vote 147, Extending Congratulations to the United States Capitol Police on the Occasion of its 175th Anniversary, and "yea" on rollcall vote 148, Expressing Support for the Celebration of Patriots' Day and Honoring the Nation's First Patriots.

COMMENDING	ARMY	RESERVE
SPECIALIST	ROY	RUSSELL
BUCKLEY		

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend Army Reserve Specialist Roy Russell Buckley for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Buckley lost his life on Wednesday, April 23, 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq while transporting fuel trucks for the 685th Transportation

Company, part of the United States Army's 3rd Infantry Division. His sacrifice will be remembered at funeral services on Saturday, May 3, 2003 by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Merrillville, IN, Specialist Buckley graduated from Merrillville High School in 1996. He was a gifted athlete, with an orange belt in karate and possessed the strength to lift over 950 pounds. After graduating from high school, Specialist Buckley decided to join the Army Reserves with the hope that it would assist him financially with college, help him learn a trade, and allow him to find himself through the discipline and order that it provides.

It came as no surprise to those who knew Specialist Buckley that he would serve his country. A true patriot, his love for his country was evident from the time that he was a child. He collected items with patriotic themes, and his bedroom remains adorned with symbols of his patriotism. A poster of the Declaration of Independence hangs above his bed, and an "Army of One" poster hangs by the door. He once hung an American flag next to a bright light in his bedroom because he wanted to see the flag glow, and now a flag serves as the curtain for his window. Specialist Buckley felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Buckley, along with 160 other local reservists with the 685th Transportation Company, left for Fort Campbell, KY on January 24, 2003 after being called into active duty. His unit was deployed to Kuwait in February, and was instrumental in the battle to liberate the Iraqi people. Specialist Buckley was riding in a large fuel truck when an accident occurred and he was thrown from the vehicle. He gave his life so that the freedoms and values that he treasured could be enjoyed by those around the world.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Specialist Buckley treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his mother, Janie Espinoza, his stepfather, Phillip Espinoza, his four siblings, his fiance, Jenina Bellina, and his 6-year-old daughter, Alicia Faith Buckley. Jenina is stationed in Iraq with the same reservist unit for which her fiance gave his life. These individuals were the heroes to a man that we will forever call a hero, and we should honor them in this tumultuous moment as well.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, U.S. Army Reserve Specialist Roy Russell Buckley. Specialist Buckley is the third resident of Northwest Indiana to sacrifice his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as a difficult setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Buckley will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
JOSEPH J. GOLUBSKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Joseph J. Golubski—beloved family man, community leader, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Golubski graduated from South High School in 1946. He earned a Bachelor's degree from John Carroll University, and a law degree from John Marshall College. In 1950, he married Rita D. Krysinski. Together they raised seven children. In 1952 Mr. Golubski became a licensed funeral director, continuing the family business that his father established in 1913. With a keen intellect and high energy for learning, Mr. Golubski became a licensed attorney in 1953.

Despite his exceptional scholastic and business achievements, Mr. Golubski's foremost priorities were his family and native community—the Slavic Village neighborhood. His family, community, faith and heritage were central within his life. Mr. Golubski was very active in and supportive of the community along Fleet Avenue. He supported many projects at several area churches, including St. Stanislaus, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, St. Hyacinth Church, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, and the former Transfiguration Church. Additionally, Mr. Golubski was an active member of the St. Stan's Dad's Club, Knights of Columbus South East Council, Cleveland Society of Poles, Slavic Village Merchant's Guild, and the National Funeral Director's Association, among many others.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Joseph J. Golubski, beloved husband of Rita; beloved father of Linda, Joseph E., Robert, Nancy, Steven, Cheryl, and Pamela; and adoring grandfather of Stephanie, Denise, Rita, Anne, Matthew, Adam, Martha and Joseph. Mr. Golubski's joyous life was defined by his deep dedication to family and friends, and his exceptional service to his community. His strong spirit, integrity, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the entire Cleveland community.

IN HONOR OF SISTER ROSE  
THERING

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Rose Thering for her dedication to promoting religious understanding and providing educational opportunities for her community. Sister Thering was the keynote speaker at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance on April 29, 2003 at the Bayonne City Council Chambers.

Professor Emerita at Seton Hall University, Sister Thering has been an active writer, speaker, and lecturer on Judeo-Christian and Holocaust studies for over 30 years. Sister Thering has organized and directed the annual

Seton Hall University Study Tour to Israel since 1972, and has traveled to Israel on over 50 occasions during her tenure at Seton Hall. As an active member of a number of academic, religious, and community organizations, she continues to be a strong advocate for building relations between Jews and Christians.

Sister Thering currently serves on the Newark Archdiocesan Commission for Interreligious Affairs and is executive director of the National Christian Leadership. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Kean University in 1994 and has been a member of the New Jersey Commission for Holocaust Education since 1980. She also served on the U.S. Bishops' Advisory Committee to the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations for 20 years. At Seton Hall University, she continues to improve the Endowment Fund established in her honor, which provides scholarship assistance to school teachers furthering their education in Holocaust studies.

Sister Thering is a life member of Hadasah, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. As a leader and educator on an issue as important as the Holocaust, I want to praise her for decades of tireless determination and dedicated work. She has touched so many lives by reminding us of the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust during human kind's darkest hour.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Rose Thering for her commitment to pursuing religious understanding and for her desire to educate and serve members of our community.

RECOGNIZING BONNIE JEAN LONG  
FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA,  
CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME OF  
HER RETIREMENT AS CITY MAN-  
AGER

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Bonnie Jean Long, the city manager of St. Helena, California. Her outstanding leadership and commitment to community service has significantly benefited the people of St. Helena and she will be sorely missed upon her retirement.

When looking to hire the first-ever city manager in St. Helena, our community would have had a truly difficult task trying to find someone more qualified than Bonnie. Prior to taking office, Bonnie served as the Cotati, California city manager. Adding to her preparation were the years she spent as the assistant city manager for the cities of Davis and Modesto, California.

Mrs. Long's expertise is matched only by her dedication to improving her community and her tremendous work ethic. As city manager, she has worked tirelessly to manage St. Helena's budgets, to maximize our resources and to handle the needs of our growing population. Somehow she has managed to make this difficult task look easy.

While serving our community as city manager, Bonnie has found additional ways to get

involved in bettering St. Helena through her volunteer work. Bonnie is a member of the St. Helena Rotary club, the Kiwanis club and she sits on the REMIF Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as Mrs. Long's professional contributions and service to St. Helena are, she would be the first to tell you that her real success has been as a dedicated wife, a loving mother and an adoring grandmother. Whether traveling with her husband John, giving advice to her daughter Samantha or playing with her grandson Zachary, Bonnie has been a shining example of how to keep your priorities straight. For Bonnie, family is the true joy of life.

Mr. Speaker, because of the many contributions she has made to the town of St. Helena and for her excellence and dedication, it is proper for us to honor Bonnie Jean Long today as she retires from the office city manager.

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HONORING HENRY COVELLO

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Covello, a veteran of World War II and Korea.

Mr. Covello served our country in World War II as a young man. His honor and bravery earned him a Purple Heart for his service in the war. His lifelong dedication to the United States Army is reflected by the prestige of the Purple Heart, among the highest honors an American citizen can receive. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Covello went off to serve in Korea where he earned his second Purple Heart. I am proud to tell my colleagues that this weekend Mr. Covello will posthumously receive his third Purple Heart.

Mr. Covello served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division, 504th Parachute Regiment, the 5th Airborne Ranger Co., 25th Division, and D Company, 19 Regiment, 24th Division. He served for nearly 25 years in the Army before permanently retiring to Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Covello is an example for all Americans. Devoting himself to our armed forces, Mr. Covello's awards are the sign of a grateful nation. His service in the fight against tyranny and oppression should not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Covello, and to all of our veterans, for bravely fighting to protect our security and liberty. I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in thanking Mr. Covello for his service.

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INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1906, THE SERVICEMEMBERS' TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Servicemembers' Transition As-

sistance Program and Services Enhancement Act of 2003. This legislation would improve our servicemembers' often challenging transition process from active-duty military service back into civilian life. In the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-95), Congress made a commitment to end chronic homelessness among veterans within this decade. This legislation is a strong step forward to honoring that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this bill is a proactive measure; it aims to educate our separating servicemembers about the risk factors associated with homelessness, as well as provide them with the tools they need to obtain quality long-term employment.

Unemployment and continual underemployment can lead to poverty, which is the common denominator and root cause of homelessness. This measure would ensure that all servicemembers have the opportunity to participate and take advantage of important Transition Assistance Program (TAP) services prior to leaving military service.

TAP is jointly administered by the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs. These services generally include, employment counseling, career assistance, and veterans' benefits guidance for active-duty servicemembers returning to civilian life. Currently, only the Marine Corps requires mandatory TAP attendance for all of its separating or retiring servicemembers. The Marine Corps again leads the way!

Mr. Speaker, every veteran and servicemember I have spoken with concerning TAP has said that attending a transition workshop was a positive experience, and that the services truly helped them in their civilian job search. Additionally, as we all know, the military is comprised of a substantial number of married servicemembers. This measure acknowledges the special people that make-up our military community, and encourages full spousal participation in TAP services.

Further, this important legislation would also require that TAP workshops include homelessness risk awareness assessments. As servicemembers leave military life to become civilians, they must adjust to new responsibilities and in certain ways a new lifestyle. This transition can be particularly challenging to veterans who are at greater risk of becoming homeless.

According to recent studies, veterans: comprise 23 percent of the overall homeless population and 33 percent of the homeless male population; are twice as likely to become homeless as non-veterans; female veterans are approximately four times as likely to become homeless as their non-veteran counterparts; 40 percent of homeless veterans reported mental health problems; 49 percent reported alcohol abuse; 31 percent reported drug use; 52 percent reported chronic medical conditions.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Linda Boone and the entire staff of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. I very much appreciate their advocacy on behalf of homeless veterans.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this proactive legislation.

HONORING DR. ARTHUR O. HAZARABEDIAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian posthumously for his vast contributions to his community and to the Armenian culture. His passing on March 31st of this year was a tragic loss to all who knew him.

Arthur graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics in 1953. He then received a Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1959 from U.C. Davis. Dr. Hazarabedian's compassion for the animal community was shown in his ownership of Harmar Veterinary Services in the East Bay of San Francisco. Most of his career as a veterinarian was dedicated to aiding pets, and he offered his services to four veterinary hospitals over the span of 40 years. Dr. Hazarabedian's love for helping other creatures is evident in his being a founding member of many veterinary organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and their Business Management Committee. He also served as a representative of the California Board of Equalization and was a Charter member of the California Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Hazarabedian has made a significant impact on many lives in the Armenian community. One of Dr. Hazarabedian's greatest accomplishments was the founding of the Armenian Technology Group, Inc. He, and the other ATG co-founders, formed the organization to assist Armenia in its transition from a subject state of the Soviet Union to a free and independent nation. Under Dr. Hazarabedian's leadership, the goal of ATG has been the advancement of democracy in Armenia through the development of a modern agricultural base in a free-market economy. ATG has sought to introduce modern farming practices and technologies to Armenian farmers and government representatives through programs designed to promote independent action and knowledge sharing.

In 1990, he received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the Faculty at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, which is the highest award for contributions, public service and excellence in the veterinary profession. Three weeks before he passed away, on March 8, Dr. Hazarabedian received the Man-of-the-Year award from the Armenian National Committee of America—Bay Area Chapter, at a ceremony held in San Francisco, CA for his outstanding service to Armenia and Armenian-American causes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian for his exceptional services to the protection of the humanitarian cause. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Arthur for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.

HONORING THE DEDICATED LIFE  
AND WORK OF MR. JAMES A.  
WILDING

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James A. Wilding, an outstanding citizen of Northern Virginia who has served his community and country for almost half a century.

Mr. Wilding will retire from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority this month after 43 years of service. Revered as a leader in both the public and private sectors, Jim will leave behind a legacy of dedication and excellence beyond compare.

Jim graduated from the Catholic University of America as a Civil Engineer in 1959. He then joined the Federal Aviation Administration, where his key role in the transformation of the Washington region began. Jim was one of the original planners of the Washington Dulles International Airport. En route to his position as Chief Engineer, Jim advanced through the ranks of the FAA, working in many different engineering capacities on both Washington Dulles International and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. By 1979, Jim had successfully mastered the positions of Chief Engineer, Deputy Director, and finally Director of the FAA's Metropolitan Washington Airports.

Upon the 1987 transfer of the region's airports to the new Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Jim began his tenure as that organization's President. He continued to implement his vision of a globally connected Washington area, easily accessible by world-class air facilities. Of course, this vision was far removed from reality; the region's current economic prosperity may obscure the collective memory of the wholly government-centered Metropolitan area of 50 years ago. Mr. Wilding's involvement in the region's air service played a large role in changing that. He oversaw a capital development program of more than 3 billion dollars at the two federally owned airports in the region and led the modernization of Reagan National Airport. Dulles also underwent major growth in the 1990's. Under Jim's leadership, passenger activity at the two airports has almost doubled to 31 million passengers in 2002.

Widely acknowledged as an expert in the aviation industry, Jim has won numerous awards, including the highest award in the Transportation Department: the Secretary of Transportation's Gold Medal. He has served namely as Chairman of the Airports Council International—North America, as President of the Aero Club of Washington, and has served on the Board of Directors of the regional organization, and on the Board of its worldwide parent based in Geneva, Switzerland. Currently, he serves on the Policy Review Committee of the American Association of Airport Executives.

The United Way Campaign of Arlington County, Virginia is only one of the many regional groups indebted to Jim for his support and active participation. Jim is a member of the Economic Development Commission of Arlington County and has served on the Board of Directors as well as the Executive Com-

mittee of the Arlington County Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Eno Transportation Foundation, and currently serves on the Board of the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation, on both the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Dulles Area Transportation Association, and has served on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board.

The people of Northern Virginia join these organizations in their debt of gratitude to Jim Wilding, and extend him heartfelt thanks for his continuing role in advancing the prosperity of the Washington region. Mr. Chairman, the life and service of this Virginian serve as a shining example to all who wish to improve the well-being of their community through dynamic public and private activity.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MYLES MARTEL

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Myles Martel in celebration of his 60th birthday.

Dr. Martel has been involved with the United States political process for decades, leaving behind him a legacy of leadership. He came to prominence serving as former President Ronald Reagan's personal debate advisor, after which he moved on to become an advisor to the White House Office of Communications. Dr. Martel has also served as a speech advisor to ambassadors, congressmen, senators, governors and cabinet members. His expertise has awarded him many honors, including the George Washington Honor Medal, and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Martel has published five books, and has been quoted by many nationally recognized newsmagazines and newspapers.

I am honored today to recognize Dr. Myles Martel for his many accomplishments, and to wish him the best on the celebration of his 60th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD  
L. BAILEY, D. MIN.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving others, the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Bailey, D. Min., who on April 26 of this year was elevated to the position of Bishop by the Love Gospel Assembly, a non-denominational church serving over 2,500 members within my Congressional district in the South Bronx.

Dr. Bailey was born and raised in Harlem, New York, and is the Senior Pastor of Love Gospel Assembly, one of the larger multi-faceted, multi-cultural ministries in New York City.

Dr. Bailey was ordained in 1987 by the late Bishop Gerald Julius Kaufman, founder of Love Gospel Assembly, who also mentored

Dr. Bailey in full-time ministry for eight years. Dr. Bailey's life and work as he labored beside Dr. Kaufman have built on the foundation of ministry to and for the poor and inner cities that was clearly articulated and demonstrated by Dr. Kaufman and continued the important work of Love Gospel Assembly.

Dr. Bailey has a Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies, a Master of Arts in Theology from Evangelical Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) from United Theological Seminary in conjunction with Robert Schuller's School for Preaching (Fuqua School of Communication).

Dr. Bailey sits on the Board of Directors for The Urban Youth Alliance Inc., the Steering Committee for the Bronx National Day of Prayer, and the Board of Directors for the Concerts of Prayer, Greater New York.

Dr. Ronald L. Bailey has been married for 35 years to Dorothy Bailey and they have three children, Ron, Jr., Rachel, and Danielle and one grandchild, Anaiah.

Among other things, Dr. Bailey serves meals to over 700 people weekly, conducts a food pantry and provides clothing to the needy.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:10, "for God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them," the community recognizes him and honors him with this consecration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and in congratulating the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Bailey, D. Min. on his consecration as Bishop of Love Gospel Assembly.

CONGRATULATIONS, MONSIGNOR  
JOSEPH SEMANCIK ON 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to congratulate Monsignor Joseph Semancik as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. He will be honored by his parishioners with a luncheon following an 11:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, Indiana on Sunday, May 2, 2003.

A native of Northwest Indiana, Monsignor Semancik was born in Whiting on March 3, 1929 to Frank Semancik and Lillian Duray. He attended St. John the Baptist School and Catholic Central High School. After graduating from high school, Monsignor Semancik's passion for his faith led him to study at Sacred Heart Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and later at St. Meinrad Seminary in Southern Indiana. He was ordained into the priesthood on May 1, 1953, and this important event became a stepping stone for his lifelong dedication to the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Monsignor Semancik began his career as an Assistant Priest for Assumption Parish in East Chicago and at St. Catherine of Siena in Hammond, Indiana. He was appointed administrator at Sacred Heart Parish in 1960, a position he held until being named pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Gary in 1969. After five years as pastor for Holy Trinity, Monsignor

Semancik returned to Sacred Heart as pastor, a position he has held to this day.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his exceptional efforts to guide his congregation at Sacred Heart, Monsignor Semancik also has worked extensively with Catholic Charities in Northwest Indiana. He began his mission with Catholic Charities in 1960, and was named Diocesan Director in 1962, a position he held until 1998. Under his guidance, the agency provided social services throughout the four counties that comprise Northwest Indiana and expanded to seven offices throughout the region. Monsignor Semancik has also served Catholic Charities, USA as a member of the Board of Directors, as well as serving as a member of the Study Cadre that redirected the mission of Catholic Charities. He also ably served as Chairman of various Catholic Charities's committees.

Monsignor Semancik has also enriched the Northwest Indiana community through his work in other community organizations, such as serving as the President of both the Lake County Economic Opportunity Council and the Lake County Community Development Council. He was one of the founders of the Indiana Catholic Conference and of the Hospice of the Calumet Area. He has received many commendations for his work, including the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Governor of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Monsignor Joseph Semancik as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. Monsignor Semancik has been a fixture in Northwest Indiana throughout his career in the ministry, and he has touched the lives of many throughout the community. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS OHIO DIVISION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 54th anniversary—sharing their cultural gifts along a parade route lined with food, song and joyous celebration.

On May 18, 1949, the Ohio Division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the framework of a democratic society.

The goal of The Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of all Americans of Polish heritage.

It is evident that the Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland Community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate 54 years of service to their members and to the Cleveland community.

IN HONOR OF DR. DEVARAJAN P. IYENGAR

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Devarajan P. Iyengar for his contributions to the medical field and his dedication to the people of Jersey City, Kearny, and Bayonne, New Jersey. He was honored by the Bayonne Community Cancer Support Group at Puccini's Restaurant on April 26, 2003 in Bayonne.

