

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF CHESTER CONNAWAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Chester Conaway of Jefferson County, Illinois. Chet was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Chet received this honor for his lifelong service to others. Upon his graduation from Mt. Vernon Township High School he joined the Army. He then served forty years in the Illinois Army National Guard. He now is the district director for Veterans Affairs Southern Division where he works to secure benefits for deserving veterans. Chet also is a member of the Field Grade School Board of Education and he served twenty years as treasurer of Wesley United Methodist Church. Chet and his wife Barbara have been married fifty years and have raised three daughters.

I want to congratulate and thank Chet for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIDNEY BAUMGARTEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Sidney Baumgarten, in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to the Military and the City of New York, and for his 25 years of service to The East Side Chamber of Commerce and to New York Therapeutic Communities.

A native of Far Rockaway Beach, Mr. Baumgarten attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was elected to the Student Governing Council and earned three varsity letters. After receiving his Bachelor's degree, Mr. Baumgarten attended New York Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review and recipient of an American Jurisprudence Award.

After attending Brown University, Mr. Baumgarten entered military service, attending Signal School at Fort Dix. He served for 18 months in Europe with the 7th Army Command and was awarded 4 commendations. As an active member of the U.S. Army Reserve, he served as Detachment Commander, Company Commander and Adjutant for the 99th Signal Battalion and as Material Officer for the 518th Maintenance Battalion. At an early age, Mr. Baumgarten began his lifelong commitment to serving in the United States military, and recently retired as Colonel in the New

York Guard, Chief of Staff of the Army Division at Camp Smith, New York. For his exceptional services in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack, Mr. Baumgarten was presented with the NY State Conspicuous Service Medal by Governor Pataki in June 2002. Mr. Baumgarten has earned numerous other medals recognizing his service to the nation and the state.

In addition to his law profession and military service, Mr. Baumgarten's many interests led him to act as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rockaway Cultural Society and President of the Regular Democratic Club of the Rockaways. He was also Post Judge Advocate of the VFW Post 1948, a member of the PAL Youth Council, and a director of the Queens Council on the Arts.

Professionally, Mr. Baumgarten was engaged in the private practice of law for 5 years, and was appointed Assistant District Attorney in 1967. As a member of the Appeals Bureau, he argued numerous criminal appeals before the State and Federal courts and expertly handled numerous cases involving prosecution of major crime figures. From November 1968 to December 1973, Mr. Baumgarten was Law Secretary to Justice Charles Margett, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court and Administrative Judge of the Eleventh Judicial District.

Mr. Baumgarten has shared his expertise with colleagues as a lecturer on the subject of firearms and firearms legislation at the New York City Police Academy, and on the subject of appeals at the Queens County Bar Association and at Hofstra University School of Law.

In January 1974, Mr. Baumgarten was appointed Deputy to the Mayor with responsibility for programs and policies involving the Criminal Justice System, the Midtown Enforcement Project, gun control legislation, the Correction Department and many other matters. His expertise has made him a popular guest on many local and network radio and television programs including ABC News and the McNeil-Leherer Report. His successes were recently recognized by former Mayor Giuliani at a ceremony to celebrate the revitalization of Times Square. The Mayor credited Mr. Baumgarten with closing more than 200 illegal establishments during his tenure as head of Midtown enforcement.

Currently, Mr. Baumgarten is President of Spectral BioScience Corp, a company specializing in advanced medical devices and serves as Board Chairman of the East Side Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Emeritus of New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc. He continues to lead and serve my community, tirelessly working towards the betterment of the quality of life for New York City residents and, indeed, all Americans.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sidney Baumgarten for his outstanding service and dedication to the Military and the City of New York.

HONORING STAFF SGT. WILBERT DAVIS, SGT. FIRST CLASS PAUL R. SMITH, LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW JULIAN AVILES AND CPL. JOHN T. RIVERO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of four brave soldiers from the Tampa Bay area who lost their lives while serving our country in Iraq. These four men went to war to protect us and our liberty and ultimately gave their lives to preserve our inalienable rights.

On April 3, Staff Sgt. Wilbert Davis, 40, of the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division, died when his vehicle ran off the road as he was driving journalist Michael Kelly to Baghdad. A native of Tampa, Davis grew up in College Hill, pitched for the Belmont Heights Little League team, all the way to the World Series, and graduated from Tampa Bay Tech High School. A devoted husband and father of four, friends and family recall how dedicated Davis was to service. Joining the Army in 1985, he served in the Persian Gulf War and in Bosnia, Kosovo, Korea and Germany.

Just one day later, Tampa lost Sgt. First Class Paul R. Smith, 33, of the 11th Engineer Battalion. Also a graduate of Tampa Bay Tech, Smith knew early on that he wanted to serve as a professional soldier and raise a family. This husband and father of two enlisted right out of high school and served in the Gulf War, Bosnia and Kosovo. A man who is remembered for his dedication to the soldiers he led, Smith has been nominated for the prestigious Medal of Honor for saving dozens of lives before losing his own. During a surprise Iraqi assault, Smith died while manning a .50-caliber machine to fend off the attackers.

On April 7, Lance Cpl. Andrew Julian Aviles, 18, of the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, was killed when an enemy artillery round struck his amphibious assault vehicle. A young man with an infectious sense of humor and a promising future in store, Aviles was the student government president of Robinson High School, played on the football and wrestling teams and graduated third in his class. A member of JROTC, Aviles passed up a full academic scholarship to Florida State University to enlist because he felt an obligation to serve his country.

On April 17, another bright future was lost when Cpl. John T. Rivero, 23, of the Florida National Guard's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment was killed when his Humvee overturned on a mission with Special Forces. A computer science and engineering student at USF, Rivero grew up in Gainesville and joined the Guard in 1998. He was promoted to Corporal during his service in the Middle East. Friends and family remember his big smile and even bigger heart and talk about his dedication to doing his best at everything he tried.

• 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.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these four courageous soldiers. These men shared a dedication to the ideals that have made this country great. Their bravery and patriotism makes us all proud, and we will never forget their sacrifice.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM
SUPLIZIO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before this body of Congress to honor a man known as Colorado's "Mr. Baseball." Sam Suplizio of Grand Junction, Colorado has spent his life playing, coaching, and promoting the game. As he retires from his position as Director and Chairman of the National Junior College World Series, I would like to pay tribute to this outstanding leader.

Fifty years ago, Sam was one of the top amateur baseball players in the nation. Following a brilliant collegiate career in which he became the University of New Mexico's first All-American baseball player, the New York Yankees signed Sam and quickly labeled him as their top prospect. As a minor leaguer in 1955, Sam hit more home runs than Roger Maris, and the next year the Yankees called him up to the big leagues. Unfortunately, only three days after joining the team, Sam suffered a career-ending injury while sliding into second base.

Despite the setback, Sam rebounded to become a professional scout, coach, and manager with the California Angels and Milwaukee Brewers. He coached superstars Paul Molitor, Robin Yount, and Bo Jackson, participated in selecting members of the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team, and earned a World Series Ring in 1982 with the Brewers.

While his association with professional baseball lasted 50 years, Sam always took the time to give back to the community. In addition to four decades of leadership with the Junior College World Series, thousands of little leaguers, high school, and college players in Colorado benefited from the free clinics Sam frequently conducted. As co-chairman of the Colorado Baseball Commission, Sam led the effort to bring the Rockies to Colorado and was instrumental in the building of Coors Field. He was so effective in that role that Colorado's Governor appointed him to help build a new stadium for the Denver Broncos as well.

Mr. Speaker, athletics teach our young people important life lessons about dedication, sacrifice, and teamwork, and I am proud to pay tribute to a man who has spent five decades imparting these values to our youth. Sam is a true public servant who has done so much for the game of baseball and the state of Colorado, and I am proud to honor him before this body of Congress today.

THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF ST. PETERSBURG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days President Bush and President Putin, as well as leaders from a number of other countries from around the world, will meet in St. Petersburg, Russia for meetings on contemporary international political and economic issues. But at the same time, these world leaders will join in the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. This significant milestone gives us an opportunity to reflect on the history and the significance of this key Russian metropolis.

The city was known as Petrograd during World War One and as Leningrad during the Soviet era, but from its very founding the extraordinary city of St. Petersburg has stood for Russia's Western-facing hopes and dreams. Russian Czar Peter the Great, St. Petersburg's founder, saw clearly that Russia's future lay in engagement with Europe, and believed that the creation of a Russian city with a distinctly European orientation was critical to Russia's development.

St. Petersburg was constructed as Peter's new capital despite the gravest of difficulties, a city that generations of Russians would toil to transform from a swampy wilderness into Europe's "Venice of the North." The effort to create St. Petersburg drew upon the Russian traditions of sacrifice and fortitude that the world would see and respect during World War Two in our common struggle against European fascism.

Since its founding in 1703, St. Petersburg has embodied Russian dreams of all their country could become. Under Catherine the Great the city became one of the grandest centers of science, culture and art in Europe, with European and Russian traditions converging to produce a uniquely Russian style of social and urban development.

St. Petersburg's Hermitage museum is one of the largest and most respected art museums in the world. Catherine the Great founded it to house Russia's collection of many of the world's most precious artistic masterpieces. Russia's intellectual class, rising at that time, also centered in St. Petersburg, attracted by the spirit of liberal development and progress.

Mr. Speaker, St. Petersburg under Catherine the Great firmly made claim to its reputation as a European city of substance, and Russians had and continue to have reason to be proud of all that St. Petersburg represents in Russian society.

The Soviet era again brought great hardships to the people of St. Petersburg, but without the benefit of the freedoms and hope that had originally been the cornerstone of St. Petersburg's appeal. As the center of Russian intellectual activity, it should be no surprise that Stalin's crackdown on artists and thinkers hit St. Petersburg particularly hard. To have lived in the heart of Russian intellectual life, the city of Pushkin and Dostoyevsky, and then to watch the forces of repression and intolerance take hold must have been incredibly painful to bear.

Yet the strength and fortitude of the people of St. Petersburg would before long be on dis-

play for the world once again, as Hitler's armies encircled the city in September 1941. Thus began a siege and blockade of the city that lasted over 2½ years.

Yet never did this city of nearly three million, including hundreds of thousands of children, even contemplate surrender to Hitler and his abhorrent regime. The treasures of the Hermitage museum were hidden in basements, protected by sandbags, and university students continued to go to school and even to be awarded their degrees. The famous Russian composer Dmitry Shostakovich wrote his seventh "Leningrad" symphony during the siege and it was performed in the embattled city.

Mr. Speaker, this spirit of defiance and strength played a key part in the allied victory over fascism, and earned for Russia the respect of the free world.

St. Petersburg has now retaken its original name, one of the first decisions made by popular vote among residents in 1991. The city has also undergone a massive renovation project in preparation for this remarkable milestone, to restore to its buildings their original grandeur and dust off the cobwebs of Soviet neglect once and for all. One of Russia's true national treasures, St. Petersburg is among the country's most important cultural, industrial, tourist, transport and scientific centers.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as in the 300 years of struggle that now lie behind St. Petersburg, the city represents Russia's sense of optimism, its hopes and dreams for its future, and its firm belief that prosperity and national development lie in a strengthened commitment to its relationship with the West.

It is in America's national interest to support this relationship, to give meaning to Russian hopes and dreams, and to see St. Petersburg continue to emerge as a freedom-loving and democratic example to post-Communist societies everywhere. I invite my colleagues to support Russian transition by doing everything possible to achieve these goals, and by promoting the peaceful integration of Russia into the community of free and democratic peoples.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and respect that I applaud the people of St. Petersburg as the city begins its fourth century on Russia's political, social and intellectual frontier. There is a history of sacrifice and of devotion to the principle of intellectual freedom.

St. Petersburg's tradition of academic debate and intellectual freedom is also America's tradition, and Americans look forward to continuing to share with Russia in this vital and productive institution. I invite my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating the citizens of St. Petersburg and the people of all Russia on the 300th birthday of this extraordinary city.

RECOGNITION OF CLARA SONSINI

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Clara Sonsini of Jefferson County, Illinois. Clara was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Clara received this honor for her lifelong service to others. At the onset of World War II she left home and traveled to San Francisco to work for the government in homeland security. Later, Clara and her husband, Dan, moved to Mt. Vernon where they raised three children. Upon their high school graduation she began work at a local nursing home as a nurse's aid and eventually as activity director. Clara's other numerous community activities include Girl Scout Leader, Cub Scout Den Mother, YMCA volunteer, grade school home-room leader, president of the PTA, and American Cancer Society and Red Cross volunteer. She remains vigorously involved with the St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Regional Health Center Auxiliary.