For over 20 years, Dr. Iyengar has dedicated himself to providing quality care for the people of Bayonne and surrounding areas. Currently director of oncology at Bayonne Medical Center and chairperson of the Transfusion and Cancer Care Committees, Dr. Iyengar has served on the staffs of Christ Hospital, Greenville Hospital and Union Hospital in Jersey City; West Hudson Hospital in Kearny; and Bayonne Medical Center since 1993. Dr. Iyengar is committed to providing a level of care that goes beyond the average standard of health care. He recently helped found the Bayonne Community Cancer Support Group and is well known for taking the time to provide additional support for his patients and their families.

Dr. Iyengar earned his degree in medicine from the University in Baroda, India and completed his residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey. After finishing his fellowship in oncology and hematology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, he was a research associate and later an attending physician for Newark Beth Isreal. Dr. Iyengar is a fellow at the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey and a member of the American Society of Breast Disease.

Dr. Iyengar and his wife, Dr. Rekha Iyengar, a radiation oncologist, have three sons, Arjun, Ashwin and Arvind.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Devarajan P. Iyengar for his years of service and dedication to the medical community and to the people of New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SONOMA VALLEY CHORALE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sonoma Valley Chorale as this organization celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Sonoma Valley Chorale was founded in 1973 by Jim Griewe. It's first performance space was in the Pioneer Chapel of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma. As the membership grew, the Chorale relocated, first to St. Francis Solano Church and finally to the Veterans' Memorial Building.

Sonoma Valley Chorale, Inc. has a member-administered Board of Directors and serves as an umbrella organization for the 130 voice Choral, Chamber Ensemble, Orchestra, Sonoma Valley Children's Chorus and for community programs promoting small ensemble performances.

During its 30 year history, the Chorale has received many musical honors and has toured France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the New England states. The Chorale was featured during both the 10th anniversary concert series of the Napa Valley Symphony and the 50th anniversary concert gala of the Santa Rosa Symphony.

Guest conductors have included world renowned composer-conductor Jester Hariston. In 2000 the Chorale performed the world premier of "Come Life, Shaker Life" by American composer Gwyneth Walker. This work was commissioned by and composed specifically for the Sonoma Valley Chorale and its music director, Jim Griewe.

The Chorale's repertoire ranges from 1100 AD to the present and spans musical genres from Gregorian chants to Broadway show tunes.

Mr. Speaker, the Sonoma Valley Chorale is an integral part of the cultural landscape of the First Congressional District and a true treasure for the people of the Sonoma Valley. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the Sonoma Valley Chorale, its founder and director Jim Griewe, and the hundreds of voices who have contributed to the legacy and success of this organization.

HONORING HERBERT ADAMS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a distinguished veteran of our armed forces, Herbert Adams.

Mr. Adams served our nation as a member of the United States Army where he was awarded numerous medals for his distinguished service on the battlefield. Following his service in World War Two, the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands recognized Mr. Adams' role in freeing those nations from the Nazi regime.

In addition to the European medals awarded to Mr. Adams, he received numerous American medals including the Purple Heart; the Bronze Star; the Combat Infantry Badge; the Army Occupation with German Clasp; the Honorable Service Lapel Button for World War Two; and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

I am grateful for Mr. Adams' service. He distinguished himself on the battlefield through bravery, strength, and commitment to the American cause of ridding Europe of the Nazi menace.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Adams for bravely fighting in defense of

our nation. In addition, I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Mr. Adams for his service.

USA GOLD AWARD FOR MARIA  
WITTE OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4043

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc. in Rock Island, Illinois. She is Maria Witte of Girl Scout Troop 4043.

She is being honored for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc., Maria began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in June 1999. Maria worked with her partner on painting a wall mural for a local gymnastics facility.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Maria and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

HONORING THOMAS CHARLES  
TURK

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Undersheriff of Madera County, Thomas Charles Turk on the occasion of his retirement. The event commemorating the occasion will be held in Madera County at the Fairgrounds in Chowchilla, California on Saturday, April 26th, 2003.

Thomas Turk has dedicated half of his life to law enforcement. As a young man he was drafted into the United States Army and served for two years as a military policeman. When he came out of active duty, he joined the Madera County Sheriff's department and was assigned to the jail. After one year, he began patrolling the Chowchilla streets work-

ing out of a substation. He was respected and admired by the community. For much of his career, Tom was on a first name basis with most of Madera County. He was later appointed to the Detective Division and then to Sergeant. There, he learned that every time you get promoted you get moved to the graveyard shifts. Tom worked his way up through the ranks, from Sergeant to Lieutenant, and then to Undersheriff.

Undersheriff Turk dedicated his life to his department and the people of Madera County. He never stopped promoting the integrity of the Department and the honor of his position. Tom has worked countless overnight shifts, which accounts for his two "Officer of the Year" commendations, and has done so with the utmost humility. Tom's dedication to his job makes great departments such as the one in Madera County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Undersheriff Thomas Charles Turk for his service to the County of Madera and for his outreach to the community of which he served. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Thomas for his devotion throughout his career and in wishing him many years of continued success.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF MS.  
ELIZABETH ANN KRABILL AS  
THE 2003 UNITED STATES CHERRY  
BLOSSOM QUEEN

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Ms. Elizabeth Ann Krabill upon her selection as the 2003 United States Cherry Blossom Queen.

Elizabeth, a sophomore Economics major at Cornell University, was selected as the U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen on April 4, 2003. The tradition of crowning a national Cherry Blossom Queen is a long one, started by the National Conference of State Societies in 1948. Elizabeth joins her 53 predecessors in representing America as a Goodwill Ambassador. In fact, she will depart for a goodwill visit to Japan on May 1, 2003—less than a month after her coronation. In Japan, Elizabeth will participate in a series of celebrations and conferences over two weeks.

Before her ascent to the national crown, Elizabeth was chosen as Virginia's 2003 Cherry Blossom Princess. Elizabeth finds herself in familiar company: Elizabeth's mother, aunt and sister all preceded her as Cherry Blossom Princesses at one time. Elizabeth grew up in McLean, Virginia and graduated from National Cathedral School. She excelled at competitive swimming in high school and was twice chosen as captain of her swim team. She has spent two summers sharing her swimming talents with children as a swimming lesson instructor at Beauvoir Summer Camp. At Cornell, Elizabeth is active in her sorority, Alpha Phi, as the Vice President of Marketing.

Virginia is proud to send one of her native daughters into the international arena to represent the United States. A well-rounded and gifted individual, Elizabeth Krabill will represent her country with dignity and poise, and I applaud her initiative in seeking this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM A.  
SEDERBURG OF FERRIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. William A. Sederburg for his faithful service as president of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. After eight years as president and one year as interim president at Ferris, Dr. Sederburg is retiring from his position.

He became the 16th president of the college in 1995 after a distinguished career as a professor, Michigan state senator, and successful businessman. Dr. Sederburg's experience in higher education is exemplary. He has held numerous leadership positions in higher education, including serving on the State Board of Education, chairing the Senate Select Committee on the Future of Higher Education, chairing the Senate Standing Committee on Higher Education and Technology, and chairing the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Throughout his career and efforts, Dr. Sederburg has positively affected the lives of thousands of students. He is seen as a leader by his peers, as well as an educator and trusted advisor to his students. Dr. Sederburg has worked tirelessly to improve the facilities and infrastructure on the Ferris State campus, and his dedication is an example to everyone.

I am honored today to recognize Dr. William A. Sederburg for his many accomplishments, and thank him for his work.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE ON ITS SILVER ANNI-  
VERSARY HALL OF FAME 10K  
RUN

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 25th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 3, 2003.

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown and today continues to be an event of great significance. Its mission is to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped to make America great.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed and follows the commitment made by Dr. Brown to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education.

As one who has run the Hall of Fame 10K Run, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable more than 400 people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of joyful people who will run along the Grand Concourse,

University Avenue and West 181 Street and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There is no better way to see our Bronx community.

The Annual Hall of Fame 10K Run is joined by a 2 Mile Fitness Walk and, for the second year, a Hall of Fame Excalibur One Mile Boys and Girls Youth Challenge for 9 to 18 years olds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 25th Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CROATIAN  
SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America on the festive occasion of its 96th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, April 27, 2003. In addition to honoring thirty new 50-year members, the Lodge will also honor Martha J. Woss with the Woman of the Year Award, and Valentine-Walter Bahun with the Man of the Year Award.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees include: Richard D. Bekelya, Josephine Blaschke, Violet Marie Boatman, Josephine Bobinac, Tom Bobinac, Nettie Brooks, Bernadette Chelich, Catherine Child, Yvonne Drysdale, Alice Erbesti, Matthew Erdelac, Sandra C. Giorgi, Marija Jugovic, Pauline Muraida, George Nosich, Carol Jean Pettit, John L. Ramuscak, Rudolph J. Ramuscak, Mary C. Rozmanich, Joanna Russ, Annie Jane Seral, Bartol Sikich, Jr., Rosemary Smith, Gertrude Studanich, Jean O. Surig, Dolores Teel, Jo Ann Tull, Irene Weger, Josephine Williamson, and Mary Yurkas.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with over 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

Mr. Speaker, Martha Woss has been a fixture with the Croatian Fraternal Union for 78 years. She has served as president, vice president, recording secretary, and scribe, as well as serving as the chair for numerous committees. Martha also wrote a weekly column reporting the events of her Lodge, as well as other area Lodges. She was the first woman to bowl in the Joe Rady Tourney, and she was awarded a plaque from the national president for this honor. Martha has been a dedicated member of the Lodge since 1925, and because of her commitment and hard work, she has achieved the honor of being designated as Woman of the Year.

On January 17, 2003, Valentine-Walter "Wally" Bahun celebrated not only his 83rd birthday, but also 65 years of service for Lodge 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America. Wally has served in various positions throughout his time with the Lodge, including president, vice president, and trustee. He was

also elected as a delegate to the Toronto 15th Convention in 1979, and has been elected as a delegate each year since for his dedication to Lodge 170. His commitment to the Croatian community of Northwest Indiana serves as an example of the dedication we all must show to keep our nation great.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and ongoing display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families. I am proud to represent these gifted residents of the First Congressional District of Indiana.

SALUTING THE CARGILL SALT  
MINERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL  
NO. 436 IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO  
RETAIN REPRESENTATION AND  
END A LOCK-OUT DESPITE COM-  
PANY EFFORTS TO BREAK THE  
UNION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the members of Teamsters Local No. 436. This racially and ethnically diverse group of salt miners constitutes the bargaining unit at Cargill's Cleveland salt mine in Ohio's 10th Congressional District. Many of them are locked out of the mine in a labor dispute, the outcome of which will have major implications for working men and women everywhere.

In May 2002, the salt miners went on strike. Between May and August, the miners and the company met on several occasions to resolve the dispute and draft a mutually agreeable labor contract. On August 13, 2002, while still engaged in good faith negotiations with Cargill, the union miners made an unconditional offer to return to work. When the miners attempted to return to their jobs, they learned that Cargill hired permanent replacement workers who were either hired before August 13, or their dates of hiring were backdated prior to August 13. All but 26 of the union miners were locked out. The hiring of replacement workers in this manner violates the National Labor Relations Act as an act of bad faith in labor negotiations.

Shortly after the lockout, one of the replacement workers filed a decertification petition with the National Labor Relations Board. In a strong show of support, the working and locked out union miners showed up at the mine at 6:00 in the morning on April 10, 2003, to support the union. One locked out miner drove 150 miles from Columbus for the vote while another left his hospital bed to vote. The result of the election was a 63-58 victory for the union. Even though the Cargill-supported replacement workers appealed the election, the union workers again rallied to oppose the decertification and voted 64-61 to retain the union.

The union workers have my full support. The replacement workers, too, should under-

stand that the good pay and benefits they enjoy at Cargill were hard-fought by the Teamsters locally and the national organized labor movement in general. Once the union is gone, no one will be there to represent them in gaining and retaining their pay, rights, and benefits. Unions are good for workers and companies alike. I support the union workers' efforts to stop the decertification of their union and to end the lock-out so they can return to work as soon as possible. I call on Cargill to accept the democratic process built into our nation's labor law, accept the will of the workers to retain union representation, and return immediately to good faith negotiations with the Teamsters.

IN HONOR OF LUDO NOLFO, RE-  
CIPIENT OF BAYONNE UNICO  
FOUNDATION'S 2003 MAN OF THE  
YEAR AWARD

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ludo Nolfo, for his outstanding dedication to the community of Bayonne, New Jersey. Mr. Nolfo was named the 2003 Man of the Year by the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO National on April 5, 2003 at the Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne.

An Italian immigrant at age 16, and a graduate of New York University with a degree in accounting, Mr. Nolfo served two years in the United States military before working with Manufacturers Hanover in New York. For over 27 years, Mr. Nolfo worked for First Union National Bank, where he was Vice President of Trade Services. He is currently Vice President of International Trade Banking at the New York Branch of Rabobank Nederland.

In addition to his remarkable professional record and successful career, Mr. Nolfo has a distinguished record of community service. As trustee of the Bayonne Board of Education and Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, commissioner of the Bayonne Housing Authority, and treasurer of the Board of the Bayonne Visiting Nurses Association, Mr. Nolfo continues to demonstrate an impressive level of commitment to serving the people of Bayonne.

A past president and district governor of the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO National, Mr. Nolfo has been committed to serving the Italian community throughout our region. He is a founding member and formal grand marshal of the Bayonne Columbus Committee; a member and past president of the Bayonne Sicilian Citizens Club; and a member of the Sons of Italy of Bayonne. He also served on the Committee on Italian Migration, sponsored by the Italian Consulate.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Nolfo for his exceptional service to the people of Bayonne and in congratulating him on being named Bayonne UNICO's 2003 Man of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMAINE  
CHANDON OF NAPA VALLEY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Domaine Chandon, the Napa Valley leading sparkling wine producer, as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Domaine Chandon was founded in 1973 as the first American sparkling wine venture established by the French Champagne house, Moët et Chandon. As pioneers in producing California sparkling wine, Domaine Chandon has had a far-reaching impact on winemaking in the Napa Valley and is continuing to break new ground with its food-loving wines, both sparkling and varietal stills.

Before Domaine Chandon was established, American-made sparkling wine was overshadowed by French Champagne. When Moët et Chandon, makers of Dom Perignon and other fine Champagnes, selected the Napa Valley as the next world class sparkling wine regions, it helped establish California's reputation as one of the world's top wine producing regions.

In addition to producing premium sparkling wine and a highly regarded line of still wines, Domaine Chandon has proven that sparkling wines shouldn't be limited to New Year's Eve and weddings. With eight sparkling wine cuvees available nationally and five specialty wines available at the winery, Domaine Chandon offers a full range of flavors and styles that are very well matched with foods. As the only Napa Valley winery with an on-site restaurant, Domaine Chandon showcases the pairing sparkling wine with food and in doing so, has help establish the region as a world-renowned dining destination.

Mr. Speaker, as Domaine Chandon celebrates its 30th anniversary with a showcase 30-course dinner and other signature events the weekend of May 2 through May 4, 2003, it is appropriate that we recognize them today for their many contributions to fine wine and fine dining in California's Napa Valley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMPLOYEES OF SERENITY HOUSE OF GARY, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I congratulate the employees of Serenity House of Gary, Inc. as they celebrate 25 years of assisting those in the Gary, Indiana community as they recover from alcohol and drug addiction. These devoted individuals will commemorate their Silver Anniversary at a banquet to be held on April 26, 2003.

Serenity House of Gary, Inc. is a transitional facility that nurtures residents as they recover from the mental, physical, and spiritual effects of alcohol and drug addiction, as well as providing employment counseling and referrals to ensure that the reintegration into the community is successful for both the patient and

those in the surrounding area. The employees at Serenity House are committed to supporting addicts and their families through every step of the recovery process. By promoting each individual's talents and skills, these employees teach all those committed to recovering to develop meaningful, productive lives without the reliance upon narcotics and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, Serenity House opened in August 1980 to fulfill the need for a residential treatment facility in Lake County, Indiana. It provides a supportive environment for patients to recover from their addiction as they simultaneously learn important life skills, such as obtaining and maintaining both employment and housing in order to enrich the quality of their lives. The employees are trained to counsel and assist those who are recovering from dependency, and are therefore able to create a positive atmosphere in which the patients are prepared to enjoy the benefits of their success.

The physical and emotional suffering caused by addiction affects not only the individual, but also hovers like a storm cloud over all those who have a vested interest in his or her well-being. Serenity House provides a safe haven for those who wish to recover from their dependency but are unable to do so on their own. It is within these walls that those who are looking for the opportunity to improve their lives can find solace.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the employees of Serenity House of Gary, Inc. for 25 years of service to the residents of Lake County, Indiana. Through their efforts, many in the Northwest Indiana community have had the opportunity to enhance their lives and recover from a debilitating illness. It is this compassion and commitment to their fellow man that makes Northwest Indiana a great community, and I am honored to represent these outstanding individuals in Congress.

IN HONOR OF JAMES WHITLEY,  
JR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUNINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Metroparks Rangers Chief James Whitley Jr., on the occasion of his recent retirement from service with the Cleveland Metroparks.

Raised in Cleveland, Chief Whitley graduated from John Hay High School in 1976. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy shortly thereafter. While stationed in England, Chief Whitley earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Following four years of exemplary service to his country, he came home to Cleveland where he worked as a caseworker for Cuyahoga County. In that capacity, Chief Whitley helped troubled veterans obtain shelter, food and benefits.

In 1982, Chief Whitley began his service as a police officer with the City of Cleveland Heights. His outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly rejected throughout his tenure of service. He rose quickly through the department ranks and was promoted to Commander of the Traffic

Bureau in 1990. Significantly and historically, Chief Whitley broke through racial barriers by becoming the first African-American Sergeant within the Cleveland Heights Police Department, which paved the way for other men and women to follow.

As Chief of the Metroparks Ranger, Chief Whitley's vision and leadership brought new life to the Ranger Special Units and was a significant force behind the newly constructed headquarters operations facilities, opening this fall. A tireless supporter of continued education, Chief Whitley was a strong advocate for post-secondary education for rangers and staff.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, admiration, gratitude and recognition of Chief Ranger James of our country and on behalf of the citizens of our Cleveland community have served to lift the spirits Whitley, Jr. Chief Whitley's exceptional work ethic, law enforcement expertise and commendable service on behalf and the lives of countless individuals and families and we extend our best wishes throughout his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 182nd Anniversary of Greek Independence Day. On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece began their quest for freedom from the Ottoman Turks, and we commemorate their resolve and their country's enduring independence.

The birth of democracy in Greece ushered in one of the true golden ages of Western Civilization, and the democratic ideals of ancient Greece provided an inspiration and foundation for American democracy. The peoples of Greece and the United States enjoy a rich friendship based on our common devotion to the ideals of freedom and democracy. Our nation continues to strive for high standards of equality and justice championed by Greek philosophy; and, in shaping their new democracy, the Greeks used the Declaration of Independence as a guide.

The celebration of Greek Independence Day provides a chance for Americans and Greeks alike to reflect on and celebrate a common history that shares the same principles of freedom and democracy.

The Greek Independence Day parade continued its grand tradition this year, marking the 65th annual parade along Fifth Avenue in New York City. I praise the efforts of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for making such a celebration of Greek Independence possible. This annual tradition provides a chance for Greeks and Americans to celebrate Greek culture and to continue the great partnership between our peoples and cultures.

The commemoration of the Independence of Greece is an important reminder of the contributions of Greece to democracy in America and worldwide. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Greek Independence Day and to pay tribute to the shared traditions of Greek and American democracy.

RECOGNIZING BROTHER TIMOTHY DIENER FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAPA COUNTY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Brother Timothy Diener for his outstanding commitment to serving the Napa Valley community in my home state of California.

June 2003 will mark the 75th anniversary (diamond jubilee) of Brother Timothy's entry into the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Brother Timothy, a lifelong Catholic and the son of German immigrants, was born in 1910 in New Jersey. In 1918 his family moved to Los Angeles, where he graduated from Cathedral High School. He joined the Christian Brothers in 1928 and made two significant discoveries, wine and teaching.

At the age of 25, Brother Timothy became heavily involved in the new Christian Brothers winery. Officially his title was "wine chemist" but it was common to find him performing such additional duties as digging ditches, being the hose dragger, scrubbing the tank, driving the trucks and operating the cement mixer. Half a century of hard work and excellence have since passed and today Brother Timothy is considered a pioneer in the Napa Valley wine industry and is treasured as a master vintner.

Much like the spectacular wine he makes, Brother Timothy gets better with age. Though he turns 93 in November, Brother Timothy maintains an enthusiasm for life and a deep dedication to serving others. Not surprisingly, he continues to serve the cause of Christian Brothers' education as an honorary founding member of the Lasallian Education Fund. He uses his position to assist the underserved youth of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Brother Timothy represents much more than Napa's wine roots or our communities commitment to promoting education. Quite simply, Brother Timothy represents the heart of the Napa Valley. His life has been a legacy of hard work, faith and passionate living. For all of these reasons and countless more, it is most appropriate that we honor Brother Timothy Diener at this time and congratulate him on 75 years with the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
NORTHWEST INDIANA EDUCATORS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate an exceptional group of Northwest Indiana educators. The Indiana State Teacher's Association will present these outstanding individuals with the 2002–2003 Crystal Apple Award for excellence in education during a banquet on Wednesday, May 7, 2003 in Schererville, Indiana. This year's recipients are: Darlene M. Vassil, Linda Johnson, Estelle

Becke, Judith Thayer, Renee Kouris, James Crist, and Sherry Peters.

Darlene Vassil is a 22-year veteran of art education, and she effectively uses this wealth of experience to enrich the lives of her students. She was awarded a grant from the Indiana Department of Education to develop an electronic portfolio program so that her students can learn to enhance creativity through technology. Darlene's enthusiasm and dedication for her work led to her involvement in the Fine Arts and Music Education (FAME) organization. She was instrumental in the organization of the Northwest Indiana FAME Festivals Imaginarium for the past two years, and has been responsible for various art displays from other cultures being brought to her community.

Linda Johnson has served in the Hanover Community School Corporation for 28 years, and her dedication and professionalism is unsurpassed. She has taught students at various grade levels throughout the elementary and intermediate system. She currently teaches fifth grade at Lincoln Elementary and will retire after the school year is completed. Known for her intelligence and wisdom, Linda is a source of advice for both her students and her peers. Her devotion and humor will be greatly missed.

Estelle Becke began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Highland school system, and currently teaches seventh grade geography. She is a bold, strong, and loyal person who has a passion for both her subject area and her craft. Estelle has sponsored her school's Geography Bee, and has also emceed the school-wide event. She has spent her career teaching her students tolerance for those from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Judith Thayer has dedicated 30 of her 34½ years of teaching to the Lake Central School Corporation. She currently teaches fourth grade at Kolling Elementary School in St. John, Indiana. Her efforts and excellence in the classroom have undoubtedly contributed to the status of Kolling as one of Indiana's Four Star Schools. Although Judith has a principal's certificate, she chooses to be in the classroom because of her love for the students.

Renee Kouris has touched the lives not only of her theater students, but also the lives of those who watch their performances. Her compassion for her students and her desire to include every student in her productions has made Renee one of the most popular teachers at Munster High School. Last year, her theater class participated in a state-wide competition and placed second for the original work that they wrote, produced, and presented. Her ability to challenge students and faculty while remaining humorous, compassionate, and sincere makes her an excellent choice for the 2002–2003 Crystal Apple Award.

James Crist is known for his ability to connect with students in a way that few other teachers are able to duplicate. He directs the Pupils Reached by Individual Direct Education (PRIDE) program, which reaches out to students who have difficulty adapting to standard teaching methods. He teaches them to take pride in themselves and their work. James promotes fairness, acceptance, and stability to students who otherwise would have given up on their education. His adaptability to meet the needs of his students is remarkable, and we are deeply indebted to him for his dedication to his pupils.

Sherry Peters uses her work ethic, dedication, and creative spirit to improve her teach-

ing methods and effectiveness. She does not simply rely on her lesson plans from previous years, but she constantly updates her materials and evaluates her methods in an attempt to reach her pupils. She has the ability to understand her students and connect with them in the classroom, and she uses this ability to take them far beyond their previous limitations. She uses creative strategies to enrich the lives of her students, and the seniors at Lowell High School have elected her the Most Influential Teacher on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these tremendous educators as they accept the 2002–2003 Crystal Apple Award from the Indiana State Teacher's Association. Their tireless dedication to enriching the minds of today's youth is invaluable, and I am proud to represent these outstanding teachers in Congress.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
MIKE REINERI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Mike Reineri—family man, friend, and outstanding radio personality.

Mr. Reineri had a long and distinguished career within the broadcasting industry. He was sworn into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame in November of 2001, and throughout his career, he served in every aspect of broadcasting in cities across the country.

Mr. Reineri's first major appearance on radio was in 1959 with WFVG in North Carolina. He stayed there for about a year and soon moved to WKIK, where he did a rock-n-roll show from 7–11 pm at a remote studio at the Piggy-Park Drive-In in Raleigh. His highly entertaining style of broadcasting drew crowds from across the Carolinas.

Besides his natural ability to entertain, Mr. Reineri also possessed a kind and generous heart. While broadcasting in Cleveland, he created and promoted the very successful "Shoes for Kids" program that provides underprivileged and homeless children with footwear. This annual campaign grows stronger every year, and continues to assist Cleveland's neediest children.

Wherever he's lived, Mr. Reineri always sought to be of service to others. He was deeply dedicated and civically active in Miami. For more than two decades, Mr. Reineri served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Miami and was awarded the Service to Youth Award and Service Bar. In 1991 he was awarded the Easter Seals Man of the Year Award in Miami and the Miami Power Squadron Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safe Boating.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Mike Reineri. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, especially to wife Barbara. Mr. Reineri's exceptional broadcasting talents and achievements will be known for generations to come. Moreover, his exceptional sense of kindness and compassion for others—through word and deed—will live on forever.

HONORING ROBERT B. HILLE

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine and of the Bergen County community, Robert B. Hille, who is about to become the 105th President of the Bergen County Bar Association. Robert Hille and I began our careers together as young lawyers in the Bergen County Bar Association. It was there that I got to see firsthand what a remarkable person Robert Hille is. He has been and continues to be an extraordinarily gifted attorney and loving husband of Leslie and father of Erin and Tara.

Throughout the course of his career, Robert Hille has handled himself in a highly professional and dignified manner that has won him the great admiration and respect of his peers. His election as the 105th Bergen County Bar Association President is a reflection of the high esteem that not only I have for him, but that everyone in the Bergen County legal community has for him.

Robert Hille is a man who strives to do what is right and just in his profession. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him and his family on his election as President of this most prestigious organization, I wish him the very best.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 832, PERMANENT PARTNERS IMMIGRATION ACT

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 832, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act would allow US citizens and lawful permanent residents, who are in a permanent partnership, to sponsor their partner for immigration purposes in the same way that opposite-sex spouses now can. This proposal would also hold these partners to the same legal commitments of a legal marriage, in that if a person is found to have entered into a fraudulent permanent partnership for the purpose of obtaining a visa for another person, they will be subject to the same five year maximum imprisonment, or \$250,000 maximum fine, or both.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, this legislation would affect the status of thousands of couples who currently are separated or risk permanent separation from the ones they love. Fourteen countries—including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, the United Kingdom and South Africa—recognize same sex partnerships for purposes of immigration.

I have co-sponsored H.R. 832 because I strongly believe in its purposes and I am confident that its text will be fine tuned as it goes through the legislative process. I called upon the Congressional leadership to begin that process.

HONORING NINE NEW MEMBERS OF THE INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate the nine new members of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. The 2003 honorees for this prestigious designation include: Louie (Lou) Karras, Mike Jennings, Bob Johnson, Larry L. Johnson, Keith A. Johnson, John Forchetti, Tom Herbert, Roderick G. Moore II, and George Pappas. These men have shown a commitment to high school and collegiate football programs across Northwest Indiana, and they will be honored at a reception on May 18, 2003 in Merrillville, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, Lou Karras graduated from Gary Emerson High School in 1945 after earning All-State honors for three years. He went on to have an outstanding career at Purdue University from 1946–1950. As a senior, he was chosen as the Most Valuable Player and was selected to play in the East-West Game, the Hula Bowl, and in the Chicago All-Star game against the Philadelphia Eagles. He started for the Washington Redskins as a rookie before an eye injury cut his career short. Lou's mother is the only woman inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame for raising three NFL players: Lou Karras, Alex Karras, and Ted Karras. After his playing career, Lou served as President of the Purdue Alumni Association in Lake County, Indiana. He also presided as the Democratic City Chairman in Gary, Indiana, as well as President of the Gary City Common Council.

Mike Jennings attended Gary Wirt High School and excelled in football, basketball, and track. He graduated in 1957 having earned All-City, All-Conference, and All-State honors. He went on to attend Southwestern Missouri University, where he was a four-year letter winner and a three year starter as a full-back and linebacker. He also attended Texas A&M, where he honed his skills under the legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. After his playing career, Mike became the head coach at Chesterton High School, where he amassed a record of 95–81–1 in 18 seasons.

Bob Johnson was an outstanding football player for Valparaiso High School until his graduation in 1976. He was named the Most Valuable Player in 1975, and was named to the Duneland All-Conference Team, the All-Area Team, and the All-State Team in 1974 and 1975. Bob's excellence on the field also earned him a position on the North-South All Star Team in 1976. After high school, Bob attended Manchester College, where he was named to the All-Conference Team in 1978, 1979, and 1980. He was also named an NAIA All-American in 1980, and was named the Most Valuable Player for that season.

Larry L. Johnson was a standout at Munster High School in football, wrestling, and track. By the time he graduated in 1970, he had been named the captain of his football and wrestling team. He was named to the All-Conference Team in football, as well as the 1st Team All-State. He also played in the North-South All-Star game. He attended the University of Michigan, where he was a four-year

letterman and was awarded the Arthur Robinson Award for Most Outstanding Student Athlete on the football squad. In 1975 he was awarded the prestigious Fielding Yost Award.

Keith A. Johnson attended Munster High School and was a three-year letterman. He was awarded All-Star honors in 1971 as a defensive back while leading his team as a captain. He went on to attend the University of Michigan, where he was a three-year letterman at wide receiver. His team was named the Big Ten Conference Co-Champion in 1973–1974, and he was a participant in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day in 1976.

John Forchetti has been the team physician for Chesterton High School for over 37 years. He graduated from Villanova University in 1958 and Jefferson Medical School in 1962. He served as a medical doctor for the United States Navy from 1963 to 1965, when he began his career as the Trojan's team physician.

Tom Herbert graduated from Gary's Lou Wallace High School in 1965 and went on to attend Ball State University. Considered the dean of Big Ten officials, Tom has been with the prestigious conference for 25 years, and has officiated in ten bowl games. His most recent game was the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on December 27, 2002.

Roderick Moore has spent his career as an athletic trainer with the Valparaiso community. He was the athletic trainer for all of the high schools and junior high schools in Valparaiso from 1972–1976. He was associated with the 1975 State Championship Team and the 1985 State Runner-up Team. He is currently the head athletic trainer for his alma mater, Valparaiso University, and was a charter member of the Indiana Athletic Trainers Association.

George Pappas played high school football for Hammond High School and was twice selected as an All-State player. In 1960, George was chosen as a High School All-American. He played on two undefeated teams, and in four years his teams lost a total of two games. He was named the Most Outstanding Lineman in 1959 and 1960. George went on to attend Purdue University, where he was selected by his teammates as the Most Valuable Player and Outstanding Freshman Lineman. After his playing career, George became a Graduate Assistant at Purdue from 1965–1966. He was an assistant coach at North Central High School in 1969, and he became the head coach at North Central in 1975. During his 17 years as head coach, George compiled an impressive record of 126–53.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these nine men for their achievements within the Indiana football system. Their success serves as an inspiration to those involved in Indiana athletics, and our youth can be proud to have them as role models after whom to pattern their careers.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF EDWARD JOHN WOJNIAK, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Edward John

Wojniak, Sr.—Beloved family man, World War II veteran, community leader, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Wojniak was born in 1919 in the St. Hyacinth area of Cleveland. As a young boy, he moved with his family to West Virginia where his father found work as a coal miner. Tragically, in 1935, Mr. Wojniak's father died in a mining accident. His family remained in West Virginia for a few years. After Mr. Wojniak graduated from high school, his family relocated to Pittsburgh. Soon after, World War II broke out. Mr. Wojniak enlisted in the U.S. Army 815 Engineers Corps, and fought in Italy and Northern Africa. He returned to Cleveland after the war, and enrolled in college at Western Reserve University. In 1951, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1954, he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Social Administration. During college, he met and married Jennie Pogroszewski.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Wojniak raised four children. His life revolved around family, community, faith and heritage. His professional life was dedicated to helping others. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Wojniak worked on behalf of our elderly at the State of Ohio Department of Aging. His deep affection for his Cleveland community and his Polish heritage were clearly reflected through his civic involvement and volunteer spirit. Mr. Wojniak worked diligently to secure an official proclamation to name the Broadway-Forman area of Slavic Village as "Solidarity Square." Throughout his adult life, Mr. Wojniak was highly active in veterans' groups and Polish fraternal organizations, including the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress. Notably, Mr. Wojniak was the longest-serving President of Polish-Americans, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Edward John Wojniak, beloved husband of Jennie, beloved father of Barbara, Elizabeth, Edward and Michael; beloved grandfather of nine; beloved brother, and trusted and loyal friend to many. Mr. Wojniak's joyous life was defined by his deep dedication to family, and his exceptional service to community and country. His strong spirit, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the entire Cleveland community.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR  
CUBAN OPPOSITION DAY

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following Proclamation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners be included in the RECORD.

Whereas: As the Apostle of the Cuban Independence Jose Marti once said: "Liberty is very expensive and it is necessary either to resign oneself to live without it or to decide to pay its price;" and

Whereas: Realizing that Cubans are persecuted and exiled in their own land, deprived of their most elemental rights, fired from their jobs, subjected to a cruel and systematic hate campaign, and suffering defamation towards them and their families, the thousands of men and women, that for years

have confronted with civic activism that tyranny, deserve the admiration and support of all; and

Whereas: On Monday, May 13, 2002, coinciding with the 71st Anniversary of Pedro Luis Boitel's birthday, a Cuban murdered by the Castro regimen, a group of Cuban exile institutions have agreed to declare May 13th, "International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day;" and

Whereas: The efforts of these Cuban organizations are not only against the Fidel Castro dictatorship, but against all forms of oppression anywhere on earth, because the defense of human rights does not know boundaries of any particular nation, thus the representatives of these organizations invite Cubans, inside and outside the island, as well as those sympathetic to this worth cause, to join this noble effort; and

Whereas: It is fitting and proper that official acknowledgement be given to the organizers, and participants of these plethora of organizations, and wish them complete success in their quest for a Cuba with liberty and justice for all;

Now Therefore: Be It Resolved, That I, Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, On Behalf Of The Board of County Commissioners And This Community, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 13, 2002, as International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day.

In Observance Thereof: I call upon the good people of Miami-Dade County to join me in recognizing the importance of this endeavor aimed to obtain the most laudable aspirations of the human race—to live in freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF 55 YEARS OF  
ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that on May 7, 2003 the State of Israel will be celebrating its independence and fifty five years of statehood. Since its founding in 1948, Israel has served as a staunch ally on behalf of America's vital interests in the Middle East and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, being that the citizens of the United States and Israel maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon a commonality of interests and shared core ideals, including a dedication to democracy and individual freedoms, I ask that we rise up in recognition of Israel's independence.

I would also like to recognize the special sister relationship that the State of New Jersey has forged with the State of Israel, through the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Israel has repeatedly proven itself as a valued partner in trade and mutual cultural exchange, and has earned the support of New Jersey's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize a special group of constituents from the 6th District of New Jersey who will be showing their support for this unique relationship by "Walking For Israel" on May 4th. I ask that my colleagues to join me in commending the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County for sponsoring such an event. It is my hope that America's citizens will mark this occasion and demonstrate their support for the US-Israeli relationship with similar events across the country.

HONORING FATHER EVAGORAS  
CONSTANTINIDES

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate Father Evagoras Constantinides for his numerous contributions to the citizens of Northwest Indiana. Father Constantinides has been a fixture of the community since 1969, and he will be honored at a dinner presented by Friends of Hospice on Friday, May 2, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Father Constantinides was born in Lapithos, Cyprus in 1918 and was educated in his village through his second year of high school, where he graduated with the Gold Medal Award for academic excellence. He entered Athens College in 1932, where he was accepted on a yearly scholarship with the school's science section. Father Constantinides had no trouble maintaining his scholarship for six years, and he graduated with honors while receiving the Delta Public Speaking Prize and the English Language Prize. This dedication and commitment to his studies exemplifies the hard work on which Father Constantinides prides himself.

After finishing his collegiate studies in Greece, Father Constantinides journeyed across the world to America to continue his studies and broaden his experiences. In 1938, he enrolled at Fenn College, which is now Cleveland State University, to study civil engineering. During his four years at the University, he served as a Greek teacher and as the Hellenic Board of Education Secretary for the Greek Orthodox Community of the Annunciation of Cleveland, Ohio. Although he enjoyed his time in Cleveland, his final year was interrupted by World War II. As a British subject, Father Constantinides entered the Canadian Army as a private in the fall of 1942. After completing his basic training, he was enrolled in the officer training program, from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps with proficiency in explosives, mines, and demolitions. His outstanding ability as a military officer, coupled with his excellent intellect, allowed Father Constantinides the opportunity to work for the United States Central Intelligence Group translating Japanese documents and the Greek Constitution into English.

After returning to the United States following his discharge in 1947, Father Constantinides began extensively studying theology, and on March 11, 1956 he was ordained into the priesthood. He was appointed pastor of the SS. Constantine and Helen parish in Gary on September 1, 1969, and his gracious presence has been felt throughout Northwest Indiana since his arrival. In 1971, Father Constantinides was instrumental in the construction of the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville. His efforts also led to the design and construction of the SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, one of the ten largest Orthodox churches in the Americas, in 1975. It was during this time that Father Constantinides became deeply involved in the work of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

In addition to the many contributions within his own parish, Father Constantinides has

dedicated his talents to improving the community, the Nation, and the world. During his 26-year tenure at SS. Constantine and Helen, he trained ten assistants who are now serving the Greek Orthodox Church with distinction. He was honored with the office of Protospresbyter in 1972, and he served as the Treasurer and member of the National Presbyters Council from 1970–1974, and again from 1980–1982. He received the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America Service Award and Gold Cross in 1976 for his struggles and lobbying activities for the liberation of invaded Cyprus, a cause he continues to pursue. Father Constantinides offered his wisdom and his faith in various countries, including Russia, Kenya, Uganda, and India. He has also authored four Sunday school books for children, and has translated six Orthodox Service books from Greek to English.