I want to congratulate and thank Clara for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF USO OF
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to USO of Metropolitan New York on the occasion of their 37th Annual Luncheon. This year, the USO is honoring Lorraine Bracco as Entertainer of the Year and Patricia Fili-Krushel, Vice President of Administration at AOL Time Warner, as Woman of the Year. Both women have made outstanding contributions to the New York City community.

The USO, founded in 1941 in response to a request by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is dedicated to providing morale, welfare and recreation type services to uniformed military Personnel. They remain committed to extending a "touch of home" to military members through numerous programs and activities. The USO currently operates throughout the United States and overseas in 121 centers worldwide.

Lorraine Bracco, perhaps best known for her portrayal of psychiatrist Dr. Jennifer Melfi on the HBO hit series "the Sopranos", has earned multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations for Best Actress in a Drama. Ms. Bracco was also nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in the movie "Goodfellas". A student at Stella Adler and the Actors Studio in New York City, Ms. Bracco made her American feature film debut in the 1987 Ridley Scott's thriller, "Someone to Watch Over Me." In addition to extensive film and television credits, Ms. Bracco is a member of the Board of Directors of the environmental organization Riverkeeper, which serves to safeguard the Hudson River, its tributaries and the watershed of New York City against environmental violations by tracking down and stopping polluters. She is also a member of the Board of New York Council for the Humanities.

Patricia Fili-Krushel is the Executive Vice President of Administration of AOL Time Warner. In this role, Ms. Fili-Krushel works closely with AOL Time Warner's senior management team. Her responsibilities include human resources, employee development and growth,

compensation and benefits, as well as security. Before joining AOL Time Warner, Ms. Fili-Krushel was President of the ABC Television network from 1998 to 2000 and was responsible for improving the ABC television ranking from number 3 to number 1. In 1996, she received the prestigious Vision Award for her contributions to the arts. In 1998, Ms. Fili-Krushel was featured by Fortune Magazine among its "50 Most Powerful Women" and in 1999, she received the Women's Project and Productions' Women of Achievement award. Ms. Fili-Krushel currently sits on the Board of Directors for Second Stage Theater, the Board of the Central Park Conservancy, the Board of Center for Communication and was recently named to Mayor Bloomberg's Commission on Women's Issues as Co-Chair of the Child Care initiative. She has made outstanding contributions to the field of communications as well as to improving the New York City community through numerous community service organizations.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the USO of Metropolitan New York on the occasion of their 37th Annual Luncheon as well as in honoring Lorraine Bracco and Patricia Fili-Krushel for their efforts in improving the New York City community.

HONORING MARVIN DAVIES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Marvin Davies, a longtime civil rights leader in Florida, who lost his life to cancer last month.

Davies began his battle for equality at an early age. By the time he was a college student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Davies was participating in protests with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and boycotts in Tallahassee, St. Augustine and Montgomery, Alabama. Chosen as Student of the Year, he graduated from FAMU ranked second in his class.

At age 32, Davies was offered the position of Field Secretary for Florida's NAACP. He served Florida's 138 NAACP branches for seven years and became a leader in the fight for equal opportunities for all Americans in employment, schools, hospitals and all other public places.

Later, Davies served as a special assistant and advisor to Senator BOB GRAHAM during his terms as Florida Governor and U.S. Senator, and worked as the state coordinator of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation. Throughout his entire career, Davies was a public voice for minorities and improving the lives of young people in minority communities.

However, the people of St. Petersburg will remember him best for his work in our community. In 1968, Davies returned to St. Petersburg in support of city sanitation workers who were on strike for better wages and benefits. He served on the Coalition of African-American Leadership, created following the St. Petersburg city riots in 1996, as well as the Citizens Advisory Commission, appointed by the Clinton Administration to oversee the Federal assistance to the city after the civil unrest.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay area, I extend my deepest sympathies to Marvin Davies' family and friends. His life work will never be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KRISTOPHER
ENTZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and memory of an outstanding young man from my district. Kristopher Entz, a 17-year-old student from Center, Colorado passed away recently. As his family and friends mourn their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Kristopher before this body of Congress and this nation.

Kristopher was a well-rounded, perpetually happy, all-American teenager, liked and admired by all. His sense of humor and penchant for pranks made him one of the most popular students at Sangre de Cristo High School. He was an outstanding student, as evidenced by his membership in the National Honor Society and his participation in Knowledge Bowl, an extra-curricular academic competition. Kristopher excelled in athletics as well, and was a terrific football player who also liked snowboarding, golf, and lifting weights.

Kristopher is survived by his parents Mike and Rhonda, his older sister Brynna, and a loving extended family, and my thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. Kristopher's good-natured spirit will live on in the many lives he has touched in the San Luis Valley. His love, laughter, and dedication to his family, friends, school, and community will be greatly missed.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE
JENDRZEJCZYK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my fundamental sadness over the sudden and tragic death of my good friend and fellow human rights defender, Mike Jendrzejczyk. Mike died unexpectedly on May 1 in Washington, D.C., at the age of 53. I would also like to take this opportunity to express the condolences of the entire Chamber to Mike's wife, Janet. I thank Mike for his indefatigable efforts in the defense of human rights, which was his service not only to this country but the entire world community. Mike's death leaves a void in the human rights community that we will continue to feel.

Mr. Speaker, we all knew Mike as the Washington Director of Human Rights Watch for the Asia division. In this capacity, Mike has worked with many of my colleagues and our staffs. In his 13 years with Human Rights Watch, all of us have relied on his expert opinions, his professional insights, and his undying commitment to human rights, which was an inspiration to all of us. His testimonies were a fixture of all committee proceedings dealing with Asia, as well as the Congressional

Human Rights Caucus. Mike's range of experience was astounding by any standards, and included China, Japan, Burma, the World Bank, trade policy and human rights as well as the entire range of U.S. foreign policy in Asia. He was the leading human rights voice condemning the 1989 Chinese military crackdown in Tiananmen Square, he was the most vocal advocate of ethnic groups such as the Tibetans in China and the Montagnards in Vietnam. Increasingly, Mike raised our awareness for issues pertaining to Afghanistan, the consequences of the military coup in Pakistan and the increase in religious fundamentalism in this area.

Mike, we all will miss you terribly. We will miss your voice of reason, your expertise, your enthusiasm and your humor, and most of all, your guidance, as we face new and troubling challenges and dangers emanating from a region of the world which is not easy to understand, but which had become a second home to you. Your life will be a constant reminder and challenge to all of us to try harder, to reach further in the defense of human rights, to believe in a better world and to never accept things as they are, unchallenged.

RECOGNITION OF CLIFF FIELDS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Cliff Fields of Jefferson County, Illinois. Cliff was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Cliff received this honor for his lifelong service to others. Whether it was his service in World War II or his work to bring business and industry to Mt. Vernon, he is known as an unselfish person who works tirelessly for the benefit of others. Fifty years ago Cliff founded the architectural firm of Fields, Goldman, and Magee. He has also served on the Summersville Grade School Board, Mt. Vernon Airport Authority, Economic Development Commission, Director for Mt. Vernon Savings & Loan and First Bank & Trust, and a Trustee for Mitchell Museum.

I want to congratulate and thank Cliff for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

THE FCC AND THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it has been over 3 months since the FCC completed their Triennial Review and voted on new rules for the telecommunications industry, the most significant change for that industry since the adoption of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Yet, the FCC has still not issued the details.

This is a shame. So long as the FCC delays, uncertainty will reign in the tele-

communications sector. For one whole quarter now, investment and growth in the sector have been stalled.

Mr. Speaker, the economy remains weak, showing no real signs of recovery, and numerous companies continue to lay off their employees. The current recession has been hard on workers. Telecommunications companies are set to invest billions of dollars in network infrastructure—investment that will help the weak economy and create and preserve jobs—but the current regulatory environment restricts growth and investment in the telecom sector.

The FCC needs to act quickly and issue a ruling to help the telecommunications industry grow their networks, and help get America back to work.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE M. SCALISE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George M. Scalise, who was recently named chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

George Scalise is a highly respected business leader in the high technology and semiconductor industries. As president of the Semiconductor Industry Association, SIA, George has distinguished himself as one of the premiere experts on the issues of international trade, competition, environmental safety and health, as well as workforce issues. In addition to his leadership of SIA, George Scalise serves on President George W. Bush's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and on the boards of Cadence Design Systems and iSuppli Corporation. George previously served on the Boards of SEMATECH, the Semiconductor Research Corporation, and the Bay Area Economic Forum.

George Scalise is dedicated to investing in the education of future science and technology leaders. A graduate of Purdue University, George is on the advisory committees at the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, the School of Engineering at the University of Southern California, the Engineering Visiting Committee at Purdue University and a member of the California Council on Science and Technology Fellows Program. He is also actively involved in the University Research Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have George Scalise as a constituent and my friend. He is one of the most effective and respected leaders in our country and our community, with a deep commitment to the betterment of our Nation. I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating George M. Scalise on his chairmanship of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and wish him every success in shaping sound monetary policies for our country.

RECOGNITION OF DOROTHY BAKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Dorothy Baker of Jefferson County, Illinois. Dottie was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Dottie received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is a wife and mother who raised three children. Today she is a regular participant in the Sweet Corn & Watermelon Festival, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Jefferson County's Crime Watch program, Memorial Day services, the Mt. Vernon City Wide Cleanup, and the National Day of Prayer. She has also assisted with the Emergency 911 Telephone Testing process. Dottie is active in her church where she helps the elderly and assists others in any way possible.

I want to congratulate and thank Dottie for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

INTRODUCTION OF "BAN ASBESTOS IN AMERICA ACT OF 2003"

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the "Ban Asbestos in America Act of 2003" in the House of Representatives. This is the companion bill to a bill that Senator Murray is reintroducing today in the Senate. Senator Murray has been a real leader in addressing the harm that Americans continue to suffer from exposure to asbestos. I thank her for her hard work on this serious problem.

We all know that asbestos can be deadly. It is a notorious carcinogen and causes other devastating diseases and disability. But what most Americans don't know is that this dangerous substance is still added, on purpose, to numerous products sold in this country. In 2001, companies in the United States used 13,000 metric tons of asbestos.

Sometimes it seems that people trust their government too much. Many Americans reasonably assume that since asbestos is harmful and unnecessary, and since Congress and EPA have taken action on asbestos, it must be illegal to add it to products. They assume that new products are safe in terms of risks from asbestos. In fact, EPA tried to ban asbestos years ago, but was sued and lost on some technical grounds.

The result is that people don't even know that some new products contain asbestos. And people don't realize that they still need to protect themselves against asbestos from these products. For example, many mechanics don't realize that asbestos is used in many brakes, exposing them and the public to dangerous asbestos dust. Asbestos is also still used in many roofing products and in gaskets. Continued exposure from new products is entirely avoidable—and this bill would fix the problem.

The "Ban Asbestos in America Act" also addresses other urgent needs related to harm from asbestos. It requires EPA, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Department of Labor to establish a national public education program about the dangers posed by products with asbestos. For example, many homes in the United States contain vermiculite insulation in their attics—but most homeowners don't know that this vermiculite is often contaminated with asbestos. Homeowners and workers need to be made aware of the risk. People must be informed that they should not disturb this insulation. Yesterday EPA issued a brochure, but we need to do more to get the word out on this and other risks.

This bill also establishes a national registry for mesothelioma, a usually fatal form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. The registry will help scientists to better track and treat this terrible illness. The bill also authorizes funding for mesothelioma research and treatment.

We have not yet finished our job of protecting Americans from exposure to asbestos. We need a ban and public education about the risks that will remain. I'm introducing this bill to get the job done and make this country a safer place for people to work and live.

A TRIBUTE TO LUANA LAMKIN, AN
ANGEL FOR CANCER PATIENTS
IN OHIO

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Luana Lamkin from Hilliard, Ohio, a former member of the Oncology Nursing Society's Board of Directors, and to celebrate May as the ninth annual Oncology Nursing Month. 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 Ohio there are more than 1,226 oncology nurses and health professionals that care for individuals with cancer and their families. In addition, Ohio has 9 local Oncology Nursing Society chapters located in the areas of Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Mansfield, Cuyahoga Falls, Lima, Zanesville, Whitehouse, and Dayton.

Luana Lamkin has been helping cancer patients and their families for the last thirty years. Luana is currently the Administrator of Cancer Services at the Grant/ Riverside Meth-

odist Hospitals in Columbus, Ohio. Luana has been active in the Oncology Nursing Society since 1976 and recently served as National Treasurer for the ONS' Board of Directors. She has received numerous awards for her work on behalf of individuals with cancer including the "Excellence in Nursing Administration" from the Oncology Nursing Society and the "Lane Adams Award" from the American Cancer Society for Outstanding Nursing Leadership.