Since his retirement in June 1995, Father Constantinides has devoted his time to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, as well as writing, lecturing, and substituting at churches in the Chicago Diocese. In September and October 2002, he traveled to Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador at the behest of His Eminence Metropolitan Taraslos of Buenos Aires to perform missionary work. Father Constantinides also devotes much of his time to his loving wife, Maria, and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Father Evagoras Constantinides for his contributions to the citizens of Northwest Indiana, and to citizens of countries throughout the world. His love for his fellow man is an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE SINAI OF  
GLENDALE, CA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Sinai in Glendale, California. This week, Temple Sinai celebrates its 75th Anniversary, marking the extraordinary history of the synagogue and its congregation.

Temple Sinai was incorporated under California State Law on June 22, 1928, as the Sinai Community Center. At that time, the fledgling congregation consisted of fewer than a dozen Jewish families and met in the Masonic Hall located above the Ralph's Grocery Store at the corner of Orange and Broadway in Glendale. Using various venues for its functions until 1939, the congregation found its first permanent home at 425 West Windsor Road. Ten years later, the congregation constructed the first segment of its current home at 1212 North Pacific Avenue, and it has since grown both in physical plant and congregational census.

Today the congregation has 300 member families—including mine—of all ages and backgrounds, serving Jews who live in Glendale, Burbank, Los Angeles, La Canada, La Crescenta, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino, and Thousand Oaks. There are 240 students in the combined Religious and Hebrew Schools. A larger cadre of volunteers manages the many opportunities for involve-

ment in the community, from ritual and religious services to advisory and policy-making bodies.

The goals of the congregation embody the values of Judaism and its continuity. The congregation strengthens Judaism and Jewish values within and among the members of the local Jewish community, provides strength and support to members of the community who experience tragedy and grief in their lives, celebrates with members of the community the joyous occasions of their families, provides leadership experiences for Jews in the community so that they can undertake leadership of the synagogue in the future, and educates non-Jews as to the norms and traditions of Judaism.

I am proud to be able to recognize Temple Sinai for its 75 years of offering a place of solemn and joyous worship to the people of Glendale and the nearby foothill communities. My heartfelt "Mazel Tov" on this milestone. Today, Temple Sinai exemplifies the role congregations of every faith have within communities as a refuge for all who come to worship together regardless of differences. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Temple Sinai for their 75 years of remarkable achievement and to wish Temple Sinai all the best as your congregation grows from strength to strength.

PROPOSAL SEEKS TO CURTAIL  
IDENTITY THEFT

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, for the fourth consecutive session of Congress, I am introducing the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA), which would help restore individuals' control over the use of their Social Security numbers and personal information.

Over the years, the Social Security number (SSN) has unfortunately become a *de facto* national identifier. SSNs are required to receive a driver's license from every state, and many companies require consumers to provide their SSN as a condition of doing business. This means that should one's SSN fall into the wrong hands, it can be used to steal one's identity, run up thousands of dollars of false charges in your name, and wreak havoc on your credit history.

The issue of identity theft has grown to be the largest single complaint received by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and curbing the rampant use of the SSN—"the key to identity theft"—is paramount in reducing identity theft and restoring citizens' ability to protect their personal information.

Under this legislation, PIPA, businesses would be prohibited from refusing to sell goods or services to individuals that do not want to provide their SSN. Furthermore, without written consent, one's SSN could not be used for commercial purposes or used as an identifier. Neither could information on products or services bought by an individual and where they were purchased—known as transaction histories—be sold to third parties.

Lastly, individuals would be permitted to seek redress for violations of this measure in civil courts, with the statute of limitations be-

ginning to toll three years after the offense was discovered. PIPA would also establish penalties for the use of Social Security numbers without a consumer's consent of up to \$25,000 for a single offense, and up to \$500,000 for repeated violations.

Any victim of identity theft could tell you the difficulty of restoring one's credit and good name. Identity theft is on the rise, and topped the FTC's consumer fraud list for the third year in a row. Unless action is taken to curb the widespread use of SSNs as identifiers or as a condition of doing business, this crime will continue to harm increasing numbers of our citizens.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and give Americans the ability to better safeguard themselves from identity theft.

RECOGNITION OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE TROOPER SCOTT McDONALD

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call your attention to the story of a citizen of the First Congressional District of Massachusetts, State Trooper Scott McDonald. Recently, the Massachusetts State Police awarded Scott a Medal of Lifesaving, an honor bestowed upon Troopers who undertake significant actions in the saving of another life.

During patrol on August 4, 2002, Trooper McDonald responded to a motor vehicle accident in the town of Deerfield. He arrived at the scene to find a truck overturned on the road. The driver was unconscious, without a pulse and not breathing. Immediately, Scott administered CPR on the accident victim. While performing resuscitation, a passing motorist stopped, identified herself as a doctor and said she would pronounce the victim dead. However, Trooper McDonald continued lifesaving efforts. Amazingly, the driver was ultimately revived and flown to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Mr. Speaker, Trooper McDonald is a fine example of the Commonwealth's outstanding first responder community. Troopers like Scott are especially important in the First Congressional District, as many of the towns rely on the State Police for their emergency and law enforcement needs. I join the Massachusetts State Police, the City of Holyoke, and Scott's family and friends in honoring Massachusetts State Trooper Scott McDonald.

TRIBUTE TO FRED LEVY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fred Levy, an extremely gifted educator who dedicated much of his life to expanding horizons for his students. Mr. Levy, an instructor at Cabrillo College for over 30 years, passed away April 9, 2003, at the age of 69. A valued teacher, husband and father, all who knew him respected Fred for his passion and sincerity. Mr. Levy is survived by his

wife, Robley Levy; three children Rebecca, Barnaby, and Elizabeth; and six grandchildren.

Mr. Levy was born in 1934 in Cairo, Egypt, where his father was working as a correspondent for the New York Times. At the age of 7, Sadie Miller, a family friend took him under her wing and fled Egypt to escape impending Nazi troops. They went to great lengths to avoid the Nazis and eventually traveled up the coast of South America and the United States until they reached New York. Fred's parents arrived shortly thereafter, and the family remained in the city until Fred graduated from Amherst College in 1955. Mr. Levy went on to serve in the United States Army, retiring only to pursue a master's degree in poetry at Stanford University.

Mr. Levy was appointed to the Cabrillo College faculty in 1963 as an instructor in both English and speech. Immediately deemed an integral part of the staff, Fred became a much loved teacher that students would seek out for advice and support. Fred was a proactive educator and successfully introduced new academic programs to Cabrillo with the intentions of increasing the variety of subject matter presented in the classroom. Colleagues marveled at his ability to turn shy first-year students into confident university bound scholars through these programs along with his engaging lectures. Not only was Fred passionate about teaching, he also enjoyed acting and directing in Cabrillo College's theater production company. Those who knew Fred best noted that he was also a Shakespeare zealot and frequently organized trips to Oregon for the Shakespeare Festival. Fred retired after a long and successful career in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to Robley and the Levy family during these difficult times. His legacy as a devoted teacher and scholar will blossom as his students apply the lessons taught in his classroom to succeed in life. Those who had the pleasure of sharing Fred's company have and will continue to benefit from his sincere appreciation of life and education.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Essential Air Service Eligibility Fairness Act of 2003, a bill to provide much needed financial relief to the Lancaster Airport and other airports throughout the United States that are adversely impacted by the existing law.

Under current law, if an airport is located fewer than 70 highway miles from the nearest large or medium hub airport, the airport is ineligible to receive a subsidy from the Essential Air Service Program.

However, current law allows the Department of Transportation to determine whether or not a given airport meets the criteria for receiving the EAS subsidy.

State and local officials are better able to determine the most commonly traveled routes in their communities.

In my own Congressional District, the Lancaster Airport has been affected by this debate.

On March 21, 2003, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Department of Transportation's decision to deny Lancaster Airport an EAS subsidy because Lancaster Airport was deemed to be located within 70 highway miles of Philadelphia Airport.

The Lancaster Airport and my constituents were dismayed at this decision.

The route that the Department of Transportation used is not the most commonly used highway route and would take over three hours to drive. The most commonly traveled route is located 80 highway miles from Philadelphia Airport, but takes only one and a half hours to drive.

I am introducing this legislation today, to empower a Governor or a local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to determine eligibility for local EAS subsidies.

Having worked with local MPOs in my district, I am confident that these determinations should be made at the state and local level.

A Lancaster County rank seventh in the state for air service demand and generates over 876,000 annual originating air trips. Additionally, these air travelers pay more than \$20 million per year in aviation taxes.

Lancaster County with over 11,000 businesses and a population of over 472,000 needs and deserves commercial air service.

This legislation will ensure that communities like Lancaster County continue to receive quality local air service. I urge Congress to support this legislation.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
SCOTT SATHER, SERGEANT MICHAEL F. PEDERSON, SPECIALIST RICHARD A. GOWARD,  
AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
JASON M. MEYER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to the honorable service to this country and its citizens given by Staff Sergeant Scott Sather, Sergeant Michael F. Pederson, Specialist Richard A. Goward and Private First Class Jason M. Meyer. On May 5, members of the community will gather at a benefit concert given by the Carriage Town Ministries in Flint, Michigan, to honor Staff Sergeant Scott Sather, Sergeant Michael F. Pederson, Specialist Richard A. Goward and Private First Class Jason M. Meyer for their service to this nation.

Staff Sergeant Sather graduated from Clio High School in 1991 where he excelled in baseball and football. Staff Sergeant Sather joined the United States Air Force in 1992 serving in Washington and England. During his service, Staff Sergeant Sather earned several honors, including a Bronze Star. Staff Sergeant Sather and his wife, Melanie, were married in July of 2002. Staff Sergeant Sather made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation on April 8, 2003 while serving in Iraq.

Sergeant Michael F. Pederson graduated from Flint Northern High School in 1996. Following graduation from high school, Sergeant Pederson joined the United States Army where he was assigned to Hunter Army Air-

field in Georgia. Sergeant Pederson made many achievements while in the Army as well as at home, where he helped support a large family, including his 7-year-old daughter. Sergeant Pederson made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation on April 2, 2003 while serving in Iraq.

Specialist Richard A. Goward graduated from Merrill High School in 1989. Following his graduation from high school, Specialist Goward joined the United States Army where he served from 1990 to 1996. Sergeant Goward married his wife, Karen, and they had two children. Sergeant Goward attended the Corrections Officers Training Academy and was employed at the St. Louis Corrections Facility until the events of September 11, 2001 once again called Sergeant Goward to duty and prompted him to enlist in the Michigan National Guard. Sergeant Goward made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation on April 14, 2003 while serving in Iraq.

Private First Class Jason M. Meyer graduated from Howell High School in 1999. Following his graduation from high school, Private First Class Meyer joined the United States Army where he was assigned to Fort Stewart in Georgia. Private First Class Meyer married his wife, Melissa in March of 2002 and lived in Hinesville Georgia at the time of his deployment. Private First Class Meyer made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation on April 8, 2003 while serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Sather, Sergeant Pederson, Specialist Goward and Private First Class Meyer are sons, they are fathers, husbands and friends. They are true Americans, deserving of our respect and gratitude not only for their devotion to the United States and its ideals, but for their devotion to their families, their friends and their communities. These men are a symbol of excellence to everyone in this nation, and are a shining example of the best our society has to offer. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to these men, their families and their achievements. May their sacrifices be remembered always.

HONORING CHATTANOOGA BAR ASSOCIATION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Chattanooga Bar Association in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee and join them in celebrating their upcoming Law Day luncheon on May 7, 2003.

In 1957, American Bar Association President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C. attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed a "Law Day" to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. In 1961, May 1st was designated by a joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

On this Law Day 2003, we have the opportunity to re-examine how we, as a nation, want our judiciary to function. At a time when partisanship and special interests try to shape a judiciary, we have the responsibility to reaffirm

our commitment to an independent third branch of government.

This year on May 7th, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor the legal community of Chattanooga, Tennessee with their annual Law Day luncheon. During the luncheon, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor Judith P. Medearis with the 2003 "Liberty Bell Award." This award, given to a person who is not in the legal profession, is one of the CBA's highest honors. The purpose of the "Liberty Bell Award" is to recognize community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under law. In selecting the recipient of this award, the Chattanooga Bar Association considers activities which (1) promote a better understanding of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights; (2) encourage a greater respect for the law and the courts; (3) stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights; (4) contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and (5) foster a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law. I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Judith Medearis for her contribution to the Chattanooga community.

Beginning in 1999, the CBA began awarding a college scholarship to the winner of the Annual Law Day Essay Contest. This year's theme was "Celebrate Your Freedom—Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties". Megan Galbreth, a Junior at Girls Preparatory School is the winner for 2003. I join the CBA in congratulating Megan for her award-winning essay.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking the Board of Governors of the Chattanooga Bar Association for their contributions and commitment to the legal profession and to the Chattanooga community. The members of the Board of Governors Executive Committee are: Lynda Minks Hood, Executive Director; Honorable Rebecca J. Stern, President; Alan L. Cates, President-Elect; Michael K. Alston, Secretary-Treasurer; Harold L. North, Jr., Immediate Past President. Board members include: William H. Cox, III; James M. Haley, IV; Cynthia D. Hall; Steven M. Jacoway; Jason L. Thomas; Joseph R. White and Wade Hinton.

COMMENDING EDWARD J. McELROY OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call to the attention of the House Mr. Edward J. McElroy, an extraordinary federal employee—a person who would typically be referred to in this chamber as a bureaucrat. Indeed, he is one, the interim director of the Department of Justice's new Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York. But in my community in New York, we don't think of him as a bureaucrat, or as a cog in the impersonal and vast machinery of the federal government. In Queens, Ed McElroy is a hero.

About 3 weeks ago I called him after discovering that a young man in my community, Mo-

hammad Sarfaraz Hussain, was on the verge of being deported. Now eighteen, this young man came to New York from Pakistan when he was a seven year old little boy, to be with his mother as she died in the hospital. Only a few short years later, his father died of a heart attack leaving him an orphan.

Despite these tragedies, Mohammad thrived in Queens. Living with his aunt and uncle, and with the support of his siblings and cousins, his school and his friends, Mohammad has grown to be the kind of young man all of us hope our society produces: decent, modest and responsible, a varsity basketball player with a crowd of friends and a bright future ahead of him.

But in February, after reporting to immigration officials in New York under the special registration program implemented after 9/11 to screen male aliens from high-risk states, Mohammad was told that he was in our country illegally and that our federal government would seek his deportation. He was supposed to appear before a federal judge today.

A terrible tragedy was unfolding, a young man, an orphan, who since he was in second grade had only known life in America, was only weeks away from being sent to Pakistan, where he had no family and knew no one.

Mr. Speaker, this scenario is not what we had in mind when the special screening procedures were put in place. The new screening policy makes a lot of sense for the security of our nation, it made no sense when applied in this case. The most threatening thing about Mohammad Hussain is his jump shot.

But the story has a happy ending Mr. Speaker because in New York, the federal government is lucky enough to have Ed McElroy making decisions about the enforcement of immigration laws.

Instead of ducking his head, instead of hiding behind rules and regulations to avoid making a decision, Ed McElroy did the kind of job we all hope our federal employees will do. He investigated, he looked deeper, he performed due diligence, he protected the interests of the United States and most importantly, he did the right thing.

After taking all the steps necessary to ensure that America's interests were met first, Ed McElroy notified me that he had reviewed Mr. Hussain's case would exercise prosecutorial discretion in not removing him from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot to be proud of in a case like this. There is, of course, Mohammad Hussain, a young man like millions of others who has come to this country in tragic circumstances and has come to know, love and live the American dream.

And, making the continuation of this American story possible is a federal employee, a bureaucrat. A hero named Ed McElroy who understands that his responsibility as a guardian of our nation's borders and laws is not just the implementation of regulations, but the use of judgement in the pursuit of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call the House's attention to the great job Ed McElroy has done, and I know the whole House will join me in thanking him for his service, which is a credit to the entire United States government.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the more than 1200 students from across the United States that traveled to Washington, D.C. this past weekend to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, We the People is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that students from West Anchorage High School in Anchorage represented the state of Alaska in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. For the first time in the competition's history, a team from Alaska participated in the events' final round and finished the competition in 4th Place.

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

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

I am proud to have the class from West Anchorage High School represent my home state of Alaska and I applaud their historic 4th Place finish. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us

as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles, which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS  
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak regarding H.R. 1350, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

It is with great regret that I feel compelled to vote against the IDEA reauthorization bill. I had looked forward to voting on a bill that finally provides adequate resources for students with disabilities, their families, and teachers. I had looked forward to voting on a bill that would continue to protect the unique needs of children with disabilities. Unfortunately, the measure offered by the majority failed on both these counts and does a disservice to the teachers and the children that they serve.

I am profoundly disappointed that once again our Congress has failed to live up to the funding promises of the original Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, passed in 1975. The original bill recognized our federal responsibility to help states provide a free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities. While the original law promised to fund 40% of states' costs to educate these special needs children, Congress has never funded more than 18%. Without appropriate funds, schools are caught in a failing balancing act, trying to provide adequate resources to students with disabilities while also meeting the needs of typical students. I know the rural schools in the First District of Texas simply cannot wait any longer for the relief they so badly need. We should have finally committed ourselves to fulfilling the promise of IDEA with mandatory funding for these students. Anything less is unacceptable.

I am also deeply concerned regarding the discipline provisions in H.R. 1350 for children with disabilities. No one believes that teachers and principals should not have the right to discipline students. However, this bill eliminates protections that children with disabilities deserve in consideration of their limitations. Current law requires schools to determine whether a student's actions were the result of a disability before determining a punishment. This new bill does not do so and puts more students at risk for suspension or expulsion. It is important that we retain protections for the best interests of these children, and remember the challenges they endure.

This IDEA bill also fails to protect families who feel their school system is not complying with their children's needs. Previously there

was no statute of limitations on parents' rights to file grievances against the schools. This new bill requires that they do so within one year of the incident. Often times parents aren't aware of the rights that their children are entitled to under IDEA and do not fully understand what services would best suit their child. While we should discuss the need for closure on potential liability for schools, certainly parents should have more than one year to appeal their schools' decisions.

My mother was a school teacher for 30 years and has well impressed upon me the challenges of teaching children with disabilities without the resources to back it up. I have talked with parents of special needs children at length about the struggles they face in getting their children the services they so badly need. Our parents and teachers desperately need our help and this bill fails to meet the mark. For these reasons, I cannot support the IDEA re-authorization bill, but will continue to fight in Congress to give our communities the educational resources they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE LT.  
GENERAL ROGER DEKOK

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and career of my friend, Air Force Lt. General Roger DeKok.

General DeKok died suddenly last week while on a business trip. My heartfelt condolences, and those of the many individuals in the South Bay he commanded and who were his friends, go to his wife, Carol, and family.

I first met General DeKok when he assumed command in August 1996 of the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) at Los Angeles Air Force Base in my district. SMC is the Air Force's pre-eminent procurement center for space-based systems, including the nation's sophisticated surveillance satellites and technology to track and intercept enemy missiles.

Commander of SMC for only two years, General DeKok excelled in motivating people. His loyalty, warmth and kind personality are virtues for which he will be remembered. Under his leadership, SMC continued its tradition of excellence and continued to produce many of the high quality space-based systems necessary for the war fighter of the 21st century.

General DeKok's activities and passion centered on the frontiers of outer space. He served in numerous space plans and operations positions, from detachment level to space policy work in the White House, and commanded two space wings.

While serving at the Pentagon in 1983, he coordinated the Air Force Space Plan. During his assignment to the White House National Security Council, he helped develop and coordinate the U.S. National Space Policy that was signed by President Reagan in January 1988. Prior to assuming his last position as vice commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, he served as deputy chief of staff for plans and programs at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, where he was responsible to the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff for planning, programming and

manpower activities within the corporate Air Force.

General DeKok retired from the Air Force in April 2002 after 34 years of service and joined TRW Inc., which was later acquired by Northrop Grumman Corp. At the time of his passing, he was vice president and deputy general manager of Northrop Grumman's Command, Control & Intelligence Division.

Roger DeKok deserves the thanks of a grateful nation. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and the communities he served.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER  
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED  
STATES FOR THEIR ONGOING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, as well as co-chair of National Charter School Week, I strongly support the H. Res. 204, legislation honoring National Charter Schools Week.

Public schools are America's commitment to providing a high quality education for every child. I am dedicated to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education regardless of what public school they attend. This includes charter schools, which are models of successful education reform and one of the fastest growing education innovations working to improve our public education.

As a National Co-Chair of Charter Schools, I would like to take a minute to celebrate the first decade of Charter Schools in the United States. Traditionally, charter schools are independent public schools, designed and operated by educators, parents, community members and others. Since the first charter school began operation in 1992 in St. Paul, Minnesota, the number of charter schools has grown to nearly 2,700, serving 500,000 students around the country.

I am proud to say that we currently have 128 charter schools operating across the state of Wisconsin. In my congressional district alone, we have 20 charter schools presently and that number grows each year.

Just last week, I took the opportunity to visit the LaCrossoroads Charter School in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and was impressed by all of the wonderful things that have been accomplished there in just the past several years. The interests, involvement and stewardship of these charter school students extend well beyond La Crosse and reach out beyond the borders of this country with their active participation in the Red Cross School Chest Program. For this program, LaCrossoroads students have been collecting school supplies for Red Cross distribution to children in other countries, who are unable to attend school because of war or natural disasters.

Charter schools have consistently been at the forefront of my priority list, and I am pleased that Wisconsin is one of seven states with over 100 exceptional charter schools. I have consistently advocated for increased

funding for Charter Schools and supported the Charter School Facilities Financing Demonstration Program during consideration of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that charter schools give parents options when determining the best public school in which to enroll their children. Thus, we must ensure that all our students reach their highest academic potential, which may require attending a charter school that provides a model better suited towards an individual student's needs.

**H.R. 1350, IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1350, Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act of 2003.

More than two decades ago, the federal government imposed special education mandates on states and local school districts. Ever since then, the federal government has struggled to fund those mandates.

Our nation's special needs children require a special commitment. And I'm pleased that this Congress has met that commitment with this IDEA renewal and reauthorization bill.

It is important to note that since 1996 when Republicans regained the majority of this body, overall federal IDEA funding to states and school districts has increased by 282.3%. From 1996 to 2003, IDEA spending has increased an average of 18.6% per year—that's more than double the average annual increases from 1988 to 1995 when Democrats held the majority.

This bill reauthorizes that renewed commitment that our party has brought to our nation's education policy. Not only is it Congress' responsibility to financially support the provision of special education by local school districts, it is our duty to ensure that no child is left behind in America's classrooms. Today, with this legislation we reaffirm this important priority.

In addition to renewing our continued commitment to special needs education funding, H.R. 1350 increases accountability and improves education results for children with disabilities by deemphasizing compliance with complicated rules, diverting that attention to delivering academic results. It ensures that parents of special needs children will receive report cards from schools showing academic progress indicators beginning in 2005, just as the No Child Left Behind reforms implemented such policies for mainstream students.

H.R. 1350 reduces the Individualized Education Plan, or IEP, paperwork burden on districts and special education teachers, lengthening the required IEP filing from every one to three years, though these provisions in the bill are options for BOTH states and parents. If parents opt for an annual IEP, this package continues to guarantee that right. By amending lengthy paperwork requirements, we ensure that teachers will spend more of their time on instructing students and less on filing government forms.

In addition, H.R. 1350 improves early intervention strategies to reduce overidentifying or even misidentifying students as those with special needs. This legislation will give flexibility to local districts to use a percentage of funds for pre-referral services.

Finally, this legislation supports general education and special education teachers by providing for appropriate professional development and encouraging innovative approaches to parental involvement and parental choice.

Mr. Chairman, local school districts throughout my congressional district in New York State face uncertain fiscal times this coming budget year and, quite possibly, well into the near future. Funding instructional services for students with special needs is an enormous burden these districts bear. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1350 to more fully share in this responsibility.

**REGULATORY CERTAINTY**

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on an issue of critical importance to our economy.

Throughout the broadband debate over the past two years, we have all heard from carriers of all shapes and sizes. They have very different business plans and different opinions on the way competition should proceed. The one common message from all of these disparate companies, however, is a strong and urgent call for regulatory certainty. Individual investors, Wall Street analysts and companies alike all demand it.

I fear that the recent FCC action on the Triennial Review threatens to exponentially increase regulatory uncertainty for the telecommunications sector. I fear lawsuits all across the country that will drag out resolution of these important issues for many years to come. Our world of digital packets of information traveling at the speed of light knows no geographic boundaries. However the resulting state-by-state patchwork of burdensome regulations threatens to pose yet another obstacle to getting reasonably priced broadband to our constituents.

The old adage is true, you can't make everyone happy, all of the time. But if we level the playing field and let the markets work, the smart people in these companies can at least develop business plans and investors can judge their strategy on the merits. These companies need some clear direction so they can plan their futures, adjust, adapt and deliver for their shareholders and consumers.

Just ten short years ago we watched as the telecommunications sector drove the greatest economic expansion in the history of the world. The American people that are suffering through this depressed economy demand leadership. We must provide certainty and stability to the telecommunications sector so that our markets can work and drive our economy to greatness once again.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S. CHAMPION MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team as the United States Academic Decathlon Champions.

This is the second time in five years that Moorpark High School's team has won this premiere scholastic contest. Prior to its win in 1999, no team from Ventura County, California, had even competed in the nationals.

Team members Lindsay Hebert, Nathaniel Jones, Adam Abed, Paul Ideal, Kevin Randolph, Ashlee Scott, Grant Volk, Tracy Yagi and Max Geiger are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their school, their community and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For nine months they put in up to 40 hours a week beyond their school days to study and hone their skills. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs and time with their families.

Their hard work paid off. Last weekend, Moorpark scored 51,423 points out of a possible 60,000 points to win the national title against 37 other teams from throughout the country. They brought home 15 gold, nine silver and seven bronze medals.

Their coach, Larry Jones, worked as hard, if not harder, than his students and is as deserving of high praise. Coach Jones has said he will retire from the team after 12 years of leading dozens of students to victory at the county, state and national level. He said the same thing after winning the 1999 championship, but this time he says he means it. At a minimum, he has earned some relaxation in the glow of a job well done—again. I know my colleagues will join me in wishing him the best in whatever his future brings.

Mr. Speaker, I also know my colleagues will join me in applauding nine outstanding students who achieved a very prestigious goal—Lindsay Hebert, Nathaniel Jones, Adam Abed, Paul Ideal, Kevin Randolph, Ashlee Scott, Grant Volk, Tracy Yagi and Max Geiger—the U.S. champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

**VOTER PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Voter Protection Act. Unlike most so-called "campaign reform" proposals, the Voter Protection Act enhances fundamental liberties and expands the exchange of political ideas. The Voter Fairness Act accomplishes this goal by lowering and standardizing the requirements for, and the time required to get, signatures to qualify a Federal candidate for the ballot. Many states have unfair rules and regulations that make it virtually impossible for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot.

I want to make 4 points about this bill. First, it is constitutional. Article I, section 4, explicitly authorizes the U.S. Congress to, "At any time by law make or alter such regulations regarding the manner of holding elections." This is the authority that was used for the Voter Rights Act of 1965.

The second point I would like to make is an issue of fairness. Because so many states require independent candidates to collect an excessive amount of signatures in a short period of time, many individuals are excluded from the ballot. For instance, there has not been one minor party candidate on the Georgia ballot since 1943, because of Georgia's overly strict ballot access requirements. This is unfair. The Voter Protection Act corrects this.

My third point addresses those who worry about overcrowding on the ballot. In fact, there have been statistical studies made of states that have minimal signature requirements and generous grants of time to collect the signatures. Instead of overcrowding, these states have an average of 3.3 candidates per ballot.

The fourth point that I would like to make is that complying with ballot access rules drains resources from even those minor party candidates able to comply with these onerous rules. This obviously limits the ability of minor party candidates to communicate their message and ideas to the general public. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42 percent of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The Voter Protection Act is a constitutional way to reform campaign laws to increase voter participation by making the election process fairer and open to new candidates and ideas. I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this true campaign reform bill.

#### CONTINUING SUPPORT OF U.S. ARMED FORCES

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who continue to act with honor, courage, valor, and respect. Operation Iraqi Freedom was fought with precision and ended decisively.

Through the sweat and blood of our troops a vicious dictator's regime has ended, the American people are safer, and an oppressed people have new hope for the future. These extraordinary men and women risked their lives for this noble cause, while many nations stood on the sidelines, once again proving that America is the symbol of liberty and freedom in the world.

I encourage Americans to continue their support of our troops and their families, even long after the war no longer headlines on our nightly news. I commend radio host Mike Gallagher for doing his part, in organizing a benefit concert, featuring the Marshall Tucker Band, for military families in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and I hope others follow his lead.

May Cod bless our troops and may Cod bless America.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD WAR I VETERAN AL ROSS

### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I bring sad news of the passing of an American hero, Mr. Al Ross of Palm Beach County, Florida at the age of 101. Al Ross was one of the last remaining veterans of World War I.

Al was a living legend in Palm Beach County, who freely gave of his time to educate many generations of Americans on the true meaning of service to our nation and deep understanding of the Pledge of Allegiance. In countless schools and public appearances around the county, he was a fiery champion for all veterans and a defender of the flag. Up until the very last moment that continued to be his mission.

In 2002, fewer than 500 veterans of World War I remained and Al was the last known survivor in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. Still wearing his 1918 Navy uniform, I last saw him this past July 4th speaking to a Town of Palm Beach picnic celebrating America. As always, he had something new to share with his audience, and this month was looking forward to again being a featured speaker at this year's Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery.

We in Congress should remember Al Ross, along with his fellow soldiers and sailors from the Great War who are rapidly departing God's green earth which they ably defended with honor and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Al Ross, small in stature, big in heart will be missed. He lived to see our military go from trench warfare to laser guided missiles, from Verdun to Baghdad. Yet as Al Ross would say, our flag was still there bringing freedom and hope to people around the world.

In Al's honor I close with his favorite, The Pledge of Allegiance, which he recited many hundreds of times and explained its meaning in his own colorful way.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Mr. Speaker, I salute Al Ross on behalf of a grateful nation.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF BRIG. GEN. AUSTIN SHOFNER

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the memory of a great American hero and warrior, Brig. Gen. Austin C. Shofner, who retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1959 to return back to his home of Shelbyville, Tennessee.

At the time of his death in 1999, Gen. Shofner was the state's most decorated vet-

eran, having survived the Bataan Death March during World War II. Not only did the tenacious Marine survive this harrowing experience, but he escaped his captors to report the atrocity to the rest of the world. Once he recovered from the starvation and severe beatings inflicted on him during his captivity, he was given command of a battalion that ferociously fought on the western Pacific shores of Peleliu, where he was badly wounded.

Refusing to be sidelined for long, Gen. Shofner recovered from his wounds and led another battalion of Marines that attacked the enemy on the island of Okinawa. He was only 28 years old at the end of World War II. Through the courageous actions of warriors like Gen. Shofner, the United States of America has persevered against its enemies. We are once again facing uncertain times and an unconventional enemy, so it is appropriate that we remember our nation's past heroes. Their deeds and acts of bravery are an inspiration to America's current breed of fighting men and women who go in harm's way to protect us and the interests of this great nation.

God bless the brave men and women who wear and have worn the uniforms of our Armed Forces. And God bless the sacrifices they have made and will continue to make to keep this country free. Brig. Gen. Austin Shofner made many sacrifices when his country depended on him the most. He is the epitome of courage and honor and will forever be remembered as a true hero.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE RUNAWAY, HOMELESS, AND MISSING CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker Today I introduce the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act. This legislation contains the reauthorization of both the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This bill strengthens the programs and services authorized under these acts in order to better address the needs of the at-risk youth served.

The changes that were made to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act will allow for a larger percentage of the allocation to go toward Transitional Living Programs. This will help to meet the need that exists for these programs so older runaway and homeless youth can develop the skills and resources to promote their independence and prevent future dependency on social services. Additionally, youth who are participating in the Transitional Living Program who come to the end of their 18 month stay before they reach the age of 18 will now be able to receive an exception to stay in the Transitional Living Program until they are 18 years old. The bill clarifies that term "group homes" in the Transitional Living Program includes "maternity group homes." These group homes operate currently and have been successful at providing child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote the parent's long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of the child. The Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection

Act authorizes parts A (Basic Centers Program), B (Transitional Living Program), C (National Communications System), and D (Coordination, Training, Research, and Other Activities) at \$105 million for fiscal year 2004 and at such sums for fiscal years 2005 through 2008 and authorizes part E (Street Outreach Program) at such sums for fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

Additionally, the bill addresses the needs of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children by reauthorizing the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This legislation increases the authorization level of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 to mirror the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Child Today Act of 2003 (PROTECT Act), and extends the authorization of the remaining activities under the Act through 2008. The Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act also allows the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to coordinate the operation of a cyber tipline to provide online users an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation in the areas of distribution of child pornography, online enticement of children for sexual acts, and child prostitution.

This piece of legislation has been worked out in a very bipartisan fashion and I am happy that we were able to come together to help address the needs of runaway, homeless, missing and exploited youth. These at-risk youth receive much needed services through these Acts and I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

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HONORING MR. FRED LEWIS

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the exemplary work and most commendable public service of a fine and most outstanding music teacher, Mr. Fred Lewis. After 45 years as director of the Fenton High School Band located in Bensenville, Illinois, Mr. Fred Lewis is retiring in June of 2003.

During his tenure, he has instructed over 2000 band members and conducted hundreds of community concerts. Since 1955 the band has toured every two years throughout the United States and Europe gaining national and international recognition.

Mr. Lewis' final concert will be held on May 10, 2003. At that time, a scholarship fund will be established in Mr. Lewis' name at Fenton High School. Each year the Fred Lewis Scholarship Fund Committee will provide a cash award to a graduating senior band member to be used for continuing music education. Also, the Fenton Auditorium will be renamed Lewis/Huffman Auditorium.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and offering congratulations to this outstanding teacher of 45 years for his selfless dedication to his students and to Fenton High School.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARINES FROM  
THE 2ND BATTALION, 23RD MARINE  
REGIMENT, 4TH MARINE  
DIVISION

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, headquartered in Encino, CA and to their families who support them, give them strength, and struggle heroically to keep things going at home while they serve overseas.

I am particularly pleased to join Major General John J. McCarthy, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, Judge Harry Pregerson and all of the family members of this Battalion in celebrating our own special "Marine Family Day," an event which is planned both to provide some recreation for the family members of our reservists and to honor the more than 900 members of this Marine Forces Reserve unit who served in Iraq, and especially those 38 who were wounded in action. Sadly, one Marine, Staff Sergeant James Cawley was killed in action during this conflict.

Since the creation of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines in July 1942, the battalion has valiantly fought in numerous campaigns from World War II where its members saw action at Iwo Jima and Saipan to Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and, of course, Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were deployed in February of this year, and have earned the distinction of being the longest-serving reserve unit in theater. While this status has earned them honor and respect, it was gained at enormous sacrifice on the part of both them and their loved ones.

Not only have these reservists risked their lives, many have taken steep pay cuts and put their careers on hold to do so. They have missed birthdays, holidays, and other important family events. These men and women are police officers, firemen, doctors, lawyers, executives, and workers of every stripe and variety; people who make up the fabric of our communities. They are our husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends. They are patriots.

I am proud that many of these reservists and their families live and work in my congressional district and I am honored to be celebrating with them this Saturday. I ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting the men, women, and families of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

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CELEBRATING POLISH  
CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Polish Constitution Day, Saturday, May 3rd. More than 111,000 people of Polish descent live in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois. Amazingly, Chicago has more people of Polish descent than any other city except Warsaw, and I know they will all be

reflecting on their proud heritage this Saturday.

Members of this body may not be aware of the Third of May Constitution, but passed on May 3, 1791, it was the second constitution in the world—second only to the Constitution of the United States. It was the first in Europe. This important event in the history of Poland, indeed the history of the world, is too often overlooked. Recently, however, there has been a movement to resurrect the memory of this important event, and today I stand before you in honor of its significance.

Slavic in origin, Poland has a tremendous history of more than a thousand years. During that time it has been invaded, occupied and liberated on numerous occasions. Yet, throughout a tumultuous history, Poland has remained uniquely Polish. Today Poland plays a vital role in Eastern Europe and is a friend to the United States.

Like most of Europe, Poland began life as a feudal state. But it also has a rich democratic history. In 1346 Casimir the Great established the first Polish legal code and in 1364 laid the foundation of Krakow University, providing two vital ingredients for democracy—rule of law and an educated populace. In 1430, Poland established the "Nieminem Captivabimus," similar to our Habeas Corpus. By 1493, Poland established a Parliament with two houses, a Senate of dignitaries, and the Sejm which consisted of elected representatives. Following 1505, Parliament's consent was required for all new laws. The Third of May Constitution represents the culmination of these democratic reforms.

On May 3rd, 1791, the Sejm passed the Government Act, or what is today known as the Third of May Constitution. Embracing Enlightenment ideals like Rousseau's doctrine of national sovereignty and Montesquieu's concepts of a tripartite government, the Third of May Constitution demonstrates Poland's important role in helping to establish the modern world. While the Government Act still retained some resemblances of Poland's feudal heritage, it extended rights to citizens who previously had little or no rights. Peasants, for example, were officially placed under the protection of the "law and government of the country." Unfortunately, soon after enactment Russia invaded Poland and the country was partitioned by Germany and Russia, abolishing the Constitution. Still, Poland can proudly look back on 1791 as a time when Poland helped establish modern democracy.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I look forward to joining the people of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the world, in celebrating the common bond of democracy. I hope the members of this body will join me in saluting this important day.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, 2003, I missed rollcall vote number 149, H. Res. 206, the rule for H.R. 1350 due to my service on active duty as a reserve naval officer. Had I been present I would have voted "yea".

THE INDIVIDUAL TAX  
SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing "The Individual Tax Simplification Act of 2003," and I invite all my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation, which is identical to legislation I filed last Congress.

The tax code seems to get more and more complex each year, despite calls for simplification. Recently, the Joint Tax Committee determined that taxpayers are increasingly relying on paid return preparers, up 27 percent over a decade. Over the same period, the reliance on computer software has jumped from 16 percent of returns filed to 46 percent. Tax code complexity leads not only to taxpayer frustration and confusion, but also increased costs. Tax code complexity also leads to difficulties for the IRS in administering our tax laws fairly and consistently.