Luana has also worked with the National Dialogue on Cancer on nursing workforce issues. A number of studies and articles that Luana has written on the impact of the nursing shortage on cancer care have been published in distinguished publications such as the Oncology Nursing Forum, Cancer Nursing: Practices and Principles, Seminars in Oncology Nursing, and the Journal of Nursing Research. Since 1982, Luana has presented thirty papers to national and international audiences on a host of cancer care issues such as staff support systems, role development, community resources, patient and caregiver perspectives, strategic planning, issues and trends in cancer nursing, epidemiology, screening, detection, negotiating professional rewards and nursing shortage issues.

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, signed into law by President Bush, 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.

I commend Luana Lamkin and the Oncology Nursing Society for all of their 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 Luana and the Oncology Nursing Society the best of luck in all of their endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF DONALD BAKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize, Donald Baker of Jefferson County, IL. Don was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Don received this honor for his lifelong service to others. He served his country for 4 years in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Remy* during the Korean war. Today he is a regular participant in the Sweet Corn & Watermelon Festival, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Jefferson County's Crime Watch program, Memorial Day services, the Mt. Vernon City Wide Cleanup, and the National Day of Prayer. He has also assisted with the Emergency 911 Telephone Testing process.

I want to congratulate and thank Don for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is very deserving of this prestigious honor.

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IN
HALLANDALE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues the grand opening of a new Social Security office within my Congressional District in Hallandale, FL.

The new office will serve a total of 16,400 Social Security beneficiaries and 1,678 Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries in the cities of Hallandale, Hollywood and Dania Beach, FL. These cities, renowned for their thriving senior citizen populations, have shared a Social Security office in Hallandale since 1973. However, because this population has grown significantly over the decades, a new, more modern facility was needed in order to better serve the community.

The new office, located at 1000 West Hallandale Beach Boulevard, will include many innovative improvements, such as front-end interviewing and interactive video training by satellite from Social Security national headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and other locations.

I work closely with the Social Security Administration in answering questions and solving problems brought to my attention by my constituents, and I look forward to working for many years to come with Lee Rojas, the manager of this new facility, his full-time staff of 12 and his four special employees.

I applaud the Social Security Administration for its decision to expand its services and improve its proximity to the more than 18,000 retirees who have earned Social Security benefits and rely on Social Security's services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 21, 2003, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 201 through 204. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 201 on the procedural vote of ordering the previous question; rollcall vote 202 on Agreeing to H. Res. 245 on Agreeing to the Resolution providing consideration of H.R. 1588; rollcall vote 202 on the Motion to Suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1170; and rollcall vote 203 on the Motion to Suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1911.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 203 and 204, and "nay" on roll call votes 201 and 202.

RECOGNITION OF JOHN NELSON COWEN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize John Nelson Cowen of Jefferson County, IL. John was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

John received this honor for his lifelong service to others. Throughout his life John raised a family, sang for community events with the Barbershop Chorus, annually served at the Kiwanis Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, provided inexpensive housing to low income families, and contributed to the education of underprivileged children. He is still actively involved as a Sunday School teacher at Park Avenue Baptist Church where he has taught for 70 years. John also loves his country so much he chose to not draw Social Security so that others in need can benefit from it.

I want to congratulate and thank John for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to highlight the benefits that competition in the telecommunications industry has bestowed upon this nation.

In the seven years since the passage of the Telecommunications Act, millions of consumers and thousands of businesses have been given choices and enjoyed savings never before experienced during more than a century of monopoly control. In fact, it is estimated that if telecom competition were allowed to flourish across the nation, our citizens could save more than \$9 billion a year on their telephone bills.

Take, for example, LDMI Telecommunications, a competitive telecom provider who offers services in Michigan. LDMI's President & CEO, Patrick O'Leary, has files full of letters from customers who are grateful to have a choice among providers and are able to save a significant amount of money in the process.

Here's what some of LDMI's customers have to say:

"When long distance was a monopoly we could only afford five inside sales reps due to the high cost of phone calls. Thanks to the lowest phone rates we've ever enjoyed, we now have sixteen inside sales reps and our market is now the continental United States. Our sales are over five million dollars. None of this growth would have been possible without competition in the telecommunications industry."—a supplier of paper rolls for business machines in New Hudson, Michigan

"Since we became an LDMI customer in August, 1994, we have enjoyed not only excellent rates and saving, but have also experienced extremely courteous and overly competent customer service and technical support. To say that we are satisfied with the high quality of service and incredible savings would have to be considered an understatement."—a law firm in Saginaw, Michigan

These reactions are extremely common among the millions of customers who are relying on competitive telecommunications providers for their voice and data communications services. LDMI, and many other small competitive companies who offer the same quality and cost-effective services to consumers and small businesses, would not exist but for the rules that require the Bell companies to provide competitors access to the public switched telephone network at reasonable, non-discriminatory rates.

Telecom competition serves as an economic catalyst, as well. As you can see from these customer testimonials, consumers and business owners have a great incentive to reinvest the savings on their telephone bills into new equipment or services. Moreover, the economy is bolstered by the spending of competitors and the Bell companies themselves on new technology, new networks, and innovative service packages. In fact, studies show that since passage of the 1996 Act, alternative telecom service providers have generated more than \$100 billion in capital expenditures on state-of-the art infrastructure, while the Bells have accounted for another \$50 billion in spending as a direct result of competition in their markets.

We must work to ensure that consumer benefits and economic stimulus are not stifled by government actions over voice and broadband services. The FCC is poised to issue an order that would preserve competition through the use of the Unbundled Network Element Platform—or UNE-P. The Commission should be thorough in its consideration of the details of the rules it is about to issue to ensure that competition remains viable, consumer choice is protected and technological innovation is allowed to blossom.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2210, THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker I am pleased to have the opportunity to congratulate the Gentleman from Delaware, Mr. CASTLE, on the introduction of the School Readiness Act of 2003, which reauthorizes the Head Start program. This legislation demonstrates a tremendous commitment to strengthening Head Start. It represents a great accomplishment not only for Mr. CASTLE, but for disadvantaged children and their families from across this nation.

As many of you know, President Bush's biggest domestic priority has consistently been education reform. In his State of the Union address in January 2002 the President outlined his plan (known as the Good Start, Grow Smart initiative) for ensuring that children are prepared to read and succeed in school. This proposal focused on strengthening Head Start, increasing partnerships with States, and providing information to teachers, caregivers and parents. The Bush Administration's proposal laid the foundation for many of the reforms in this legislation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Bush for his leadership on this issue.

I think we all recognize that Head Start is a great program that has helped millions of low-income children access the resources they need in order to help them succeed in school and later in life. I was troubled to learn, however, that while children in Head Start show improvement when compared to other disadvantaged children who are not enrolled in the program those same children are still far behind their more advantaged peers when it comes time to enter school. The School Readiness Act of 2003 will address this "readiness gap" in much the same way that the No Child Left Behind Act addressed the "achievement gap" between low income and middle class students.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation increases Head Start's emphasis on school readiness allows us to align the goals of Head Start with recent reforms of K-12 education, while continuing to maintain the comprehensive services that are provided by the program. The No Child Left Behind Act made it clear that children should be reading successfully by the end of the 3rd grade. The School Readiness Act of 2003 makes it clear that Head Start should be providing economically disadvantaged children with the opportunity to enter school with the literacy, pre-reading, and pre-math skills that are essential for success in school.

I am also pleased that the School Readiness Act of 2003 focuses on improving teacher quality in Head Start. Research has demonstrated that having a well qualified teacher in the classroom is one of the best predictors of student success. This is why the School Readiness Act of 2003 requires 100 percent of all new Head Start teachers to have at least an Associates Degree in early childhood education or a related field within three years. The legislation also requires 50 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide to hold at least a Bachelors Degree in early childhood education or a related field by 2008.

In order to provide an incentive for states to continue investing in early childhood education, the School Readiness Act of 2003 also creates a state demonstration project that allows a limited number of states to voluntarily apply for and receive the option of coordinating Head Start programs with their own early childhood education programs, in exchange for an agreement to maintain or expand funding for early childhood education. This state demonstration project would be limited to states with a demonstrated investment in early childhood education and an established, pre-existing preschool system. Participating states would be barred from making funding cuts to early childhood education programs as a condition of their participation. Current Head Start grantees in participating states would be guaranteed funding during the first year of implementation of the demonstration project. In addition, States would be strongly encouraged to continue utilizing current service providers that have demonstrated the capacity to provide high quality Head Start services consistent with State guidelines for school preparedness for children entering kindergarten.

I am confident that this type of state control and collaboration will allow states to increase all-day Head Start classes, better coordinate state pre-school programs with Head Start, and improve the alignment of Head Start instruction with state K–12 standards. These types of reforms will not only improve the school readiness of participating children, but will also allow States that are held accountable for student performance under the No Child Left Behind Act to have the opportunity to do everything possible to ensure that their students succeed.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Mr. CASTLE on the introduction of this legislation. I look forward to working with him, and other members of the House, as we continue our efforts to strengthen Head Start and ensure that our nation's neediest children are prepared to succeed in school.

RECOGNITION OF JACK GOLDMAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Jack Goldman of Jefferson County, Illinois. Jack was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Jack received this honor for his lifelong service to others. He served in World War II as a combat engineer in the United States Army. Jack participated in the invasions of Leyte and Okinawa. After serving his country he returned to Mt. Vernon where he has literally and figuratively changed his community. Jack became involved with the Acquisition Committee for the Arts in the City Foundation and as chairman of the Sculpture Committee for Cedarhurst. He was named Counselor Emeritus for Mitchell Museum in 1995. Jack is an architect with Fields, Goldman, and Magee; and is also a member of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club and the Downtown Development Corporation. He and his wife, Joan, are members of United Methodist Church.

I want to congratulate and thank Jack for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2210, THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the School Readiness Act of 2003, which reauthorizes the Head Start program. This legislation improves the Head Start Act by emphasizing that every child, regardless of their economic status, should have the best chance possible to succeed. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his assistance in developing this legislation.

In 1965, Head Start was created to give economically disadvantaged children access to the same educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services that were enjoyed by their more affluent peers. The goal of the program was, as it remains today, to provide children a solid foundation that will prepare them for success in school and later in life. As the centerpiece of the Federal government's efforts to support quality early childhood education for our nation's most disadvantaged youth, Head Start has served nearly 20 million low-income children and their families. Currently, Head Start serves over 900,000 children every day and has nearly 1,500 grantees across the United States. In my home state of Delaware, Head Start programs serve 1,594 children, with an additional 464 four year olds receiving assistance through state government funding.

We all can agree on the need for Head Start and its astounding successes. We must also recognize that Head Start can produce even greater results for children. Students who attend Head Start programs do start school more prepared than those with similar backgrounds that do not attend Head Start. However, Head Start students continue to enter kindergarten well below national norms in school readiness. By moving to close this school readiness gap, this bill will improve results for almost a million Head Start students across the nation.

The School Readiness Act of 2003 strengthens Head Start's academic focus while maintaining its comprehensive nature, eliminates out of date requirements and unnecessary demands on local grantees, improves teacher quality, demands grantee accountability while providing assistance to those that are underachieving, increases funding for Head Start, requires collaboration between early childhood education and care providers, and creates a demonstration project allowing some states to further coordinate state early childhood programs with Head Start.

Under this bill, Head Start children will enter school with demonstrated prereading, language, and pre-mathematics skills, as well as the benefits from the nutritional and health services that Head Start has always provided. Children's progress will no longer be based on

arbitrary and out of date performance measures, but on scientifically based and clear criteria that will enable parents and teachers to accurately view a child's progress.

This bill will also require Head Start teachers to be more prepared to equip young children for school. By 2008, 50 percent of all Head Start teachers must have a baccalaureate degree, and after three years no new teachers will be hired without an associate degree.

This bill also improves the accountability of Head Start programs. As under current law, local grantees will be responsible for their use of the federal funds. Those that are identified as underachieving, however, will receive additional assistance. This bill demonstrates our commitment to Head Start by authorizing a \$202 million increase, making it a \$6.87 billion program.

Additionally, Head Start centers will now increase the likelihood of children starting kindergarten at the same level. This will be done through the efforts of Head Start programs to coordinate and reach out to other early childhood education and care providers, local school districts, local museums and libraries, and community and faith-based organizations. These efforts will be focused on the improved instruction and school readiness of children, as well as teacher training and quality improvement.

For some states, this bill will also provide the opportunity for increased integration of preschool programs with Head Start. This opportunity will only be available to states that have exhibited a substantial dedication to early childhood education and care through financial investment, the creation of statewide school readiness standards, professional development requirements for early childhood teachers, and have demonstrated inter-agency coordination. States that take advantage of this opportunity will be required to maintain their current investment, thus protecting Head Start from state budget cuts. In addition, Head Start grantees that have not exhibited any egregious or uncorrected deficiencies on Health and Human Services evaluations over the last five years would continue to receive funding during the first year of the state demonstration program.

The School Readiness Act of 2003 builds upon the reforms of previous reauthorizations of Head Start, as well as the recommendations of President Bush. I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Bush, and First Lady Laura Bush, for their leadership on this issue. The success of the White House Summit on Early Childhood Cognitive Development, which brought together hundreds of educators, researchers, librarians, business leaders and federal officials to help us better understand the issues surrounding early childhood learning, is a credit to this Administration.

I look forward to working with the members of the Education and Workforce Committee and other members of Congress as we work to craft this legislation that will improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children. I urge my colleagues to join me and the other original cosponsors in support of the School Readiness Act of 2003.

RECOGNITION OF NANCY
GERMANN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Nancy Germann of Jefferson County, Illinois. Nancy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Nancy received this honor for her lifelong service to others. For thirty-three years she made a positive difference in the lives of students. She loves teaching so much she returned to the classroom after her retirement as a special education aide. Nancy is extremely involved in her church and community. Some of her activities include singing in the church choir, assisting with the soup kitchen and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy, and serving as a director for Cedarhurst Chamber Music along with helping with other Cedarhurst activities.

I want to congratulate and thank Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

HONORING CHARLES MIXSON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding constituent of mine from the Fifth Congressional District of Florida who has, because of his extraordinary achievement, been named by the Florida Professional Engineers in Government as the 2003 Government Engineer of the Year.

Charles Mixson is the County Engineer and Public Works Director in my home town of Brooksville. He is a published author, his work having appeared in American Public Works Magazine in 2002. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1977 with a civil engineering degree and has since completed several continuing education courses.

He is a member of the Florida and National Engineering Societies, the Florida and National Association of County Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the Florida Department of Transportation Greenbook Advisory Committee. He has served in leadership roles in several of these organizations.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Mixson is an upstanding community leader, as he is an active supporter of the Boy Scouts and is the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Brooksville.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see why the Florida Professional Engineers in Government chose Mr. Mixson as their Government Engineer of the Year. Mr. Mixson has certainly worked hard to earn this honor and he is deserving of every accolade I or his peers could bestow on him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating and honoring a fine American and

a man whom I am proud to represent in this chamber.

RECOGNITION OF ALFRED
"MUGSY" BEAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Alfred "Mugsy" Bean of Jefferson County, Illinois. Mugsy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Mugsy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. On the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mugsy immediately volunteered for service to his country. He was embroiled in World War II for close to four years. For the past 25 years Mugsy has served as a member of American Legion Post 141 Funeral Detail and has worked on the Jefferson County Veteran's Memorial Committee. He is known to treat all with the same respect and to reach out to those in need. Mugsy has been married to Louise for 58 years and has raised four children.

I want to congratulate and thank Mugsy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

ARMY SPECIALIST BRANDON
JACOB ROWE

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of attending the memorial service for a heroic young man from Roscoe, Illinois, who selfishly gave his life to protect our families and our freedoms in the United States and to give the Iraqi people a future without terror and oppression.

Brandon Jacob Rowe would have turned 21 years old on April 14, 2003. But on March 31, the Army Specialist from the 101st Airborne Division was killed in an ambush near Najaf, Iraq. Brandon, who earned a waiver and was promoted to Specialist early, was one of two machine gunners in his infantry rifle platoon. According to Major Gen. Robert T. Clark, who presented Brandon's mother with her son's Purple Heart at the memorial service, machine gunners are the most important soldiers in a rifle platoon because they provide the firepower that protects the rest of the men. As Brandon's older brother, Brent, so aptly put it, "He was my short little brother, but he was one hell of a man."

I never met Brandon Rowe. But I learned of his character and his love for his country after meeting his courageous family. Brandon's mother, his father, his brothers, his sister, and his aunts, uncles and cousins are obviously in tremendous pain right now after losing him. Even amid that anguish, their pride for Brandon and their support of his mission shines through. Brandon made a tremendous impression on his family and all who knew him. I wish I had known him, Mr. Speaker.

I have enclosed a tribute to Brandon written by his Aunt Cecile shortly after his death. Brandon's sister, Leah, read the tribute at his memorial service on April 12 at Hononegah High School in Rockton, Illinois:

UNNAMED SOLDIER, ROSCOE, ILLINOIS

Now we can tell his name. His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe. He had other names—our son, our stepson, our grandson, our brother and brother-in-law, our nephew, our cousin, our boyfriend, our dear friend, our co-worker, our comrade-in-arms, our buddy, our neighbor and more. For what seemed to us a long, long while, though it was only a few days, he was known through media reports only as the first combat casualty from the 101st Airborne in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe and he died in Iraq because he was committed to a cause. His death is not senseless, but full of purpose and meaning. He appreciated his freedom, and felt that everyone deserved to be free. He was proud of the job he was doing to serve his country.

He died trying to make life better for others, trying to do his part to rid the world of those who oppress the innocent. Brandon put his life, his heart, on the line so others he didn't even know wouldn't have to continue to live in terror. He had great admiration for his grandfather, who fought for our country's freedom and earned a Purple Heart as an Army paratrooper during the Second World War. Brandon wanted to do something with his life that had real value and merit. Brandon's life certainly had both.

Brandon was known for his sense of humor and fun, but he had a quiet, deep spirituality that others did not always see. They did know he was strong, and kind, and always looking out for others' welfare before his own. He sensed when others were lacking, or hurting, or needing a friend; he became that friend. Brandon always put others before himself, concerned about the welfare of his buddies, his teammates, his family and friends.

From his first smile to his last, the kindness and sweetness in his face shone out of him. His goodness drew people to him for all of his nearly 21 years. One could not see his smile without feeling happier, without feeling glad to know him.

We in his family love and honor Brandon, and thank all those who have shown love and support at this difficult time. We are grateful to his hometown friends and the members of the 101st Airborne he was so proud to be associated with, and with whom he served his country. He offered up the ultimate sacrifice. It was not in vain, Brandon, and we will not ever forget.

RECOGNITION OF WILMA KIMMEL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wilma Kimmel of Jefferson County, Illinois. Wilma was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Wilma received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is known as a dedicated wife and mother. She and her husband, Ardell, raised three children. In order to help send her children to college she began work as a secretary for the Mt. Vernon School System where she worked for twenty years.

Wilma has been involved with the 4-H Club, Rend Lake Piecemakers Quilt Guild, and Herbs for Health and Fun. No one can say that Wilma is not devoted to her church. At Central Christian Church she is known as a ready and willing hand for wherever there is a need. She is described as one who gets the job done and one who never complains.

I want to congratulate and thank Wilma for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION ACT AND THE POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and grant the Secretary of Agriculture the power to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by CAROLYN MCCARTHY (NY), EARL BLUMENAUER (OR), TIM RYAN (OH) and GEORGE MILLER (CA).

The announcement of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as "mad cow disease," in Canada this week, further highlights the importance of this legislation. Let me be clear that there is no evidence that our domestic meat products are compromised in any way. However, if they were ever found to be tainted, the Secretary currently has no authority to mandate the recall of these products. This is unacceptable today, more than ever.

I cannot overstate the importance of the nature of this legislation. It is imperative to the health and welfare of the American public that we bolster the regulation of the meat and poultry industry. The number of people affected annually from ingesting tainted meat and poultry products illuminates this proposition: 5,000 people die from food-borne illnesses each year. Furthermore, nearly 76 million people get sick annually from eating tainted food, of which 325,000 require hospitalization.

The Jack in the Box E. coli outbreak of 1993 prompted the imposition of a new regulatory system on the meat and poultry industry designed to help eliminate future deadly food-borne illness outbreaks. The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program shifted the responsibility for ensuring meat safety from USDA inspectors to the meat companies themselves and instituted microbial tests for harmful bacteria. Since the implementation of the HACCP regulations, however, controversy has erupted over whether the new rules place too much power in the hands of the meat industry to regulate itself.

Due to the huge political clout of the meatpacking industry, USDA does not have, nor seem to want, the power to issue mandatory recalls of tainted meat and poultry products. Complying with agency recalls, therefore,

is at the industry's discretion. The meat industry says that it has never failed to cooperate with a recall request from the USDA, thus mandatory recalls of tainted meat are not needed. I disagree.

Whenever there is a recall, press releases issued by these companies make very clear that the recall is voluntary. However, when USDA asks for a recall, a negotiation process ensues between the agency and the industry. Meanwhile, thousands of people would continue to eat potentially harmful meat. This is not a trivial matter. This is meat that is potentially contaminated and could result in death.

This is a question of accountability. Somebody must be held responsible for the quality and safety of the meat we consume. The government must ensure that the meatpacking industry produces only safe meat products. My bill will facilitate this need by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. My bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe or tainted from the market. The time has come for this necessary step.

HONORING THE USS "PLATTE"

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the USS *Platte* (AO-24) Navy Ship. On this day, the bell from the ship will be permanently loaned to the Platte County-KCI Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Platte County commission for display. Platte County has worked very hard to honor the service and the memory of the ship and those who served on board.

The USS *Platte* was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company in Baltimore, Maryland and commissioned at Norfolk, Virginia on December 1, 1939. On March 27, 1940, the ship was sent out to support the Panama Canal Zone fleet. After its service to this fleet, the USS *Platte* was reassigned to the base at San Pedro, California and carried liquid cargo, passengers and freight to and from Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS *Platte* was fortunately stationed in San Pedro. The USS *Platte* continued its service and on January 11, 1942 was assigned as a fueling ship for the Carrier Task Force Eight, which comprised of ships including the Aircraft Carrier Enterprise, flagship of Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.

Subsequently, the USS *Platte* served in World War II supporting the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Coral Sea, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Western Aleutians, Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, Marianas Islands and the Philippine Islands. Additionally, the USS *Platte* provided logistical support during the Korean and Vietnam wars and refueled the aircraft Carrier Enterprise task force group off the Korean shore during the Pueblo crisis. For its service, the ship received eleven battle stars for World War II and 6 battle stars for Korean war service.

On May 17, 2002, the County Commission of Platte County, Missouri recognized the outstanding accomplishments and achievements

of the USS *Platte* by hosting USS *Platte* veterans, families, and friends to declare the day as USS *Platte* Day for Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the USS *Platte*, the men who served this great ship, and the Platte County Commission for their efforts in remembering this important ship and its many missions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMONS LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my district—Commons Lane Elementary School, in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

In April the school was named 1 of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by Commons Lane was one of three schools in my District so honored. Some 35 public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the State, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, MO, the State Capital.

To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the State of Missouri, with 3 in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the State achieve "Gold Star" status and we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students.

If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

INTRODUCING THE ACCESS TO DIABETES SCREENING SERVICES ACT OF 2003

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Diabetes Screening Services Act of 2003. This common-sense legislation will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes are diagnosed and treated as soon as possible.

Diabetes is a serious, debilitating chronic illness that afflicts more than 17 million Americans, including 7 million Medicare beneficiaries. This sometimes silent disease causes many serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputation. Unfortunately, more than one-third of people with diabetes won't realize it until they develop one of its deadly complications.

Diabetes imposes an enormous financial burden on our health care system. More than 25 percent of the Medicare budget is currently devoted to providing medical care to seniors living with diabetes. Congress recognized the need to address this problem when it required Medicare coverage of blood-glucose monitors and diabetes education services in the Balanced Budget Act. While this was a positive development in our fight against diabetes, it has done little to help us diagnose and treat the 2.3 million seniors who do not realize they have diabetes, or the 20 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who have pre-diabetes, a condition which, if left untreated, will develop into diabetes.

While diabetes is sometimes a silent disease, the risk factors are often obvious. Diabetes is prevalent among individuals who are overweight, aging, and lead a sedentary lifestyle. Other health conditions, such as gestational diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension often lead to diabetes. It is also more common in certain racial and ethnic groups, including Hispanics, African Americans, and certain Native Americans.