The simplification bill that I have re-introduced will eliminate hundreds of lines from tax forms, schedules and worksheets. I believe that it is possible and preferable to accomplish simplification in a revenue neutral manner, and without moving money between economic income groups. While some may argue that there is no constituency for simplification, I would say that is certainly changing. One survey found that two-thirds of taxpayers said the federal tax system is too complicated, up from barely 50 percent five years ago.

The Individual Tax Simplification Act has three parts. The first is based on legislation I introduced in the last three Congresses regarding nonrefundable personal credits. The second part simplifies the taxation of capital gains. The third part repeals two hidden marginal tax rates on high-income individuals, and repeals the individual minimum tax.

*Title I—Simplification Relating to Nonrefundable Personal Credits*

In recent years, much tax relief has been given to taxpayers in the form of nonrefundable credits, like the education credits. These credits are not usable against the alternative minimum tax. That means that more and more individuals will lose all or part of these credits, and will have to fill out the extremely complicated Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) form. Congress has recognized this problem by enacting a short-term waiver of this exclusion. Congress has also permanently taken the child credit and the adoption credit out of the AMT. Now is the time to finish the job.

The other problem with nonrefundable credits is that the phase-out provisions vary from credit to credit, causing unnecessary complexity. In addition, the same additional dollar of income can result in a reduction in more than one nonrefundable credit. It is fundamentally wrong to promise the American public tax relief, then take all or part of it away in a backhanded manner. This fundamentally flawed policy, enacted in 1997, will get worse each and every year as more American families find themselves to be AMT taxpayers simply because of the impact of inflation, or because of their desire to take advantage of the tax relief we have promised them. Not only that, this situation has gotten much worse since the passage of the 2001 tax cuts.

This bill addresses both concerns. First, it permanently waives the minimum tax limitations on all nonrefundable credits. Second, the bill creates a single phase-out range for the adoption credit, the child credit, and the education credits, replacing the current three phase-out ranges.

*Title II—Simplification of Capital Gains Tax*

The second title of this bill substantially simplifies taxation of capital gains. Under current law, there are five different tax rates for long-term capital gains, and a complicated, 40-line tax form that must be endured. Moreover, this part of the tax code is already scheduled to get worse because additional rates will take affect under current law in 2006. The solution is clear. Replace this jumble of rates and forms with a simple 38 percent exclusion. Not only will this result in tremendous simplification, but more than 97 percent of individuals would be eligible for modest capital gains tax reductions.

*Title III—Repeal of Certain Hidden Marginal Rate Increases, and of the Individual Minimum Tax*

The third title of the bill repeals the hidden marginal rate increases in current law, and repeals the individual minimum tax. For many taxpayers, discovery of the Personal Exemptions Phaseout (PEP) and the "Pease," which limits itemized deductions, can be both confusing and disappointing.

Under current law, itemized deductions are gradually reduced by 3 percent of adjusted gross income (AGI) above approximately \$139,000, or by 80 percent of the otherwise allowable itemized deductions for individuals exceeding \$139,000 AGI, whichever is lower. This is known as the Pease provision. In addition, personal exemptions are gradually phased out for incomes between approximately \$139,000 and \$262,000. This is known as the PEP. If we did not hide the effect of these provisions of current law, more people would know that these provisions result in hidden marginal rate increases. Current law has a hidden marginal rate increase, which gets worse as families grow larger. The 2001 tax cuts as enacted provide for gradual phase-out of both of these limitations in 2006, but then the repeal is subject to a sunset. This bill would immediately eliminate both.

The second part of this title is a complete repeal of the individual AMT. The original intent of the AMT was to make sure that wealthy individuals did not overuse certain tax benefits and unfairly reduce their tax burden. Unfortunately, it no longer accomplishes that goal. Since the AMT is not adjusted for inflation, more and more middle income taxpayers are falling into the AMT. In fact, a recent Tax Policy Center report showed that by the end of the decade, the AMT will hit 97 percent of all families with two children earning between \$75,000 and \$100,000. This is not what was intended, especially when you consider that what pushes taxpayers into the AMT now, more often than not, are state and local income and property taxes, personal exemptions, and the nonrefundable credits. The National Taxpayer Advocate has called for the repeal of the AMT, finding that the AMT calculation adds another 12 hours of preparation time for a taxpayer. Certainly, this is not what Congress was trying to accomplish when the AMT was passed.

My suggestion is to repeal it for individuals, and substitute a simple tax on adjusted gross

income. The current hidden tax is dropped, and is paid for with an explicit tax on the same individuals. They get simplification, and we convert a deceptive practice into an open one.

This bill gives the Secretary of the Treasury the ability to set the rate so that this bill would be revenue neutral over ten years. The threshold amount, chosen to mimic the reality of current law, would be \$120,000, and \$150,000 in the cases of a joint return.

*Conclusion*

This bill provides fairly dramatic simplification of the individual tax system. It eliminates up to 200 lines on tax forms, schedules and worksheets. It is basically revenue neutral, so it can be accomplished during a year when there is no budget surplus to fund tax cuts. It does not attempt to shift money between income groups. The general philosophy behind the bill is that those who benefit from tax simplification of the current code should offset any revenue loss involved.

With only one-third of individuals actually willing to fill out their own forms, it is time for Congress to act. Unfortunately, the reality is that no one wants to pay for simplification no matter how much they support the goal. Here is my suggestion. I am introducing this legislation to continue the discussion I began during the 106th Congress. I am pleased that this Administration has talked about the need for tax simplification. I am also pleased that since I began this effort, the Joint Committee on Taxation and other Members of Congress have joined the debate. I look forward to working with all interested parties in this simplification effort.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS  
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1350, reauthorizing legislation for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The reauthorization of IDEA is critical to the educational outcomes of millions of students with disabilities for years to come. I am sorely disappointed that H.R. 1350 represents a lack of commitment to fulfilling the promise of IDEA by failing to fund the law, and even proposes changes undermining the very philosophy of IDEA.

IDEA was enacted with the clear intention of eliminating discrimination against students with disabilities by promising a free and appropriate education to children with disabilities. Even with the increases in IDEA funding over the last several years, the federal government has never lived up to its share of this promise, which was intended to be 40 percent of the cost of special education services. These recent increases touted on the floor of the House have only added up to 18 percent—hardly significant in a time of state budget crises. As schools are forced to dip into their

general education budgets to make up for the shortfall in special education funding, all of America's students are losing out—and those with disabilities are being left behind.

Every year, access to education for students with disabilities is subjected to the federal appropriations process—and every year, it comes up short. I am dismayed that H.R. 1350 fails to provide for mandatory funding, and outraged that the leadership allowed for 14 amendments to be offered on this bill but denied my colleagues and me the opportunity to vote on two proposed amendments that would have guaranteed children with disabilities and their families the access to necessary resources for their education.

Further, H.R. 1350 makes significant substantive changes counter to the philosophy of IDEA. One of many alarming changes is the elimination of a key civil rights protection providing safeguards for students with disabilities in instances where behavior problems may be a manifestation of their disability. Currently, IDEA sets up a structure for initial assessments and intervention plans, so that disruptive or problematic behavior can be avoided or mitigated. In instances where students with disabilities do violate a school code, IDEA currently requires administrators to determine if the offending behavior is a manifestation of a student's disability. If that is the case, then the student, teachers and parents can return to the original behavior plan and find a way to work together to avoid further problems. If that is not the case, the student can then be subjected to the same penalties as a non-disabled student would.

I believe the current disciplinary review process is fair and in the best interest of all students. Even with these protections, students with disabilities are over-represented among students who are expelled. Yet, H.R. 1350 proposes to eliminate the provisions that require both consideration of a child's disability and use of functional behavioral assessments and intervention plans—denying students the safeguards that assure them access to educational services and placing them at significantly greater risk.

I have also heard a strong sentiment against the proposed changes in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) from my constituents, and parents and educators across the country. H.R. 1350 contains a provision to eliminate the requirement of short-term benchmarks, resulting in a negative impact on the effective collaboration between home and schools providing appropriate education and related services to students with disabilities. Measuring student progress against short-term objectives is needed to ensure that student evaluations are regular and based on multiple criteria. I hear stories of students who have achieved the goals set in their one-year IEP in less than that time—this is something that should be acknowledged, celebrated and encouraged—not overlooked. Any steps toward imposing a three-year IEP are steps toward overlooking the progress made in the collaborations that are essential to IDEA.

The reauthorizing legislation also fails to recognize a shortage of qualified personnel that has hampered the full implementation of IDEA for 25 years. H.R. 1350 eliminates language that sets standards for special education service providers. In the No Child Left Behind Act, Congress made it clear that every child should have a highly qualified teacher,

yet H.R. 1350 removes the highest requirement provision—at a time when high standards were never more important. Every contentious issue related to IDEA—discipline, disproportionate representation of minorities, over-identification of students referred to special education—could be better addressed by ensuring an adequate supply of appropriately trained and highly qualified personnel. Ultimately, highly trained professionals make all the difference in providing an appropriate education for any student—students with disabilities are no different.

I urge my colleagues to only support legislation that preserves the spirit and meaning of IDEA. I am disappointed that the reauthorizing legislation we are here to vote on today fails to live up to that standard, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1350.

HONORING LANCE MICHAEL  
ARCHBOLD FOR EARNING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lance Michael Archbold, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 134, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lance has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as Camp Geiger, Camp Bartle, Camp Jayhawk, High Adventures hiking in Colorado, floating down Buffalo River and Current River, biking 225 miles of the Katy Trail in Missouri, and Junior Leader Corp for Webelos Day Camp. Over the nine years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges. Additionally, Lance has held several leadership positions, serving as scribe, den chief, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, outdoor program manager, co-captain and captain. Lance also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Arrow of Light Award, Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow, Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, the On My Honor Award, and the Duty to God Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Lance helped the Independence visitors center for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with their annual Christmas tree display for the community. He built stands for each tree they had on display so the trees would not tip over. The organization has used them for two years now.

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

REINTRODUCTION OF THE VET-  
ERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that allows veterans to use their guaranteed VA loans to purchase co-operative housing units. FHA and other government agencies already have programs to give loans for co-operative residential units, and most banks accept co-operative shares as collateral. The Department of Veterans Affairs should do the same. For many veterans who live in communities where co-operative housing is common or where the cost of houses and condominiums can be high, a co-operative residential unit is an affordable alternative.

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP'S  
75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Farmers Insurance Group's 75th Anniversary and Diamond Jubilee, which it celebrated on March 28, 2003. This year commemorates the company's three-quarters of a century of serving tens-of-millions of policyholders and customers across the country. Founded in 1928 in Los Angeles by Thomas E. Leavey and John C. Tyler, true entrepreneurs and philanthropists, Farmers has grown into one of the largest and most successful insurance companies in America.

Nationally, Farmers Insurance employs nearly 20,000 individuals and has an insurance agent and district manager force of more than 15,000 strong. In California, Farmers is the largest state-based insurer and employs over 6,000 individuals and has in excess of 4,000 exclusive agents and district managers. These employees, agents and district managers are a valuable financial and insurance resource for their communities. They are also leaders in volunteer service. Over the years, Farmers Insurance Group's employees, agents and district managers have volunteered their time, personal finances and raised millions of dollars for local, state and national philanthropies and charities.

Today, Farmers Insurance remains committed to community service and providing excellence in financial advice and security. Throughout the last 75 years Farmers Insurance Group has emerged as the third largest property and casualty insurer in the country. It is my hope that the company will continue to make great strides forward and will remain a leader in the personal and commercial lines and life insurance industries.

As a Representative from California, where Farmers Insurance Group's home office is located, I am proud to congratulate all employees, agents and district managers on a successful 75 years of service to their communities.

THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN  
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL  
RECOGNITION ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my fellow Virginians Reps. Jo Ann Davis, Tom Davis, Bobby Scott, and Edward Schrock and Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii in introducing the "Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act."

This legislation will grant federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe.

As we approach the 400th anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in North America, we are long overdue in recognizing the direct descendants of the native Americans, who met these settlers. We must acknowledge these historic tribes and the significance of their heritage. Together, the men and women of these tribes represent a long neglected part of our nation's history.

Like much of our early history as a nation, the Virginia tribes were subdued, pushed off their land, and, up through much of the 20th Century, denied full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia Indians successfully overcame years of racial discrimination that denied them equal opportunities to pursue their education and preserve their cultural identity. That story of survival doesn't encompass decades, it spans centuries of racial hostility and coercive state and state-sanctioned actions. Unlike most tribes that resisted encroachment and obtained federal recognition when they signed peace treaties with the federal government, Virginia's six tribes signed their peace treaties with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of 1677 between these tribes and Charles the II.

In more recent times, this racial hostility culminated with the enactment and brutal enforcement of Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act empowered zealots, like Walter Plecker, a state official, to destroy records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." To call yourself a "Native American" in Virginia was to risk a jail sentence of up to one year. Married couples were denied marriage certificates or even unable to obtain the release of their newborn child from a hospital until they changed their ethnicity on the state record to read "colored," not "Native American." For much of the 20th Century admission to public schools education was denied. These and other indignities are part of a shameful legacy experienced in our lifetime.

More to the point, this legacy has also complicated these tribes' quest for federal recognition, making it difficult to furnish corroborating state and official documents. It wasn't until 1997 when then Governor George Allen signed legislation directing state agencies to correct state records that had deliberately been altered to list Virginia Indians on official state documents as "colored."

Federal recognition would provide what the government has long denied, legal protections

and financial obligations, including certain social services and benefits the federal government provides the 562-recognized tribes.

I know that the gambling issue may be at the forefront of some people's concerns. In response to this concern, I have worked to close any potential legal loopholes in this legislation to ensure that the state could prevent casino-type gaming by the tribes. Having maintained a close relationship with many of the members of these tribes, I believe they are sincere in their claims that gambling is inconsistent with their values. This position is already borne out by the fact that none of the tribes today engage in bingo gambling despite the fact that they have all established non-profit organizations that are permitted under Virginia law to operate bingo games despite compelling financial needs that revenues from bingo could address.

The real issue for the tribes is one of recognition and the long overdue need for the federal government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. Coupled with this affirmation is an opportunity for the tribes to establish a more equitable relationship with the state and secure federal financial assistance for the tribes' social services, health care and housing needs. Many of their older members face the prospect of retiring without pensions and health benefits that most Americans take for granted.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
INSTITUTE

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 9th and 10th of this year, the Latino Youth Leadership Institute (LYLI) will hold its 2nd Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference and Awards Dinner.

The initial inspiration to establish LYLI came out of the participation of students, young professionals and community leaders in the annual United States Hispanic Leadership Conference (USHLC). In the spring of 1999, after receiving information about the USHLC, a small group of community leaders made a commitment to send a delegation from Orange County to the conference in Chicago. The group succeeded in raising enough money to send the largest delegation from the furthest location to the USHLC. More importantly, they have continued to send a delegation of students each year.

Early in 2001, a group of USHLC Alumni began a series of meetings to explore the possibility of organizing a youth leadership conference in 2002 and to discuss the feasibility of establishing a nonprofit organization. LYLI was created to pursue its mission of increasing civic participation, promoting higher education, and cultivating a new generation of leaders to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's expectations. LYLI was formally incorporated as a 501 (C) 3 organization in December of 2001. The establishment of LYLI evolved gradually over a three-year period of time and would not have occurred without the perseverance of numerous volunteers and the

support of elected officials, corporations, government entities, labor unions, and other community organizations.

The year 2002 was a historic one for LYLI. After years of thinking, planning, and meeting, LYLI organized its very first Latino Youth Leadership Conference and Awards Dinner. Over 1,000 high school and college students attended the Latino Youth Rally and Job Fair. As a result of this conference, some of the students volunteered and registered over 700 new voters. This year over 2,000 high school and college students from throughout Southern California are expected to participate in the Latino Youth Leadership Conference.

Although LYLI's success can be attributed to many contributors, supporters, and volunteers, two individuals deserve special recognition for their willingness to involve themselves completely in the creation, growth, and development of the Latino Youth Leadership Institute. As CoFounders of LYLI, President Ignacio "Nash" Orozco and Vice-President Bob Martinez have worked passionately and tirelessly to build an organization that would be able to motivate, inspire and train a new generation of Latino youth to realize their full potential as leaders.

Because of the commitment and dedication demonstrated by Mr. Orozco and Mr. Martinez, thousands of Latino Youth have already benefited from the work of LYLI, and thousands more are likely to be part of LYLI's most promising future. I salute the determination of both Mr. Orozco and Mr. Martinez to stay the course and oversee the transformation of their vision of what could be to having a real, living, functioning organization capable of shaping the dreams and aspirations of our nation's youth.

THE MEDICARE TELEHEALTH  
VALIDATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, health care costs increase annually. 40 million Americans currently go uninsured. 38 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health care. With these challenges before us, Congress must act to provide the most comprehensive and cost effective health care services available. For this reason, I am reintroducing the Medicare Telehealth Validation Act of 2003.

I firmly believe that telemedicine is the best preventative medicine. The techniques and consultative efficiency provided by telehealth services reduce costs by diagnosing diseases and disorders before they progress. By expanding Medicare reimbursement for telehealth technology, we will be cutting illnesses off at the pass, and reducing overall costs.

Furthermore, telemedicine can meet the needs of underserved populations. According to researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 80 physicians per 100,000 persons in most rural areas in 1998, compared with 308.5 physicians per 100,000 in urban areas and 223.5 physicians per 100,000 persons in the suburbs. The youth death rate from all causes was 58.5 per 100,000 persons in most rural areas from 1996 to 1998, compared with 44.5 per

100,000 persons in urban areas and 35.4 per 100,000 in suburban areas. With such a disparity in quality of care between those with access to medical care and those without, Congress must act to expand the use of telehealth technology before preventable illnesses become life-threatening diseases.

The Medicare Telehealth Validation Act provides \$40 million for development of telehealth networks for rural communities. These networks enable underserved populations access to the same diagnostic and consultative care that urban residents have come to expect. These networks link health care professionals in their offices to patients and colleagues from across the street or from across the globe.

In addition to providing critical medical consultation to underserved and rural constituents, this legislation provides telehealth technology to inpatient services, increases the categories of eligible participants to increase access to telehealth technologies, and it seeks to reduce the barriers for access to telehealth technologies by increasing multi-state licensing. Moreover, this legislation will expand Store and Forward technology and revolutionize radiology. X-rays and slides can be shared with specialists quickly and confidentially. Diagnosis and treatment will be better, faster, and less expensive.

I am a firm believer that preventative medicine is the best medicine. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE—A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN KERR

### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Betty Jean Kerr, as 2003 marks her 25th year of service as C.E.O. of People's Health Centers (PHC) in St. Louis. Kerr has been passionately devoted to providing quality health care to the medically underserved and uninsured. Strongly believing that everyone deserves quality health care, Kerr has dedicated her tenure with PHC to ensuring that primary care and prevention services are efficiently provided at these community health centers, regardless of a patient's socioeconomic status.

Kerr's extraordinary leadership is exemplified by the strong foundation she has laid and the recognized growth within PHC. PHC was a three-year-old free clinic with only one location when Kerr became CEO. Under her guidance, she has been essentially instrumental in making PHC a sprawling community of apartments for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, social security services, primary health care, dental services, a pharmacy, affordable homes, and small businesses.