Currently, Medicare does not cover diabetes screening, even if a patient has some of these risk factors. We must strengthen the Medicare program to ensure that individuals get treatment before it is too late. By testing high-risk individuals, we will be able to diagnose and treat individuals earlier on, and subsequently prevent many complications. Studies have shown that people with pre-diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes by up to 58 percent through lifestyle interventions, including modest weight loss and increased physical activity.

That is why I am introducing this legislation, which would require Medicare to cover diabetes screening under Part B. Diagnosing diabetes and pre-diabetes through testing would improve the lives of our Nation's seniors and prevent an increase over the already huge amount of Medicare budget devoted to seniors with diabetes. In addition to improving the health and quality of life for millions of Americans, extending coverage to cover simple testing would save Medicare money in the long run by lowering the incidence of complications.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

I cannot overstate the importance of the nature of this legislation. As a Member of Congress from the west, I take very seriously the need to find a balanced approach to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The Cerro Grande fire, which occurred within my district in 2000, scorched over 40,000 acres and consumed over 400 homes and businesses in Los Alamos, NM. This tragic example highlights the importance of this issue in New Mexico.

Wildfire prevention and protection is of such grave importance that I am extremely concerned about, and strongly object to, the manner that this legislation was brought before us today. A Committee Print of this bill was received in my office, during a recess period, five days before it was scheduled for Resources Committee markup. Not only did we, nor the public, have time to analyze and digest its content, but the importance and depth of this issue was further undermined by the fact that this committee did not even hold any hearings on the bill before proceeding straight to mark-up.

In the past, I have worked with Mr. McINNIS on fire issues and had hoped to be able to do so again this Congress. I believe that by working together on a bill in a bipartisan manner, we could have crafted legislation that protects our communities from catastrophic fires without the perceived need to impose unprecedented deadlines and standards for injunctive relief on the federal judiciary, and without emasculating our environmental laws. However, due to the manner in which this bill was presented to us, the opportunity to work together, or at least consider any viable alternatives to H.R. 1904, did not arise.

Considering this, I would like to point out that H.R. 1904 was not the sole option available to Congress for the protection of our at-risk communities from wildfire devastation. Similar to H.R. 1904's Section 104, which essentially eliminates any public alternatives to agency action as set out in NEPA, the majority did not allow us to consider any alternatives to H.R. 1904, aside from the Miller/Defazio Substitute offered here today. For example, in February Mr. UDALL of Colorado and I introduced H.R. 1042, the Forest Restoration and Fire Risk Reduction Act. Had we had an opportunity to hold hearings on our bill, Mr. UDALL and I would have been able to formally raise some of the issues not addressed in H.R. 1904, but that are critically important to wildfire prevention and protection.

H.R. 1042 refocuses the implementation of the National Fire Plan (NFP) to areas designated as "wildland/urban interface," the critical zones that are of the highest risk to people, property and water supplies, by re-directing NFP funding and hazardous fuels reduction projects through state selection panels. H.R. 1042 would accomplish this through the collaboration between state and federal land managers, and local and tribal commu-

nities in both decision and implementation activities. Through their individual contributions, we could develop cost-effective restoration activities, and empower these diverse organizations to implement activities that value local and traditional knowledge, build ownership and civic pride, and ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds. Such collaboration would result in the efficient restoration of areas distressed by wildfires and help protect our homeowners and businesses from future losses.

While I agree with the general consensus that thinning our forests—by controlled burns or mechanical means—will lessen the likelihood of unusually severe fires, I cannot support the contention of the Bush Administration and the majority that to facilitate such projects we need to expunge our environmental laws and procedures for public comment and participation. The exemption of fire-risk reduction projects from environmental review and administrative appeals, and to deny the public the full and fair opportunity to have viable alternatives to agency action considered, circumvents established policy of public participation, an important aspect of our democratic process for making decisions affecting public lands. Excluding public comment does not assist in developing sound forest management.

H.R. 1042 makes some relatively innocuous procedural concessions that can expedite the process of resolving appeals, but, unlike H.R. 1904, it maintains these sound principles of law and public policy, and does not affect the traditional judicial review process and standards of equity inherent in our legal system.

H.R. 1904 contains unwarranted judicial review standards. Not only does it impose unreasonable time limits for filing cases in federal court after final agency action, H.R. 1904 contains an unprecedented provision that changes the fundamental legal standard of equitable relief. H.R. 1904 directs the court, when considering a motion for injunctive relief, to determine whether there would be harm to the defendant and whether the injunction would be in the public interest. In effect, these provisions tip the scales of justice in favor of the administrative agency.

The equitable balancing of competing claims has historically been part of the court's province. Injunctions are intrinsic to our federal judiciary's ability to remedy wrongs. Consequently, H.R. 1904's judicial review provisions serve to diminish the court's ability to balance competing interests, and blur the line separating the legislative role and the role of our courts.

In conclusion, I believe, as all of us from the western United States would likely agree, that it is imperative to support proactive programs that reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and aid in the restoration of lands that have met the same unfortunate fate as the Cerro Grande. However, such programs should be community-based and should not gut our environmental protection laws, nor affect existing standards of judicial review.

H.R. 1042 had the capacity to meet these important objectives. However, we were not offered the opportunity to consider that alternative. For this reason, and those reasons stated above, I must oppose H.R. 1904.

RECOGNIZING THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK OF HALE, MISSOURI ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale. The bank is one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Hale, Missouri and I take this opportunity to commend their dedication and service to their community.

On May 2, 1928, the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale was commissioned and opened for business on the 9th of the month. Since its opening, the bank has only had six presidents. In addition, the Cowherd, Haynes and Franken families have all been involved with the bank from its beginning. When it was first starting out, the bank began with a capital of \$20,000; today, the bank's capital exceeds \$1,300,000 and has deposits of \$13,250,000.

The bank has truly evolved with the times. Photographs taken of the bank in 1906 and 1977 show that the building remained the same. However, in 1978, the bank celebrated its 50th anniversary and the raising of a new building. Artifacts from the original bank were taken and displayed in the new building, including the original vaults, the black iron swinging gate and the big old clock that graced the main lobby. These artifacts remain with the bank to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale, Missouri on their 75th anniversary and for their many contributions to the 6th District and the State of Missouri.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my District—Conway Elementary School, in the Ladue School District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Conway Elementary School was one of three schools in my District so honored. Some thirty-five public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year. Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the state, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, Mo., the State Capital. To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No

Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the state of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the state achieve "Gold Star" status.

If that happens, we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students. If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.

There is no doubt that sub-Saharan Africa is in the midst of a crisis because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although only 10 percent of the world's population resides in this area, it is home to more than 70 percent of individuals infected by HIV/AIDS. According to the United Nations, 29.4 million adults and children are infected with the HIV virus in the region, including 3 million children under the age of 15.

Although HIV/AIDS has become a treatable disease here in the United States, the public health infrastructure in Africa is ill-equipped to deal with this pandemic. This is evidenced by the fact that, of the 4 million individuals who have reached an advanced stage of the disease, only 50,000 individuals are receiving anti-retroviral treatment.

This problem is compounded by the increased spread of comorbidities such as tuberculosis and malaria. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death for individuals with HIV/AIDS, causing one out of every three deaths for individuals with HIV/AIDS. Incidences of malaria have increased dramatically in recent years due to resistance of the malaria parasite to once effective drugs, and increasing resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides. The World Health Organization estimates between 300 million and 500 million new cases of malaria each year.

That is why this legislation is so important. This measure makes a substantial investment

in our Nation's efforts to help Africa combat this horrible epidemic. The legislation provides up to \$1 billion specifically for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in 2004—a key multilateral mechanism for expanding prevention and treatment. It also allows the U.S. share of total contributions to the Global Fund of up to 33 percent, which solidifies our country's leadership and commitment to eradicating these diseases worldwide.

This legislation is carefully crafted, bipartisan, and will be truly effective in our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. I applaud the efforts of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee for their work on this important legislation.

SIEFERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 29, 2003, Siefert Elementary School will be celebrating its 100th Year Anniversary, a historic event in the education of Milwaukee's youth.

Originally called Ninth District #1 when its doors were opened in 1903, the school was renamed Siefert Elementary School after Henry O.R. Siefert, who served as principal for 16 years. Siefert retired from Milwaukee Public Schools in 1922 at the age of 82, after serving Milwaukee area students for 63 years in numerous capacities, including teacher, principal and superintendent of the Milwaukee Public School System.

Located in the Midtown Neighborhood of Milwaukee, a community with diversity at its core, the school currently serves students from Head Start through 5th grade, and its mission is to ensure that all students reach their academic potential and become responsible, well-rounded citizens. The curriculum trains children to become competent, creative problem solvers, particularly in science and mathematics, and to be familiar with current technological advances.

Siefert Elementary challenges its young people, helping them develop the independent thinking skills they will need as they move beyond the halls of this outstanding school. It encourages each student to be an active partner in his or her individualized education program, working to achieve personal excellence in academics, communications, emotional intelligence and life planning in order to become a self-directed, contributing member of society. This Milwaukee Public School begins the process of equipping students with the tools required to function successfully in the global economy of the 21st century.

Celebrating 100 years of public education is a testament to how great things can be accomplished when students, teachers, administrators and parents work together. I salute Siefert Elementary efforts, and extend my best wishes for continued success in providing quality education for young people in our community.

LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN SANTA FE, NM, AFTER JUDGE SANTIAGO CAMPOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize an outstanding jurist, an honorable man, and a leading Hispanic in the field of law by introducing legislation to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, NM, after Judge Santiago Campos. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by my colleagues, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. REYES, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. PASTOR.

Judge Santiago Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a U.S. District Court Judge, as he also served in the U.S. Navy as a Seaman First Class from 1944 to 1946, as the Assistant and First Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico from 1954 to 1957, and as a District Court Judge from 1971 to 1978 in the First Judicial District in the State of New Mexico. Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and compassion with those who entered his courtroom. He was a life long resident of New Mexico and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico.

Judge Campos was very active in his courtroom, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return The New Mexican, Santa Fe's daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney due to a breach of contract.

During his career, Campos was an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He also received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the State Bar of New Mexico in 1993, and in the same year the University of New Mexico honored him with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Sadly, Judge Campos passed away on January 20th, 2001. Following his passing, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a joint memorial requesting Congress to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Campos who had his chambers in the courthouse for over 22 years. In addition, the judges of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who reside in New Mexico and the district judges of the District of New Mexico unanimously requested and support Congressional action to name the Federal Courthouse after Judge Campos. I am pleased to take up this effort.

Last Congress I introduced this legislation and was able to work to get it passed by the House. Unfortunately the Senate did not act on this legislation. This year, however, I am hopeful that we will be able to get this legislation signed into law and honor this great man with a small token of appreciation for the remarkable life that he lived.

MEMBERS OF EAST NORRITON ENGINE COMPANY WITH OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven members of the East Norriton Fire Engine Company. For over 30 years these fine individuals—Joseph Rothwein, George Myers, Joseph M. Pfizenmayer, Douglas Lindberg Sr., Donald Huston, Henry M. Carneavale, and Joseph T. Lesinski—have dedicated over a third of their lives, 242 years total, to saving life and property for East Norriton Township and the surrounding communities.

Joseph Rothwein is a 30-year member who has held numerous positions within the Company. He served on and chaired the Board of Trustees, held elected office as Financial Secretary for over 20 years, and was a recipient of the Life Membership Award in 1995.

George Myers, a 31-year member, is the current Assistant Fire Chief and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has held such positions as Fire Chief and Chief Engineer of the Company and presently is a training instructor at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and Pennsylvania Fire Academy. George is a two-time recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award and received the Life Membership Award in 1991.

Joseph M. Pfizenmayer, a 32-year member, and current East Norriton Township Fire Marshall, has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and held numerous elected positions including Assistant Fire Chief. He was a training instructor at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and was Chairman of the Montgomery Fire Advisory Board. Joe is a recipient of the Fighter of the Year Award and was presented the Life Membership Award in 1991.

Douglas Lindberg Sr., a 33-year member, and current Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has held numerous elected offices including Fire Chief and is currently a training officer at both the Montgomery County Fire Academy and the Pennsylvania Fire Academy. Doug was the first member of his Company to pass the Pennsylvania State Certification of Fire Fighter Level one and is a three-time recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award. He received the Life Membership Award in 1989.

Donald Huston, a 36-year member, has held several elected positions including that of Fire Police Chief as well as serving on the Board of Trustees. Donald received the Life Membership Award in 1986.

Henry M. Carneavale, a 43-year member, has held numerous elected positions, most notably that of Fire Police Chief while also serving on the Board of Trustees. Hank is a recipient of the Life Membership Award in 1979.