Kerr has been remarkably persistent in reaching beyond traditional methods of making quality health care services accessible to everyone. In an effort to provide increased access to health in conjunction with health center locations, she has created school-based sites. Her staff is in all St. Louis Public middle schools, three high schools, private schools, and soon to be in the large school districts in North County.

In addition to developing sustained partnerships with patients to manage improving their health, Kerr has maintained and required a high level of expectations for health care practitioners serving minority populations in low-income neighborhoods throughout St. Louis. Setting high standards and goals for PHC, she continues to work with the board on strategic planning decisions that will reduce health disparities within St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Betty Jean Kerr today before Congress. This dynamic woman strongly believes that every citizen has the right to a long and healthy life. In addition to her steadfast commitment to guaranteeing accessible primary care and preventative health care services, Kerr has a vision of expanding the number of health care center locations throughout the St. Louis community. It is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Betty Jean Kerr.

MAY 1ST ANNUAL DAY OF OBSERVANCE FOR COMMEMORATING OUR VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the Governors of Kansas and Wisconsin have proclaimed May 1 as their annual day of observance for commemorating our victory in the Cold War.

In a very real sense, the victory of the western allies was also a victory for the oppressed peoples of the Soviet bloc, and liberation for the Russian people, who are now friends and allies of the United States. May 1 was the traditional day of celebration for Communists worldwide, and displays of military might. It is fitting that May 1 now become a day of celebration of liberty for free peoples everywhere, and for remembrance of the sacrifices that made the downfall of Communism a reality.

These state proclamations were in response to efforts by the Cold War Veterans Association, which has its headquarters in the State of Kansas, and of which I am proud to be a member.

The Cold War was a long struggle, less dramatic than traditional wars, which ended with battles for cities, dropping of bombs, and formal surrenders. The Cold War ended over a period of several years, but as both President George W. Bush and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "It was a war, and we won." The resolute opposition to the Communist Empire took many forms, and cost many lives of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. It will be years before the casualty count is complete, but it is real, whether the losses were at sea, over Soviet or east European airspace, in shoot-downs over international waters, or along the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ).

May 1 is the anniversary of the shoot-down of Francis Gary Powers' U-2 in 1960, and the beginning of his captivity in the U.S.S.R. The month of May saw other losses, and some small but shining victories.

May was the month in 1949 that the Soviets ended their blockade of West Berlin, after the U.S. Air Force and the British Royal Air Force

supplied the besieged city with food and fuel for almost a year, costing the lives of 68 Allied servicemen and 9 Germans. Attacks on U.S. aircraft in the month of May included one in 1955, in which 2 Chinese Communist soldiers were shot down over international waters, an attack on U.S. reconnaissance aircraft over the U.S.S.R. (1954), and over international waters near the Kamchatka Peninsula (1953), shoot-downs over East Germany (1953, 1960, 1964), and by North Koreans (1963, 1974). U.S. military officers assassinated in May included 2 in Iran (1975) and one in El Salvador (1983). An attack in May 1967 by North Koreans on a U.S. Army barracks left 2 Americans dead and 17 wounded. Two separate terrorist attacks in May 1972 by the Red Army Faction in West Germany left 4 U.S. soldiers dead and 18 wounded. A terrorist attack in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May 1982 killed one crewman and wounded 3 others from the U.S.S. Pensacola (LSD-38). Casualties at sea in May included the entire crew of 99 aboard the U.S. nuclear submarine Scorpion, which was lost at sea in 1968. May 1954 saw the U.S.S. Bennington (CV-20) damaged by an explosion and fire in the Atlantic, killing 103 and injuring 201. In May of 1981, an EA6B Prowler crashed during landing aboard the carrier U.S.S. Nimitz (CVA-68) in the Atlantic, with 14 killed and 48 injured. In May 1987, 37 sailors aboard the U.S.S. Stark were killed and 21 wounded by an Iraqi Exocet missile. In May 1975, after our involvement in Vietnam and Cambodia had ended, our troops had to rescue the U.S.S. Mayaguez and its crew from the Khmer Rouge, again at a cost of lives of our sailors and marines. And the list goes on.

During the Cold War, over 40 U.S. aircraft were shot down, and others were lost during operational missions. Shooting incidents on the ground, along the Iron Curtain in Europe and the Bamboo Curtain in Asia often made the morning reports, but seldom the morning papers. Our atomic veterans participated in a large number of nuclear weapons tests; many of them exposed to ionizing radiation, with tragic consequences in later life.

There were many successful missions. Many long nights of faithful and vigilant service, on the frontiers of freedom, on polar ice, submerged, flying airborne alerts and reconnaissance. Staying combat-ready in the Fulda Gap of Germany. Keeping watch on the Korean DMZ. Standing watch in stormy seas. Maintaining the defenses of the continental United States. Constantly improving the combat capability of the United States through research and development.

So on May 1, I salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who served in the Cold War, and especially those who paid the ultimate price. We refuse to allow their bravery to go unheralded in the name of "political correctness." We also salute the freedom fighters who stood up to tyranny on the streets of Poland (1956, 1981), East Germany (1953), Czechoslovakia (1968), Hungary (1956), Romania (1989), and Afghanistan (1979-88). Their victory and ours are commemorated on each May 1 from this year forward.

I now ask our National Government and other state governors to proclaim this day of observance, with appropriate ceremonies and recognition. I also ask President Bush to create the Cold War Victory Medal by executive order, for award to all who served in the

Armed Forces and civilian intelligence agencies during this period. We owe them nothing less.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING  
OUR TROOPS

**HON. JIM DeMINT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, today we are here to honor and remember our troops—the young, brave Americans who recently fought to save a nation from enslavement. Answering the call of our great nation, young men and women are putting on a uniform, serving our military, and making enormous sacrifices. As American fighting men and women, they are helping write the history of the 21st century with bold strokes of courage.

Like their parents and grandparents, our troops are having their characters tested. This time it is by sweltering heat, blinding sandstorms, and enemies that hid behind women and children. But they quickly won a victory, not just for a nation, but for a vision—a vision of freedom and individual dignity. As a result, their heroic efforts will help preserve peace around the world and extend freedom and human dignity to even more people.

And when their service in Iraq is over, they will return home to a proud and grateful Nation. Their humility will pass off praise with the words “just doing my job,” while they think about their brothers and sisters who didn’t come home. This is why America is so great. And through all their efforts our world continues to be shaped by American courage, power, and wisdom; and reverberates with American ideals.

Still, our troop’s victories in Iraq do not come without a price. The United States has lost some of its best citizens. Tonight we recognize one of those fallen Marines, Private Nolen Ryan Hutchings. A graduate of Boiling Springs High School, Ryan taught those around him what it meant to be an American, and his willingness to serve inspired others to become Marines.

There is one story where he felt the need to honor a former classmate’s deceased father who had retired from the military. Ryan traveled to several Marine bases to find a frame to hold a U.S. flag and then got in full dress uniform and presented the flag to the family.

Without a doubt, Ryan’s sacrifice will enrich the history of the Marine Corps, and places such as An Nasiriyah will be added to the list of hallowed ground like Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, and the Chosin Reservoir. At the same time, his dedication to his community, to his fellow Marines, and to his country provide us with a shining example.

His strength, honor, sacrifice, devotion, and courage show us the path we must follow. As Ronald Reagan once said, “some people wonder all their lives if they made a difference”—the Hutchings family will never have to wonder about Ryan.

CONGRATULATING RABBI HENRY  
COHEN

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Cohen of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination in the rabbinate.

Henry Cohen was born in 1927 in Houston, Texas into a family of reform rabbis. Rabbi Cohen has been involved with and contributed to Jewish education for his entire career. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas as an English major and attending graduate classes in the English Department of the University of Chicago, he entered Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1947. After being ordained in 1953, he served as an Army chaplain at Camp Polk, Louisiana, in Korea and at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio.

In 1955, he became assistant rabbi at Temple Beth-El in Great Neck, New York. In 1958 Henry became the spiritual leader of Sinai Temple in Illinois. At the university of Illinois he received a Master of Arts Degree in the Philosophy of Education and wrote a study entitled, “The Idea of God in Jewish Education.” He also completed a study, “Jewish Life and Thought in the Academic Community,” which was included in Marshall Sklare’s *The Jew in American Society*. Continuing in education he taught a course in Judaism at St. Joseph’s College during the 1970’s. Rabbi Cohen has been teaching introduction to Judaism classes and has completed a research project for the Jewish Outreach Institute designed to discover what actually happens in the families of interfaith married couples who, at the time of their wedding, made a commitment to give their children a Jewish education. He developed a “Beliefs and Values Survey for Interfaith Couples” to enable them to clarify the similarities and differences of their religious and moral beliefs.

In 1964, Rabbi Cohen became the rabbi of Beth David Reform Congregation in Philadelphia. There he initiated a bi-cultural Black-Jewish nursery school and was chairman of the Jewish Coalition for Peace. Rabbi Cohen wrote two books: *Justice, Justice: A Jewish View of the Black Revolution and Why Judaism?—A Search for Meaning In Jewish Identity*.

He has visited the Middle East to gain a new perspective on the Arabs and Israelis. In 1986 Rabbi Cohen, and his wife Edna, visited the Soviet Union where they met the parents of Beth David’s Cantor, Lilia Kazansky, and began a successful campaign to fight for their release. The couple gained their freedom in 1987. Rabbi Cohen also encouraged the formation of Chavurah Lahayyim, to support Central American refugees fleeing persecution. Rabbi Cohen helped form the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line which helps the homeless by providing meals and care in synagogues and churches.

Rabbi Cohen is an honorary board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia and received the Sylvia K. Cohen award for work in inter-group relations. He has been married to Edna for 45 years with two daughters, Shelley and Lisa.

I am grateful to Rabbi Cohen for his 50 years of service to the Jewish Community and the Philadelphia region as a whole.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST  
THOMAS ARTHUR FOLEY III

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a fine American, a young husband and father from Dresden, Tennessee, who gave his life serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SPC. Thomas Arthur Foley III, 23, served with the 2nd Battalion of the 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. On the 14th of April, he and a fellow soldier were killed outside Baghdad.

Tommy leaves behind a wife of a year and a half, Paulette, and a seven-month-old son, Logan, who reside at Fort Campbell Army Base on the Tennessee-Kentucky border. Tommy’s stepfather and mother, Brian and Emily Penick Darden, reside in Dresden. His father and stepmother, Thomas and Angela Foley Jr., live in Montgomery, Kansas. He has a sister, Rebecca Barrington of Martin, Tennessee, and two brothers—David, who lives in Dresden, and Sean, who lives in Kansas.

Tommy’s brother David has also been serving in Iraq and was able to return to Tennessee last week to see his brother buried with full military honors in Martin, Tennessee.

Family members and friends say Tommy was a man who loved life. He bravely gave that life to help make this world a better place for his son Logan and indeed for us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join Tommy’s friends, family and me as we honor his memory and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCES F. LEE—  
EDUCATOR, LEADER, ACTIVIST

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Frances F. Lee, a remarkable woman who has devoted her life to community service and social progress. Her contributions—as an educator, nonprofit leader, and principled activist—merit our admiration.

Ms. Lee recently announced her retirement as Vice Chancellor of Instruction at the City College of San Francisco (CCSF), a distinguished institution that is one of the largest community colleges in the world. As a former educator, I can only imagine the challenges she faced in enhancing CCSF’s academic stature and helping thousands of Bay Area men and women to realize their educational dreams. Ms. Lee’s reputation for achievement reflects her success in these endeavors. As a resolution of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently noted: “Frances F. Lee served with dignity, distinction and grace and

won universal respect and admiration of faculty, staff, students, administrators and community leaders." Mr. Speaker, I share this view wholeheartedly.

Frances Lee's contributions to the CCSF community make up only one part of her extraordinary forty-year legacy to the City of San Francisco. A dedicated social worker, she acted as Executive Director of the Chinese Newcomers Service Center for more than a decade, where she used her talents to educate America's newest residents about our language and society. Ms. Lee has also been a civil rights champion in the Bay Area, serving on the Board of Directors of Chinese for Affirmative Action for the past 19 years and fighting to open the doors of America's schools and businesses to all Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.

The causes and organizations to which Frances Lee has devoted herself mirror the breadth of her passion. From the Center for Southeast Asian Refugees to the San Francisco Bilingual Vocational Training Program, her commitment to the Bay Area community has enriched our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has declared May 9th as "Frances Lee Day" in the City and County of San Francisco. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of this outstanding woman, and in congratulating her on her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. CONNIE MITCHELL, WINNER OF DELAWARE'S HOME-BASED BUSINESS ADVOCATE AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Connie Mitchell—winner of the Delaware Home-Based Business Advocate Award. Ms. Mitchell earned this honor through her work as President of Mitchell Business Services.

As you know, advocates for small and home-based business have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Home-based businesses provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through her work, Connie has distinguished herself and many other home-based business advocates in Delaware's small business community.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's home-based businesses to be amongst the very best in the country, and recognition of Ms. Mitchell further confirms my belief.

Connie Mitchell's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed Mitchell Business Services and many other home-based businesses in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend her on her receipt of this award and I look forward to Ms. Mitchell's continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO RYAN GERMAN, WINNER OF THE DELAWARE YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ryan German, owner of Caffè Gelato in Newark, Delaware and winner of the Delaware Young Entrepreneur award.

Mr. German established Caffè Gelato in Downtown Newark during his senior year as a business student at the University of Delaware. It has since turned into one of the most popular eateries in the city thanks to the efforts, dedication and creativity of its owner, Mr. German.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses amongst the very best in the country. Mr. German's recognition further confirms my belief.

As you know, small businesses have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through his work, Ryan has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader in the small business community.

Ryan German's accomplishments and entrepreneurial skills have placed Caffè Gelato in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend him on his receipt of this award and I look forward to Mr. German's continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUNIL AGHI

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember and honor the life of my friend, Mr. Sunil "Sunny" Aghi, who recently passed away.

Sunny's colleagues and the community will always remember his activism, dynamism and deep sense of commitment to the democratic principles. He believed passionately in the democratic process and worked to support that process. As a leader of the Indo American community, he brought issues of importance to the community to the forefront of the political debate. Sunny's leadership inspired other Indian Americans to become engaged and civically involved.

Sunny also fought diligently to bridge the divide between the United States and India. He sought to promote a positive relationship between India and the United States through an open, honest and productive dialogue between the two nations.

Mr. Aghi's dedication to serving the community was unrivaled and his passing has left a void. I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing and join his family, friends, col-

leagues, and the Indian American community in mourning his death. Today I rise to ask Congress to pay tribute to Sunny's energy, passion and dedication.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER MIDDLESEX COUNTY, THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP AND FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF ISRAELI STATEHOOD

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County whose members will demonstrate their support for the U.S.-Israel relationship on May 4, 2003 with a Middlesex County community wide "Walk for Israel" in Johnson Park, Highland Park, New Jersey. I applaud the members of the Jewish Federation not only for their commitment to Israel, but for the service they provide to the less fortunate members of our Central New Jersey community. Their heartfelt work to improve the lives of others regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity is a testament to their humanity and we are proud to have them here in New Jersey.

I also rise today to recognize the strong U.S.-Israel relationship and to celebrate the 55th year of Israeli Statehood. Since it was founded in 1948 and with prompt U.S. recognition, Israel has stood firm as an ally of the United States and its interests in the Middle East. Our citizens maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon common interests, a shared commitment to democracy, individual freedoms, and a rejection of extremism and terrorism.

New Jerseyans have a special relationship with Israel. We have a special sister state relationship with the State of Israel through the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Israel, as a valued partner in trade and cultural exchange, receives the continued support of our citizens.

Since 1948, the State of Israel has committed itself to living in harmony and mutual respect with its neighbors and to arriving at a peaceful solution to the conflict with the Palestinians. For most of the last three years, however, Israelis and Palestinians have found themselves in a violent and crippling deterioration of relations. Thousands have died in horrible violence that has torn through the hearts of both the Israeli and Palestinian communities.

With the introduction of the so-called "Roadmap" yesterday by President Bush, I hope we are at a renewed moment of hope. The people of New Jersey believe that the future security of Israel depends upon bringing end to terrorism, bloodshed, and human suffering and to establishing a just, permanent peace with the Palestinians.

I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, the special U.S.-Israel relationship, and to celebrate 55 years of Israeli independence. Let us commit ourselves to work together with Israel so that she will enjoy her next 55 years at peace with her neighbors.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER STERLING BRENNECKE FOR EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Sterling Brennecke, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1082, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for 7 years and the Philmont Scout Ranch. Over the 11 years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 31 merit badges. Additionally, Christopher has held several leadership positions, serving as quartermaster, historian, scribe, librarian, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and senior patrol leader. Christopher also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Arrow of Light Award, the God and Country Award and Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Christopher landscaped around the front of the Buckner Elementary School as well as the courtyard.

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

A TRIBUTE TO SAM CALAGIONE, PRESIDENT OF DOGFISH HEAD BREWERY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Sam Calagione, President of Dogfish Head Brewery and winner of the Delaware Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses amongst the very best in the country. Mr. Calagione's recognition further confirms my belief.

As you know, small businesses have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through his work, Sam has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader in the small business community.

Sam Calagione's accomplishments and entrepreneurial skills have placed Dogfish Head Brewery in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend him on his receipt of this award and I look forward to Mr. Calagione's continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ALLEN BARNETT, RECOGNIZED FOR DELAWARE ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Allen Barnett—President and CEO of AstroPower. A position which has earned him recognition in Delaware for his Entrepreneurial success.

Dr. Barnett has established one of the largest and fastest growing independent solar electric power companies in the world. Dr. Allen Barnett's creative, insightful and necessary foray into sustainable energy is not only beneficial to the entire population for ecological reasons but also for its economic stimulus.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's cutting edge entrepreneurs amongst the very best in the country. Dr. Allen Barnett's recognition further confirms my belief.

Dr. Barnett's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed AstroPower in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend him on his receipt of this award and I look forward to Dr. Barnett's continued success.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD O. JOHANSON

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the numerous contributions of Mr. Harold O. Johanson on the occasion of his recent retirement as City Manager of El Monte, CA.

A long time resident of El Monte, Mr. Johanson has dedicated his life to serving the city. He began his career with the city of El Monte as a Planning Intern in 1967. Three years later, he became an official employee of the city as an Assistant Planner. He quickly rose through the city ranks and over the years has held several positions including Planning Director, Director of Community Services, and City Manager.

Over the course of this impressive career, Mr. Johanson dramatically changed the landscape of the city. Some of his greatest accomplishments were overseeing the establishment of the El Monte Aquatic Center, the Santa Fe Plaza Redevelopment Project, three First Time Home Buyer Programs, and numerous commercial centers that brought much needed revenue to the city. The city flourished under Mr. Johanson's strategic and watchful leadership.

As the current Treasurer for the San Gabriel Valley Boys and Girls Club and Secretary of the Downtown El Monte Business Association Board of Directors, and member of the Kiwanis Club, he has always been active in the community outside his work. While many will miss his presence in city hall, I know he will continue to work with the community.

On April 24, 2003, the city of El Monte thanked Mr. Johanson for his years of com-

mitted work. I also would like to thank Mr. Johanson and recognize his dedicated service to the community of El Monte.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES MEGAN BOYLE FOR HER RECEIPT OF THE CORE OF THE ARC ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Megan Boyle for her volunteer service. She has been chosen by CORE of the ARC, a coalition of local social service agencies, law enforcement officials, educators and community activists, that seeks out and honors youth who have voluntarily given outstanding service to those with disabilities in the school community. She is a senior at East Brunswick High School and she has worked actively as a volunteer for the Sayerville Association for Brain Injured Children for three and one half years.