Joseph T. Lesinski Sr., the senior member of this group at 47 years, and former Fire Chief and a 17-year line officer, has held several elected positions during his tenure, including Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Joe has the distinction of founding the first fire school in East Norriton. He is a current Senior Training Instructor at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and Pennsylvania Fire Acad-

emy and two-time recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award and in 1975 he received the Life Membership Award.

The contributions of these fine men cannot be honored or praised enough by their fellow citizens. Their ongoing leadership and commitment to the East Norriton Fire Engine Company has made their community a safer place to live now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian will soon be marking his third anniversary in office. His performance as leader of Taiwan has received widespread praise around the world. In dealing with China, President Chen has sought to assuage Beijing's anxieties about Taiwan's declaration of independence. Moreover, President Chen has taken major steps to reduce tension in the Taiwan Straits. Travel between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland has been made much easier. We hope that Taiwan and China will soon resume their dialogue on issues affecting both sides. Peace in the Straits is in everyone's interest.

President Chen was instrumental in making Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization a reality. We hope Taiwan will be successful in joining the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the not too distant future. We also hope that Taiwan will be successful in gaining observer status at the World Health Assembly this May, especially with SARS affecting so many countries in Asia. As Secretary of State Colin Powell recently said, "infectious disease knows no borders and requires an effective and coordinated response at local, national, and international levels." Taiwan is part of the world that has been severely affected by SARS. Taiwan belongs to the World Health Organization and must be included in all World Health Organization activities in curtailing the spread of SARS.

Relations between Taiwan and the United States have been growing stronger everyday. Taiwan is a strong ally of ours. To reduce their trade surplus, Taiwan has bought many types of American agricultural and consumer products. Their tourists choose the United States as their number one destination and many of their students have selected our colleges and universities for advanced study. I am particularly pleased to see Taiwan giving us full support in our campaign against global terrorism and their pledge for humanitarian assistance to post-war Iraq. We must treasure Taiwan's friendship and learn from President Chen's longstanding motto: "Do your best for whatever the job requires."

On the eve of President Chen's third anniversary in office, I salute President Chen for his many accomplishments and wish him good luck and good health.

TAIWAN'S ENTRY AS AN
OBSERVER TO THE WHO**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the World Health Organization met in Geneva to discuss its agenda and the tentative observer status of Taiwan into the Organization. This meeting came on the heels of a terrible outbreak now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The people of Taiwan are courageously and resiliently combating this dreadful epidemic. Although their efforts have not gone unheard in the halls of Congress, as my colleagues and I have fought for H.R. 441 and final passage of S. 243, other nations that do not respect basic human rights have opposed the entry of Taiwan into the WHO.

SARS has dreadfully demonstrated to all nations that epidemics do not have borders. Unlike its neighbor to the North, Taiwan is an open and transparent nation that has committed its efforts to truthfully divulging the impact of SARS on its population.

The entry of Taiwan as an observer to the WHO will give its people a superior chance in combating this evil malady. Nations that support freedom, a democratic and transparent form of government must support Taiwan's observer status to the World Health Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to the people of Taiwan for the profound loss they are experiencing due to the malevolence known as SARS and reiterate my full support for Taiwan's entry as an observer to the WHO.

FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION
IS GOOD FOR U.S. SECURITY**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy rides on the telecommunications network now more than ever. We are ever more dependent on the Internet and our telecommunications networks to conduct business. This makes our telecommunications infrastructure a potential terrorist target.

One way to guard against the destruction of our telecommunications network is to have multiple, competing networks in place. If one goes down, the other can be used. While telecommunications companies often build in redundancy in their networks, it would be better from a security standpoint to have separate, independently operated networks.

Government policy should encourage facilities-based telecommunications competition. This was one of the main goals of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A Federal Communications Commission regulation, however, actually discourages facilities-based competition. This regulation known as the Unbundled Network Element Platform (UNE-P) allows a competitor to use an incumbent's network at a steep discount, sometimes up to 55 percent. Since this is a platform, the competitors do not have to build any of their own facilities.

The huge discount makes it much more economical for a competitor to use the incumbent's network than to build its own facilities. It also makes it more difficult for an incumbent to financially justify the expense of deploying new facilities, as competitors will be able to piggyback off the facilities and take customers away from the incumbent, without the competitors spending any money for capital improvements.

The Chairman of the FCC tried to get rid of this policy in February, but was stymied by a 3 to 2 vote of his fellow Commissioners. The FCC needs to rethink this policy. Without competing facilities-based networks available, a major terrorist hit to an incumbent's telecommunications network could bring the U.S. economy to a standstill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIA
(MAINTAINING AND ENSURING
DIVERSITY AND INTEGRITY ON
THE AIRWAVES) ACT OF 2003**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "MEDIA (Maintaining and Ensuring Diversity and Integrity on the Airwaves) Act of 2003," legislation that would provide greater protection to small and minority-owned businesses in the media industry.

Access to the media is at the foundation of our democracy. As part of its effort to advance one of its primary strategic goals of promoting competition, diversity and localism, the FCC has strived to ensure that every person has equal access and that small and minority owned businesses are fairly and adequately represented in the media.

To accomplish this objective, under Section 257 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, the FCC is required to identify and eliminate market entry barriers for small telecommunications businesses. Section 257 also requires the FCC to report every three years on any regulations prescribed to eliminate any such barriers. Section 257 was written to ensure that greater consolidation in the media industry would not occur without concern for diversity in ownership and content. Specifically, the section was meant to address barriers involving race and gender discrimination.

The FCC has not yet completed its Section 257 Report to Congress. At the same time, the FCC is one short week away from significantly relaxing its current media ownership rules, which may permit networks to own stations that can reach 90 percent of the nation, allow companies to own three television stations in a market, and abolish the ban on cross-ownership between TV stations and newspapers. These new rules are likely to have significant negative consequences for many small and minority owned businesses, but the FCC has not provided its report demonstrating that it has analyzed the impact on these businesses and has not provided adequate assurance that steps are being taken to eliminate any negative consequences. Adding fuel to the fire, the FCC is embarking on this course without providing *any* notice and opportunity to respond to the specific rules it is considering.

The MEDIA Act addresses these concerns. First, the Act requires the FCC to publish and seek comment on its proposed rules prior to enactment. Second, responding to the concern that requiring a biennial review places an undue burden on the FCC as well as the many small and minority owned companies who need greater certainty to grow their businesses, the Act instructs the FCC to review its media ownership rules every five years instead of every two years. Third, the Act prevents the FCC from repealing its media ownership rules or approving mergers in excess of \$50 million until it has completed its 2003 Section 257 report to Congress identifying and eliminating market entry barriers for small telecommunications businesses, as well as analyzing how any change of the existing regulations would be consistent with the national policy of promoting diversity and competition and how any change would affect barriers to entry for small businesses.

The vast majority of public responses regarding the FCC's decision to change its media ownership rules have criticized the FCC for so hastily running through the process without affording adequate time for a meaningful analysis and public comment on concerns with the new rules. If the FCC will not Act to ensure that any changes are in the public interest and that small and minority owned businesses are adequately represented in the media, Congress must step in.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

POSITIVE AGING ACT OF 2003

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, May is both Mental Health Month and Older Americans Month, and no time to make sure that older adults are getting the mental health care they need. Not only do we owe our seniors dignity and good health, but providing good mental health care to older Americans is good policy. Failure to treat mental disorders leads to functional dependence, nursing homes, poorer health outcomes for other chronic conditions, and suicide.

According to the National Institutes of Health, seniors commit suicide at a higher rate than any other age group. And in 20 percent of those cases, seniors killed themselves the same day they visited their primary care doctor. Seventy percent of senior suicides have been to a primary care physician the same month.

There is a severe misunderstanding of mental illness in older adults, even among those with medical training. The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has identified the failure of seniors to receive mental health care as a major problem. The Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health found that almost one in five adults over 55 experiences a specific mental disorder that is not part of the "normal" aging process.

That's why today, my good friend from Maryland, our Minority Whip, and I are introducing the "Positive Aging Act of 2003"—to improve the accessibility and quality of mental

health services for our rapidly growing population of older Americans. While we have made great strides in extending the life span, we continue to face the challenge of improving the quality of life for America's senior citizens. This legislation is designed to integrate mental health services with other primary care services in community settings that are easily accessible to the elderly.

We can effectively treat many of the mental disorders common in older Americans, but in far too many instances we are not making such treatments available. Unrecognized and untreated mental illness among elderly adults can be traced to gaps in training of health professionals, and in our failure to fully integrate mental illness identification and treatment with other health services. Mental illnesses are poorly recognized in many care settings and knowledge about effective interventions is simply not reaching primary care practitioners. Research has shown that treatment of mental illnesses can reduce the need for other health services and can improve health outcomes for those with other chronic diseases. These missed opportunities to diagnose and treat mental diseases are taking a huge toll on the elderly and increasing the burden on their families and our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the stigma associated with mental illness, the lack of Medicare coverage for prescription medicines, and Medicare benefit discrimination related to mental health services also limit appropriate care for the elderly. I am committed to address these broader problems through Medicare reform legislation as soon as possible. In the meantime, we can and we must take other steps. We must increase opportunities for effective diagnosis and treatment of mental illness among the elderly. This legislation is intended to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe there are immediate opportunities to improve mental health care for older Americans. This legislation can help to target our resources on identifying and treating a population at high risk for disability and dependence. We have an obligation to take what is known about effective treatments and improve the quality of life and overall health of millions of seniors. It's not only the right thing to do; it's also an investment that will return enormous dividends in terms of more economical use of health resources, improved patient outcomes, a better quality of life for older Americans.

I am grateful for the support of my colleagues who have joined me in introducing this bill, particularly the gentleman from Maryland, and for the many advocates out in our communities across the country who are leading the way with strong initiatives and good examples. I particularly would like to recognize the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry for their tireless leadership in the area of mental health for seniors.

I hope that this House will join me in honoring the citizens who have built this great country by ensuring that they get the full range of health services they need.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY
ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is the beginning of the season when American families take their children to our amusement parks for a day of fun and sun. Unfortunately, it is also the case that over 75 percent of the serious injuries suffered on these rides occur between the months of May and September. Most of America thinks that the rides at these parks are subject to oversight by the nation's top consumer safety watchdog—the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC.). But this is not true. The industry used to be subject to federal safety regulation, but in 1981 it succeeded in carving out a special-interest political exemption in the law—the so-called Roller Coaster Loophole.

It is time to put the safety of our children first—it is time to close the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Today I am introducing the NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT, to restore safety oversight to a largely unregulated industry. I am joined in this effort by Representatives GEORGE MILLER, BILL PASCRELL, BARNEY FRANK, FRANK PALLONE, RICHARD NEAL, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, JIM MCGOVERN, CAROLYN MALONEY and JOHN TIERNEY.

SUPPORT FOR THE BILL

We are supported in this endeavor by the nation's leading consumer-protection advocates, including Consumer's Union, the Consumer Federation of America, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, Saferparks.org, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Moreover, the nation's pediatricians—the doctors who treat the injuries suffered by children on amusement park rides—have endorsed our bill. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “a first step to prevention of these injuries is adopting stronger safety regulations that allow for better inspection and oversight of the fixed-rides.”

THE PROBLEM WITH STATE-ONLY REGULATION

“Fixed” or “fixed-site” rides are found predominantly in destination theme parks. When an accident occurs on such rides, the law actually prevents the CPSC from even setting foot in the park to find out what happened. In some states, an investigation may occur, but in many, there is literally no regulatory oversight at all. And no matter how diligent a particular state might be, there is no substitute for federal oversight of an industry where park visitors often come from out-of-state; a single manufacturer will sell versions of the same ride to park operators in many different states; no state has the jurisdiction, resources or mission to ensure that the safety lessons learned within its borders are shared systematically with every other state.

RIDES CAN KILL, NOT JUST THRILL

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. Fifty-five fatalities have occurred on amusement park rides in the last 15 years, and over two-thirds occur on “fixed-site” rides in our theme parks. In August 1999, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters in just one week,

“one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks,” according to U.S. News and World Report:

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount's Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California;

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King's Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia;

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.)

Since that week, there have been six more fatalities on amusement park rides, including an 11-year-old girl just over two weeks ago at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois.

Every one of these is an unspeakable horror for the families. It is simply inexcusable that when a loved one dies or is seriously injured on these rides, there is no system in place to ensure that the ride is investigated, the causes determined, and the flaws fixed, not just on that ride, but on every similar ride in every other state. The reason this system does not exist is the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Every other consumer product affecting interstate commerce—a bicycle or a baby carriage, for example—endures CPSC oversight. But the theme park industry acts as if its commercial success depends on remaining exempt from CPSC oversight. As a result, when a child is injured on a defective bicycle, the CPSC can prevent similar accidents by ensuring that the defect is repaired. If that same child has an accident on a faulty roller coaster, no CPSC investigation is allowed. That's just plain wrong.

FATALITIES PER MILE COMPARED TO TRAINS, PLANES,
BUSES AND AUTOS

The industry attempts to justify its special-interest exemption by pretending that there is no risk in riding machines that carry human beings 70, 80 or 90 miles an hour. The rides are very short, and most people are not injured. But in fact, the number of fatalities per passenger mile on roller coasters is higher than on passenger trains, passenger buses, and passenger planes. The National Safety Council uses a standard method of comparing risk of injury per distance traveled. As can be seen from the following table, riding on a roller coaster is generally safer than driving a car, but is not generally safer than riding a passenger bus, train or airplane:

	Fatalities				Fatalities per 100 mil miles
	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Automobiles	21,920	21,099	20,763	20,444	0.86
Roller Coasters	3	4	6	1	0.70
Railroad Passenger					
Trains	6	4	14	4	0.05
Scheduled Airlines ..	42	1	17	87	0.01
Buses	4	26	39	3	0.04

Fatalities are just the tip of problem, however. Broken bones, gashes, and other serious injuries have been rising much faster than attendance. Neither the CPSC is prohibited from requiring the submission of injury data directly from ride operators, so it is forced to fall back on an indirect method, the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which gathers information from a statistical sample of hospital emergency rooms and then estimates national numbers. Nevertheless,

NEISS has been gathering these statistics systematically over many years, so that trends become clear over time.

SOARING INJURY RATES IN OUR PARKS

Beginning in 1996, a sharp upward trend can be seen in hospital emergency room visits by passengers on "fixed" rides—the category of rides exempt from CPSC regulation under the Roller Coaster Loophole. These injuries soared 96 percent over the next five years. Meanwhile, such emergency room visits were falling for passengers on rides that the CPSC still regulates.

Here are the year-by-year estimates of non-occupational amusement ride injuries, 1996–2001, from the CPSC:

Year	Fixed ("unregulated")	Mobile ("regulated")
1996	3419	2963
1997	5353	2562
1998	6523	2751
1999	7629	2788
2000	6595	3985
2001	6704	1609

The theme park industry likes to tell the public that its rides are safer than the mobile rides because they are overseen by a permanent park staff, but according to this independent government safety agency report, the mobile parks have less of an injury problem than the theme parks.

Why has this startling increase in amusement park rides occurred recently? No one knows for sure. If the facts were known to the CPSC, it could do its job. But the facts are kept from the CPSC, so we are left to speculate.

We know, for example, that new steel technology and the roller coaster building boom of the 1990s resulted in an increase in the speed almost as dramatic as the increase in serious injuries. All of the nation's 15 fastest coasters have been built in the last 10 years.

In 1980, the top speed hit 60 mph. In 1990, it hit 70 mph. The top speed today is 120 mph.

For the most part, these rides are designed, operated and ridden safely. But clearly, the margin for error is much narrower for a child on a ride traveling at 100 mph than on a ride traveling 50 mph. Children often do foolish things, and the operators themselves are often teenagers. People make mistakes. The design of these rides must anticipate that their patrons will act like children, because they often are children.

THE BILL RESTORES BASIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TO THE CPSC

The bill we are introducing today will close the special-interest loophole that prevents effective federal safety oversight of amusement park rides. It would, therefore, restore to the CPSC the standard safety jurisdiction over "fixed-site" amusement park rides that it used to have before the Roller Coaster Loophole was adopted. There would no longer be an artificial and unjustifiable split between unregulated "fixed-site" rides and regulated "mobile" rides. When a family traveled to a park anywhere in the United States, a mother or father

would know that their children were being placed on a ride that was subject to basic safety regulations by the CPSC.

It would restore CPSC's authority to:

1. Investigate accidents,
2. Develop an enforce action plans to correct defects, and
3. Act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

The bill would also authorize appropriations of \$500 thousand annually to enable the CPSC to carry out the purposes of the Act.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort to make this the safest summer ever in our theme parks. Let's pass the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with equal amounts of profound pride and sympathy that I come to the floor this morning. I rise to honor a noble American, Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith, a Marine Corps reservist from Anderson, IN, killed Saturday, May 10, while serving his country in Kuwait. Lance Corporal Smith lost his life in a vehicle collision while running supply missions between Iraq and Kuwait. Lance Cpl. Smith was just 20 years old. He is survived by his father David, his mother Patricia, and by his brother Mason.

Lance Corporal Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group based in Peru, IN, an outfit he had served selflessly and courageously since enlisting in June of 2001.

Lance Corporal Smith's father David said that his son had an intense love for the Corps, and his fellow Marines. Mr. Smith told the Indianapolis Star, "How many people on this Earth die doing the job they know they were put here to do." His Aunt Vicki added, "He died doing what he believed in."

Lance Corporal Smith was a student of history—he was enrolled at Indiana University before he was called to active duty—an interest he vigorously embraced in his free time, in the classroom, and as a member of the Social Studies Academic Team. His school teachers recall a young man often expressing blunt, straight-forward and in-your-face viewpoints which they always found to be well researched and sophisticated for his age. He was also an accomplished athlete; he spent time during high school playing rugby and was active in other outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Smith joins the 137 other proud and distinguished Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice—these wonderful men and women gave their lives in defense of freedom, a freedom we all too often take for granted.

May God bless the family of Lance Corporal Smith during this difficult time, and may they experience the prayers and thanks of a grateful nation. May they rest upon the promise of Jeremiah 31:13, "I will turn their mourning into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and a true privilege as the ranking Member in the House International Relations Committee, to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan upon the third anniversary of his election.

President Chen has been an instrumental component as Taiwan moves along the path of democratization and wide economic reform. Moreover, President Chen deserves recognition for repeatedly demonstrating his commitment to human rights and rule of law. These are no small accomplishments, and are but one of the litany of achievements that that President Chen has scored while in office. In this regard, I would like to share with my colleagues a small sample of the highlights of President Chen's first three years in office.

First, President Chen has shown a continued commitment to the long-standing economic and cultural relationship that exists between the United States and Taiwan. Today, Taiwan remains a top ten trading partner and the strength of our cultural ties can be clearly seen by the number of Taiwanese students, currently at more than 30,000, who attend U.S. colleges and universities.

Second, President Chen has been a quiet yet fiercely determined leader in bringing Taiwan greater exposure and admittance to the global community nations. His success in this area is evident by the recent entrance of Taiwan into the World Trade Organization (WTO). Mr. Speaker, future goals include seeking membership in the World Health Organization and the International Civic Aviation Organization.

Third, President Chen has exhibited great diplomacy with his cautious and measured comments and actions toward the People's Republic of China. Mr. Speaker, I personally believe that President Chen demonstrated great courage when he promised that Taiwan would not seek independence as long as Beijing refrains from using force against Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, this short list is but illustrative of President Chen's achievements to date. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Chen Shui-ban on the first three years of his presidency, and wish him continued success on all of his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY ROSE
CLARK WALKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding woman from my district. Mary Clark Walker passed away recently at the amazing age of 108. Mary was one of a small number who had witnessed the dawn of two centuries, and the astounding advancement of technology in the United States over that time. Mary was lucky enough to see the beginning of the airplane, the television, and the modern automobile.

At a very young age, Mary moved from California to Ouray, Colorado where her original house on Oak Street still stands today. Mary gained a reputation as a hard worker. At a very young age, Mary began working to provide her family with extra spending money. She would often travel by train to Montrose, Colorado, where she would work a week at a time for the Ashenfelter Ranch. Mary sometimes stayed at the ranch for up to a month before she would return home to her family. It was this kind of work ethic that garnered Mary the respect of her town, which congratulated her by throwing a special 100th birthday party in her honor. Mary was also blessed with two sons, Jack and Lester, who claim her secret for a long and healthy life was nothing more than clean living and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Mary that constitute the heart of our great nation as well as the spirit of the West and I am honored to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. While we are all saddened by the loss of such a great woman, we can take some solace in knowing that she lived a long and happy life. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mary's friends and family during their time of mourning.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the leadership demonstrated by Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian. During his three years in office, President Chen has worked diligently to strengthen the friendship between Taiwan and the United States. I have had the privilege meeting with President Chen in the United States and in Taiwan. The relationship between our countries stands as a great example of the cooperation and understanding that can be reached between two nations that share the goals of fostering democracy and human rights, protecting the world against terrorism, and expanding the global economy through trade.

We are extremely grateful for the friendship and support Taiwan has extended us during our own country's very difficult times. President Chen immediately and publicly lent his

country's unwavering support to the War on Terrorism. Taiwan has also agreed to devote financial resources and other humanitarian assistance to the recently freed peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq.

As Taiwan and Asia experience the threat of SARS, we see how critical it is to admit Taiwan (or at least allow it observer status) into the World Health Organization (WHO). While some nations suppressed information about this outbreak, Taiwan reported freely on it and offered to work with WHO in combating SARS. The 23 million people of Taiwan ought to be included in the international medical community's efforts to control infectious diseases and the world not deprived of the benefits Taiwan can offer it.

Mr. Speaker, under this President's guidance, Taiwan's vibrant democracy has continued to thrive, human rights have been safeguarded, and freedom of the press has never been stronger. For these reasons I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Chen.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today the House considers legislation to address the susceptibility of our national forests to insects, diseases, and wildfires. In 2000, 8.4 million acres of land burned, costing approximately \$1.3 billion in suppression costs. In 2001, 3.6 million acres burned, costing more than \$900 million. Last year, 6.9 million acres burned, costing approximately \$1.6 billion. This year, conditions are ripe for another big fire season.

From 1960 through 1990, the Southern Pine Beetle has caused \$900 million in damage to pine forests. Red and White Oak Borers have devastated 33% of standing Red and White Oak timber in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. These insects and others are threatening forests throughout the South and East, including in my state of North Carolina.

H.R. 1904 proposes to give the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management authority to treat our public forests so they will be less susceptible to fire, insects, and diseases. The bill certainly is not a perfect bill; it is not everything I would have wanted. However, it is a noteworthy attempt to deal with these threats to the health of our public forests.

If used properly, the tools provided in this bill will ease the path of projects designed to reduce the risk of fire in those areas where fire would most threaten lives, homes, and water supplies. It will also allow the federal government to better respond to insect and disease infestations before they spread out of control. However, it is not my intent for this authority to be used to increase commercial logging or circumvent public interest in our national forest.

Should this bill become law, I would caution the agencies not to use their new authority for expedited treatment and review except in the most dire cases and on lands in desperate need for attention. Over 190 million acres of

public forests are at risk to damage from insect, disease, and wildfire. However, the bill limits this new authority to less than 21 million acres. This clearly demonstrates Congress' interest in ensuring that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management do not use their new authority as a mandate for clear cutting or sacrificing healthy old growth forests.

The provisions in H.R. 1904 dealing with biomass, the Healthy Forest Reserve Program, the establishment of a new remote sensing program to diagnose insect and disease threats to forestry, and watershed management will benefit private landowners in my state. They also promote environmentally responsible practices, which in turn will generate healthier forests. While not perfect, H.R. 1904 will go a long way to protect our nation's forests, which is why I will vote for final passage.

REGARDING FCC TREATMENT OF
UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the Federal Communications Commissions recent ruling regarding unbundled network elements. It seems the FCC just can't learn from past mistakes since their network unbundling rules have twice been found by the courts to be contrary to Congressional intent under the 96 Telecommunications Act. Now, these rules have led to massive job cuts among carriers and their suppliers, discouraged investments in new plant and equipment, and slowed the introduction of new, innovative services to consumers.

I call on the FCC to implement strong, regulatory reform that will fix its unbundling rules, to help restore this vital sector of the economy. Among the needed reforms is the removal of switching as an unbundled element. Switching is competitive and widely available. FCC policies should promote real facilities based competition not false, parasitical, government regulated competition. Real competition stimulates investment and benefits consumers and should be encouraged.

It is important that any reform the FCC undertakes should undermine its earlier decisions on special access services, particularly on safe harbors that have been approved by the courts.

When addressing wireline DSL, or broadband, the FCC must arrive at new rules that reflect the state of intermodal competition from cable providers, who have the dominant share of today's broadband marketplace. Competition is needed in broadband and I hope the FCC rules will stimulate that.

Not updating the regulations further discourages investment and undermines a national broadband policy that would benefit rural areas like those in my district. Congress gave the FCC the responsibility to address these issues and it is time the FCC moves forward.