Megan's aunt introduced her to the Association for Brain Injured Children and after participating in the Saturday program two or three times, she was committed. She volunteers each Saturday helping with art, board games, exercise, sports and other activities. Her commitment expanded to summer camp with the Association over the past three summers.

Megan has displayed a variety of talents working with both autistic children and children with Down's syndrome. She has helped the children progress in the areas of learning skills and socialization skills. Her success and confidence gained her a promotion at the summer camp. Her new responsibility put her in the leadership position of being in charge of seven counselors and twenty children for six weeks.

It is only through the generosity of time and spirit of individuals like Megan that our community can meet the needs of those with disabilities. It is not often that someone as young as Megan is so willing to share of her time and expertise. She tells us she is richer for this dedication to improving the lives of others. Clearly the individuals she has befriended and served are also better off.

I ask that all the members join me in congratulating Megan Boyle as a recipient of the CORE of the ARC's Annual Distinguished Citizen Award.

HONORING KYLE ALAN BRENNECKE FOR EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Alan Brennecke, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1082, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as the H.

Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for 4 years. Over the 9 years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Additionally, Kyle has held several leadership positions, serving as quarter master, historian, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, senior patrol leader and troop guide. Kyle also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Arrow of Light Award, the God and Country Award, and Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Kyle painted the playground at the Buckner Elementary School in Buckner, Missouri. Additionally, Kyle painted two four squares, basketball lanes and playground signs.

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

A TRIBUTE TO DONA ZACZKIEWICZ, THE DELAWARE WOMEN IN BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dona Zaczkiwicz, winner of Delaware Women in Business Advocate of the Year Award. She is given this honor as president of Dona Z Consulting.

As you know, advocates for women in business have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through her work, Dona has distinguished herself and many other women business owners in Delaware's small business community.

Through out my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's women owned businesses to be amongst the very best in the Country, and recognition of Ms. Zaczkiwicz further confirms my belief.

Dona Zaczkiwicz's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the business community have placed Dona Z Consulting in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend her on her receipt of this award and I look forward to Ms. Zaczkiwicz's continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. MARK LUPPI, WINNER OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION AND DELAWARE FINANCIAL SERVICE ADVOCATE AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mark Luppi—winner of the Mid-Atlantic and Delaware Financial Service Advocate Award. Mr. Luppi earned this rec-

ognition through his work as Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank.

Mr. Luppi focuses his advocacy efforts on growth and small business leadership. In just a short time after expanding into Delaware, Citizens Bank financed 59 loans to Delaware small businesses. As you know, advocates for small business have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses to be amongst the very best in the Country. Recognition of Mr. Luppi further confirms my belief.

Mr. Luppi's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed Citizens Bank and many small businesses in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend him on his receipt of this award and I look forward to Mr. Luppi's continued success.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED HERRERA

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great educator with a humble and caring heart, Mr. Alfred Herrera, for his commitment to students.

Mr. Herrera has a remarkable record helping underrepresented, first generation, and low-income students gain access to a college education. As the Director of UCLA's Community College Partnership Program, Mr. Herrera understands the importance of reaching out to students in community colleges who face many challenges in their pursuit of a four-year college education. He prepares students with the information and counsel that will allow them to make a successful transition from a community college to a four-year university and provides guidance for future opportunities.

Mr. Herrera's commitment to students and their academic success is unwavering; he goes far and beyond the call of duty to ensure access and opportunity for students. He has played a significant role in nurturing and providing a highly accelerated learning environment for students of diverse backgrounds.

But his commitment to educational opportunities for all students is exemplified by his work in promoting the passage and implementation of AB540, a California law that allows undocumented students an opportunity to participate in California's public higher education institutes by allowing them to pay in-state tuition rates.

I am honored to call him my dear friend. I commend him for his vision and dedication to create and extend learning opportunities for those least able to access it.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE WEEK

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the tremendous contribution landscape architects make to the scenic beauty of the United States. Last week marked National Landscape Architecture Week. I would like to thank the industry and the American Society of Landscape Architects for all they do to improve our beautiful country.

Landscape architects play a special role in creating the places in which we live, work, and play. They are dedicated to promoting the careful stewardship, planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. The work of landscape architects reflects the variety and breadth of the profession, from the design of residential and commercial developments, office building sites, and public parks, to public sector comprehensive planning, environmental planning, and town planning.

Though National Landscape Architects Week has passed, I urge all Americans to consider and recognize the many contributions made by landscape architects.

BUDD AND SYLVIA MIZDAIL CELEBRATE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 50th wedding anniversary of my friends Budd and Sylvia Mizdail of Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania. Their family and friends will honor them with a party on May 3, 2003, at St. Mary's Church in Mocanaqua, the same church where they were married on May 2, 1953.

They are the proud parents of two children: John, of Emmaus; and Brenda, of Plymouth Meeting; and the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Both of the Mizdails have given generously of their time over the years to their church, including running the church picnics for several years. They are retired from the Borden plant in Berwick, where he worked as a laboratory technician and she worked as a secretary.

She is the Democratic chairwoman for the Second District in Luzerne County and a 20-year member of the Greater Nanticoke Area School Board. She has been president of the school board for approximately 10 years and is secretary of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 board, of which she has been a member for 11 years. She also continues to be involved with the Conyngham Township Democratic Committee, of which she is a past chair.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 50th wedding anniversary of Budd and Sylvia Mizdail, and I wish them and their family all the best.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. OLAKUNLE OLUDINA, A WINNER OF THE DELAWARE MINORITY BUSINESS ADVOCATE AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Olakunle Oludina, winner of the Delaware Minority Business Advocate Award. Ms. Oludina earned this honor through her work at the YMCA of New Castle County.

As you know, advocates for minorities in business have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. In her work, Olakunle Oludina develops and implements training and education programs for entrepreneurs, thus helping to energize Delaware's small business community.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's minority run organizations to be amongst the very best in the country, and recognition of Ms. Oludina further confirms my belief.

Olakunle Oludina's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed the YMCA of New Castle County in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend her on her receipt of this award and I look forward to Ms. Oludina's continued success.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN FOR ITS HANDLING OF SARS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Taiwan for its efforts in effectively addressing the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Taiwan has done an admirable job of dealing with this new, global, and fatal disease.

Taiwan's response to SARS has far outpaced many of its neighbors in that region of the world. It has been forthright about the problem and has worked with the international community to stem the spread of this deadly disease.

Quoting Dr. Scott Dowell, Director of the International Emerging Infections Program in Thailand, Center for Disease and Control and Prevention, "the health authorities in Taiwan were taking unprecedented measures to respond to the outbreak, and we thought that they were doing a very good job. . . . They were quite capable in doing that in Taiwan, and we were encouraged by the lack of transmission to healthcare workers during the first weeks we were there."

Even more remarkable is that Taiwan has responded so effectively to this global problem without being a member of the World Health Organization (WHO). Because of its lack of statehood, Taiwan, home to nearly 24 million people, has been denied membership status in the organization. This made it even more difficult for health experts to gather important information about SARS on the island and highlights the need for Taiwan to receive observer status at the WHO.

In a relatively short period of time, SARS has shown that it knows no borders. When infecting people, this disease does not stop at man-made borders. Thus, I would call on the World Health Organization and its members to grant observer status to Taiwan so that they can be properly integrated into the global health network. The SARS outbreak is a stark reminder of the importance of working with the entire international community in finding solutions to global problems like the spread of disease. Failing to do so prolongs the problem and puts more people at risk.

Mr. Speaker, the leaders of Taiwan have worked hard on their own and with the international community to detect and treat SARS. As such, its leaders are worthy of receiving our recognition today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEGALL FAMILY IN CORINTH, TX

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations to the Stegall Family in Corinth, Texas and their entire staff at the American Eagle Harley-Davidson/Buell Dealership. They celebrate one year of successful sales and customer service in the Denton County area with a team of dedicated and diligent employees.

The community of motorcyclist enthusiasts in North Texas are also to be commended for supporting local businesses, contributing to the success of American Eagle. This developing relationship not only benefits the motorcycle industry, it also cultivates the economy of Denton County, which continues to develop with the expansion of commerce across North Texas.

Once more, I articulate my best wishes to American Eagle. May their efforts continue to be rewarded.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this first day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to honor our Nation's Asian Pacific American community. This month marks the 25th year that our nation has rightly recognized and celebrated the many contributions and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans.

Mr. Speaker, America draws its strength from its tremendous diversity. The Asian Pacific American community is one of the fastest growing segments of the United States with over 12.5 million people. We have greatly enriched the American landscape, and I am honored to take part in Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by celebrating the many achievements of APAs in American history.

Asian Pacific Americans have made tremendous advances in countless fields such as, politics, medicine, technology, business, music, literature, film, athletics, and agri-

culture. APAs helped build the Transcontinental Railroad and develop the Internet, and APAs have served honorably to defend the United States in times of armed conflict, from the Civil War through today. And, as I speak today, an Asian Pacific American astronaut, Edward Lu, is stationed aboard the International Space Station. As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am proud to recognize these achievements.

The Asian Pacific American community has made these achievements despite the obstacles of past discriminatory laws, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Alien Law Act of 1920, and the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Like so many other segments of America, the APA community has thrived in the face of opposition.

While Asian Pacific Americans as a whole have flourished in the United States, there are still challenges facing certain segments of the APA community today. Many immigrants, refugees, and particular ethnic groups, including Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders, are still working to achieve the American dream. We must not forget those who are struggling to overcome obstacles, including language and cultural barriers, as well as the discrimination that still exists today.

Mr. Speaker, the Asian Pacific American community is itself a diverse group of people with distinct languages and cultures. Therefore, I cannot stress enough the importance of improving our data collection on APAs. Today, Government data tends to lump various Asian Pacific Americans together in a single category. Better data will allow us to recognize the diversity and distinct cultures of the many communities that make up the Asian Pacific American community as a whole. This knowledge will allow the United States to better address the different needs of what is a very diverse community; so that all Americans have the same opportunity to attain the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to encourage Congress and the American people to spend the month of May learning about the legacy, culture, rich traditions, and achievements of the Asian Pacific American Community.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. SALLY HAWKINS, WINNER OF THE DELAWARE SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Sally Hawkins - winner of the Delaware Small Business Journalist Award. Ms. Hawkins earned this honor through her work as owner and President of the WILM-AM radio station.

As you know, small businesses have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through her work, Sally has distinguished herself as an outstanding leader in small business and journalism.

Through out my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses and Delaware's journalists to be amongst the very best in the Country. Recognition of Ms. Hawkins further confirms my belief.

Sally Hawkins' accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed WILM in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend her on her receipt of this award and I look forward to Ms. Hawkins' continued success.

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JOHN KLUGE

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John W. Kluge for his constant and unwavering support for the Library of Congress.

Mr. Kluge is the greatest individual benefactor in the history of the Library of Congress.

He came to this country as a young boy from Germany, with virtually nothing but a china Dresden Horse—which he still has. From these humble origins, and through hard work, he received a full scholarship to Columbia University. After service in the United States Army during World War II, he went on in the business world to create a vast media empire which he converted into a great engine of philanthropy, supporting many educational programs, aimed in particular toward helping minorities.

Mr. Kluge is the founding chairman of the James Madison Council, the Library of Congress's private sector philanthropic organization, where he has inspired many others to join in support of the Library and its programs.

Through his generosity, John Kluge helped the Library of Congress bridge the gap into its third century by enabling it to invest heavily in technologies that bring the vast collections of the Library to people all over the world.

Thanks to an endowment from Mr. Kluge, the Library of Congress established the John W. Kluge Center, which brings some of the world's best minds—the Kluge Scholars—into residence to use the rich resources of the Library and interact with national policy makers. The Kluge Center also accommodates Kluge post-doctoral Fellows who are pursuing interdisciplinary and cross-cultural subjects using the Library's rich and diverse collections. The first million dollar John W. Kluge Prize in the Human Sciences will be awarded this fall for lifetime achievement in the humanities.

The work and the generosity of spirit of this great American will live on for generations. For years to come, individuals will be able to attend college on a John W. Kluge Scholarship who might otherwise be unable to afford it. Countless future national leaders will benefit from the intellectual stimulation that this man has made possible through his work at the Library of Congress. He is a man who has made a difference. During a lifetime of philanthropic activity and quiet assistance for those in need, John W. Kluge has touched countless lives and truly deserves the recognition of this body.

2003 ONCOLOGY NURSING DAY AND MONTH

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to oncology nurses. May is the ninth annual Oncology Nursing Day and Month. The celebration kicks off on Thursday, May 1, 2003, on Oncology Nursing Day, during the opening ceremonies of the Oncology Nursing Society's 28th Annual Congress in Denver, CO, and continues until May 31, 2003. Oncology Nursing Month recognizes oncology nurses, educates the public about oncology nursing, provides an opportunity for special educational events for oncology nurses, and celebrates the accomplishments of oncology nurses.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the largest professional oncology group in the United States composed of more than 30,000 nurses and other health professionals, exists to promote excellence in oncology nursing and the provision of quality care to those individuals affected by cancer. As part of its mission, the Society honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good. ONS was founded in 1975, and held its first Annual Congress in 1976. Since the Society was established, 218 local chapters have been formed to provide a network for education and peer support at the community level.

In my state of North Carolina there are more than 939 oncology nurses and health professionals that care for individuals with cancer and their families. In addition, North Carolina has 6 local Oncology Nursing Society chapters located in the areas of Charlotte—my district—Wilmington, Canton, Greenville, Durham, and Trinity.

Over the last ten years, the setting where treatment for cancer is provided has changed dramatically. An estimated 80 percent of all Americans receive cancer care in community settings including cancer centers, physicians' offices, and hospital outpatient departments. Treatment regimens are as complex, if not more so, than regimens given in the inpatient setting a few short years ago. Oncology nurses are on the front-lines of the provision of quality cancer care for individuals with cancer. Nurses are involved in the care of a cancer patient from the beginning through the end of treatment. Oncology nurses are the front-line providers of care by administering chemotherapy, managing patient therapies and side-effects, working with insurance companies to ensure that patients receive the appropriate treatment, provide counseling to patients and family members, in addition to many other daily acts on behalf of cancer patients.

With an increasing number of people with cancer needing high quality health care coupled with an inadequate nursing workforce, our nation could quickly face a cancer care crisis of serious proportion, with limited access to quality cancer care, particularly in traditionally underserved areas. Without an adequate supply of nurses there will not be enough qualified oncology nurses to provide the quality cancer care to a growing population of people in need. I was proud to support the passage of the "Nurse Reinvestment Act" in the

107th Congress. This important piece of legislation expanded and implemented programs at HRSA to address the multiple problems contributing to the nationwide nursing shortage, including the decline in nursing student enrollments, shortage of faculty, and dissatisfaction with nurse workplace environments. Mr. Speaker, I plan to work with my colleagues to ensure that the Nurse Reinvestment Act receives funding during the FY 2004 appropriations process.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from cancer and to improve the lives of those 1.3 million Americans who will be diagnosed with cancer in 2003. I wish the Oncology Nursing Society the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all Americans to support its important efforts.

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TRIBUTE TO THE DENVER AREA LABOR FEDERATION

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive history and notable accomplishments of an exceptional organization in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding organization for its civic leadership and record of extraordinary service benefiting the working men and women of the Denver area. It is to commend this remarkable organization that I rise to honor the Denver Area Labor Federation (DALF) on the occasion of its 120th Anniversary.

While the Denver Area Labor Federation has weathered great adversity and tremendous change over the last century, it has always remained in the vanguard for economic and social justice. In the many struggles for dignity in the workplace, the labor movement in the Denver area continues to be a vital force for the rights of workers, for a living wage, a safe workplace, good benefits and for the continued well being of working families. Since its founding in 1882, DALF has led the way in forging strong alliances within the local labor movement, with the AFL-CIO, and with numerous community organizations including the Colorado Progressive Coalition, Jobs with Justice and the Colorado Coalition for Immigrant Rights. It has provided leadership for local unions in organizing drives, strikes and contract campaigns. It has conducted numerous trainings and education programs for Metro Area union members on common sense economics, organizing, political activism and community engagement. It has formed the Front Range Economic Strategy Center to enable working people to command the expertise and resources needed to hold local governments accountable for the development of affordable housing, secure health care, and the creation of jobs of sufficient quality to support families. It comes as no surprise that DALF was honored by the National AFL-CIO Convention for "moving the fastest and the farthest on the road to becoming a Union City" and that its political program is recognized nationwide for its innovation and success.

Working people built our communities and our nation and it is the sacrifices of the men

and women of the member locals of the Denver Area Labor Federation, past and present, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. Many of us in this country forget how far we've come. There was a time when fundamental decency and equity for working people were not a part of our shared values—a time when collective bargaining, workplace safety, minimum wage and benefits were not part of our common experience. For many of us in our community, decent working conditions and the basic employment benefits needed to subsist in our society are still out of reach. I am deeply appreciative of the invaluable work that the Denver Area Labor Federation and its member locals continue to do to advance the cause of a livable wage, worker rights and protections and to promote decent health care. DALF has made a tremendous impact on our community and implicit in its success has been the fundamental recognition that good wages, job security and quality health care builds a healthy and prosperous community.

Please join me in commending the Denver Area Labor Federation. It is the strong leadership that this organization exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING FORT BENNING  
ON RECEIVING THE ARMY COMMUNICATIONS OF EXCELLENCE  
CHIEF OF STAFF AWARD

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of Congress for ten full years, going on my eleventh year now. Since 1993, when I was elected, the "Home of the Infantry," Fort Benning has consistently been selected as the best installation in the nation, and a few times as best in the world.

As a politician, something inside me wants to take credit for that, but as a statesman, I realize that it has been the fine leadership of people like Major General Paul Eaton and Colonel Joe Torres and those who have preceded them who are really responsible for the outstanding performance of Fort Benning.

As a major power projection platform for the Army, Benning serves a very transitional community of soldiers. With our war in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 7,000 Fort Benning troops are stationed overseas. Obviously, this kind of deployment leaves a hole. Additionally, several thousand more soldiers from other bases have passed through Benning's gates to receive specialized training before deploying to the field. This has placed a great deal of demand on the services offered.

But, in spite of all of these challenges, Fort Benning has been recognized again this year as one of the top 10 military installations in the world with the Communities of Excellence Chief of Staff Award. Competing on the Training and Doctrine Command level, Benning has demonstrated a better, more efficient, faster way to provide outstanding service to the community which calls Fort Benning home.

Additionally, Fort Benning is an integral part of the tri-community, Columbus, GA, Phenix City, AL, and Fort Benning. The military and the civilian communities strive to mutually support one another and each community compliments the others. This is the result of tireless effort by the military, the community leaders of Columbus, and Phenix City. Their effort has paid off and I am glad to see it recognized with this award.

Fort Benning, while it has a proud legacy as the foremost training center of the Army, is only a patch of Earth and some buildings. It is the people who work there that make it an outstanding example of military efficiency and service. It is the dedication of those people and the leadership of its commanders which drive the level of excellence higher each year.

The consistent performance of Fort Benning reflects well on the Army and demonstrates why Fort Benning is a shining example of the Army being all it can be.

I congratulate Major General Eaton and his fine staff on receiving this award and thank them for their service to America and to the community which makes Benning its home.