HONORING WESLEY UHLAND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to honor a man who has been wounded on the field of battle while in the service of his nation. Wesley Uhlend, a 26-year-old Army Specialist, is a mechanic who received a bullet to the abdomen after an ambush by Iraqi soldiers. However, doctors have assured Wesley and his family that he will make a full recovery. As he recuperates, I would like to recognize his admirable service before this Congress and this nation today.

Wesley graduated from Canon City High School in 1994 and joined the Army in 2000. He was stationed out of Fort Carson and was deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 11, 2003. As a mechanic, Wesley is responsible for the care and maintenance of tanks, Humvees, and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. During the ambush in which he was shot, four of Wesley's companions were also wounded, though all were lucky enough to survive the incident. Wesley is recuperating in an Iraqi hospital and is to be transferred to Germany before traveling home to Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express the gratitude and respect I feel for Wesley Uhlend. Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties. Today in Iraq, a new generation of young Americans is fighting bravely for the freedom of others. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Wesley Uhlend. This Congress and all Americans should feel proud that we have soldiers like Wesley Uhlend defending our great Nation. Thank you, Wesley, for putting your life on the line to honorably serve our country.

CONDEMNING BURMESE GENERAL
THAN SHWE**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the recent harassment and intimidation of Burmese citizens carried out by General Than Shwe and his military regime. Various attacks have been committed under his command against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy (NLD). This is yet another example of how Than Shwe's regime continues to employ terror and brutality as a means of retaining power over the Burmese people.

While traveling outside of Rangoon recently, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's convoy was attacked by members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), the political arm of Than Shwe's military regime. Yielding machetes, hundreds of USDA members forcibly stopped the convoy, surrounded it, and beat on the doors with their fists and other objects.

Mr. Speaker, in Burma's most recent election, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD

were elected to represent the people of Burma winning 82 percent of the seats in parliament. But Than Shwe has refused to honor their will and let those who have been legitimately elected govern. His military regime continues to systematically abuse the human rights of the Burmese people through its campaign of torture, imprisonment, forced child labor, and murder.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the democracy movement have never resorted to the use of violence despite the savage treatment it receives. In fact, for her peaceful efforts to bring about change, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Sakharov Prize, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD while at the same time increasing political pressure upon Burma's military regime. Democracy must be restored to this country. I would like to thank President Bush for his strong statement to this effect last April and I urge my colleagues to join in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to LARRY COMBEST as he embarks on a new direction in life. Mr. COMBEST has served the people of Texas' 19th district with distinction and honor for almost two decades.

During the last four years, I had the privilege of working with him in his role as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. I can safely say it is probably the most bipartisan committee in Congress. This tradition of bipartisan is long standing, and Mr. COMBEST exemplified this tradition as Chairman.

It is because of his bipartisan leadership that Congress was able to pass a new farm bill last year, garnering a huge bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was also during his tenure as Chairman that the Committee passed legislation through Congress to improve university research on agriculture and the federal crop insurance program. It is not a stretch to say that Mr. COMBEST made a significant impact on U.S. agriculture in brief time as Chairman. There can be no doubt that he has been a strong voice in Congress and a consistent advocate for our nation's agriculture community.

LARRY, we wish you and Sharon all the best; and know that your kind of leadership will be sorely missed in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF COVINGTON'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. KEN LUCAS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington's 150th anniversary.

On July 29th, 1853, his Holiness Pope Pius IX issued the papal bull, *Apostolici Miniserii*, establishing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington. For the past 150 years, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington has contributed to and has met the spiritual, academic, and social needs of individuals from childhood through adulthood in Kentucky.

Today, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington consists of forty-seven parishes, six missions, three Catholic hospitals, four homes for the elderly, two residential care facilities for children, three special centers for social services, a retreat center, a diocesan college, seven high schools, two private high schools, twenty-seven diocesan and parochial elementary schools, two private elementary schools, and five diocesan cemeteries. The total Catholic population of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington is over 88,000.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington has been able to use its vast resources to enhance the quality of life for all individuals that live in Northern Kentucky. A portion of what they have been able to do includes assisting those in need through adoption and pregnancy services, counseling services, community and volunteer organizing services, and substance abuse treatment services. The actions of organizations such as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington are what define a community. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this community.

I ask my colleagues to join me to honor the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington which has changed the lives of thousands of Kentuckians throughout the past 150 years.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
JORDAN FERRELL**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as the battle for freedom rages across the globe, the United States has stepped forward to defend the world against tyranny and aggression. This includes sending forth brave men and women to protect the sovereignty that we hold dear. One of these brave souls has been wounded in battle, and his courageous actions and determination deserve the admiration of this body of Congress and of this nation.

Jordan Ferrell, a 19-year-old soldier from Moffat County, Colorado was wounded in the service of his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne, Jordan was wounded by shrapnel when a grenade exploded on the roof of his Jeep. After being injured, Jordan wanted nothing more than to return to active duty, so he began the long road to recovery. I am proud to say that through hard work and determination, Jordan has resumed active duty, and is once again protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Upon completion of his military service, Jordan wants to pursue a career in computers. His mother hopes he might consider creative writing. Regardless of the profession he chooses, if Jordan displays the same determination and drive, I know he will achieve much success in his life.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice and heroism of this soldier and his family. Jordan has

served his country well, and it is soldiers like him who make the United States military the best in the world. Jordan has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today. Thank you, Jordan, for your honorable and admirable service to this nation.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Representative SLAUGHTER and the rest of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Today, the 6th Annual Women in Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus was held at Arlington Cemetery. The purpose is to honor our nation's servicewomen and women veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

I would like to take some time to recognize the five honorees of this ceremony. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

Command Sergeant Major Michele S. Jones, U.S. Army Reserve, has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army. She entered the Army in September of 1982. As the first woman to serve as class president at the United States Sergeants Major Academy (Class 48), she distinguished herself and went on to be the first woman to serve as the CSM of the Army Reserve.

CSM Jones has held every key NCO position, to include squad leader, section leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major. Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal just to name a few.

Master Chief Petty Officer Darlene M. Gemuend was honored, representing the United States Naval Reserve. She completed Basic Training in January 1978 and went on to attend Personnelman "A" school.

Master Chief Gemuend has served the Navy at a variety of duty stations and capacities. She is currently serving as the Naval Operations Reserve Battle Force Integration Manpower Analyst at the Arlington Navy Annex. Master Chief Gemuend's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Recruiting Excellence Awards and various other service and campaign awards.

Master Sergeant Leandria L. Hollinshead is the superintendent of the Command Post, 347th Rescue Wing, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. She was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for her sustained efforts of Hurricane Elena. From 1990 to 1992 she continued to sharpen her Command and Control skills as Combat Alert Center Controller, King Salmon AFS, Alaska. As the single point of contact between NORAD and the alert aircrews, she was solely responsible to decode

emergency orders, scramble, and launch alert aircraft to intercept Soviet Union air vehicles attempting to penetrate U.S. borders. Following the incident of the USS *Cole*, she deployed to Saudi Arabia to establish theater command post operations for the Commander of the Joint Task Force—Southwest Asia.

Continuing to excel in her professional education, she captured the John L. Levitow award at her NCO Academy graduation in June 1999 and was soon after promoted to Master Sergeant. MSgt Hollinshead is the recipient of the AF Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, and the AF Good Conduct Medal.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Carole A. Hawkins enlisted in the Marine Corps in February of 1973. Currently, she is the senior enlisted female in the Marine Corps, and the senior enlisted administrator. Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins is assigned as the Administrative Chief for the Personnel Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, VA.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Master Chief Linda Reid enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1975. She drilled at Coast Guard Reserve Unit Seattle before moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1977. Master Chief Reid has been with the Coast Guard's Sea Partners Campaign since its beginning in 1994. As director, she oversees policy, budget and operations for this nationwide environmental public outreach program. Master Chief Reid coordinated Coast Guard participation in the 1985, 1989 and 1993 Presidential Inaugurals.

Master Chief Reid was advanced to the grade of Master Chief Petty Officer in May 1993, the first woman in the Storekeeper rating to achieve that rank in the Coast Guard. She is a Silver Lifetime Member of the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) and a member of the Foreign Joint Service Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Fleet Reserve Association and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues honor the five servicewomen and their accomplishments. We are living in a day and age when the thought of a woman serving in the military is not the exception, it's the norm. There are over 2 million women serving and they are making a huge contribution to America's military operations around the world . . . as so many of us have seen from America's recent victory in Iraq.

It is an honor for each member of the Caucus to highlight these exceptional women. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard are well represented by our 2003 Women in Military Service Honorees.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ERIC WAGNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,
Whereas, Eric Wagner has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 85, the residents of Yorkville, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Eric Wagner as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALCOHOL TAX EQUALIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress adjourns for Memorial Day, I am introducing the Alcohol Tax Equalization Act because of my special concern that beer and wine will take a high toll in human life and injury, especially among teens and other young people this very weekend, because these alcoholic beverages are less costly than they should be. Congress is complicit in this carnage by winking at beer and wine through the Tax Code. We have just renewed vigilance for seat buckling because of growing concern about teen deaths due to driving mishaps. It's time we also focused on alcohol abuse, a much greater cause of traffic deaths among teens and young people.

The Memorial Day holiday often begins a season of tragedies resulting from alcohol abuse, particularly beer and wine. In an effort to reduce alcohol-related fatalities, my bill would require that beer and wine be taxed according to their alcohol content, as is hard liquor. Alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teens and young adults. The need to provide appropriate disincentives is urgent.

The bill creates a substance abuse prevention trust fund for alcohol prevention programs. The kinds of programs that work best include cross-peer mentoring by high school students about alcohol and drug abuse and traffic safety; teen courts to decide appropriate penalties for other teens who abuse alcohol; community-based prevention programs for pregnant women and high-risk populations; and 100 percent drug and alcohol-free clubs. The programs would be implemented through grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

It is impossible to explain today why a can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a shot

of hard liquor, all of which have the same alcohol content, should not be taxed equally. However, the beer and wine industries want it that way. Expect them to fight to preserve the enormous tax break they enjoy compared to their competitors in the distilled liquor industry.

Beer and wine have long replaced hard liquor in alcohol consumption and sales, but tax policy is still lost somewhere in the 1940s. Hard liquor is far behind beer and wine in consumption and sales. More than half of all alcohol sold today is beer, much of it to teens and college students; 15 percent of alcohol sales is wine. America, especially young America, is getting drunk on beer and wine, in no small part because badly outdated taxing policy make beer and wine cheap. If a can of beer, a 5 ounce glass of wine, a wine cooler, and a shot of vodka have the same alcohol content, they should be taxed equally. The resulting transfer of tax burdens to others at a time of dangerous deficits is particularly untenable in the case of alcohol and calls for attention of this inequity now.

In 1997, the Senate Finance Committee proposed substantially raising taxes on cigarettes to discourage teenage smoking. Many states have done just that. The very same reasoning should apply to beer and wine. Minors consume more than 1 billion beers each year. Teens are price sensitive because they have less disposable income. By taxing beer

and wine substantially less than liquor, we bring the price down and encourage teens to make these the drinks of choice.

Because the Federal excise taxes on liquor are substantially higher than taxes on beer, Congress is sending the message to teens that these drinks are okay and are not as dangerous and addictive. Congress therefore bears a heavy part of the responsibility for the fact that alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teenagers and young adults.

Throughout the country, taxing beer and wine fairly would be an important step in reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities, accidents and disease. The need here is urgent. The bill I introduce today will take the District of Columbia and the entire country closer to the national goal of significantly reducing alcohol-related fatalities.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF STUART AND SANDY SLETTEN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, when the term milk man is mentioned, it brings back to me the

memory of early morning noises such as the low throb of an idling delivery truck's engine and the rattling of milk bottles coming and going from our front porch. This piece of "Americana", familiar to so many, will be coming to an end this month in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin. On May 30, 2003 the era and service tradition of "to-the-door milk delivery" will come to an end with the retirement of Stuart and Sandy Sletten.

It is with great pleasure I wish a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement to Stuart and Sandy Sletten as they look forward to taking their first vacation since 1990. This dedicated husband and wife team provided excellent and trusted service for their dairy products route for the past 27 years. For the last 27 of their 42 years of marriage they have worked shoulder to shoulder loading and delivering to their thousands of customers. The life and dedication of this couple represents the positive work ethic and values that Wisconsin citizens deeply respect.

Thank you Stuart and Sandy for keeping alive for many years a small and beautiful piece of our American way of life.