

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MR. WALKER'S ESSAY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Walker for this wondrous achievement. His essay is an example of the exceptional scholarship from the young men and women of our great nation.

[2002-2003 VFW Voice of Democracy
Scholarship Contest: Tennessee Winner]

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Logan Walker)

On a cold, breezy day, a cool wind whips through the air unfurling the flag in the midday sun. The breeze heightens to a gust and in the furious waves, the flag lets out a crack like a whip. The crack resounds through the air reminding all who hear it of the flag's presence. But what does that flag mean? It means one thing: freedom. In America we pride ourselves on our institutions of checks and balances, all created with the purpose of maintaining freedom. But with freedom comes responsibility and obligations, but what is freedom's obligation?

This complex question is answered rather simply. Freedom's obligation is to protect principle over property, to guard ideas over oil, to defend the helpless, not the helpful. This is freedom's obligation.

For thousands of years people have been fighting over the lines on maps or the resources in a region, but America is more than that. Freedom demands of us to overlook our petty, selfish needs to satisfy the calling of a higher government: The government of humanity. Freedom is not about money, capitalism, oil, or land. It is about ideas, people, happiness, and liberty.

In the past twenty years a massive amount of criticism has risen against the United States for the wars it has participated in. Many claim our participation has been based solely on money rather than morals. Other critics claim that we simply make up moral justifications for fighting wars that we are really only interested in for monetary or political gain. Take for example the Kosovo War and the Gulf War. Both Yugoslavia and Kuwait were strategic oil suppliers. On the other hand, the United States gave detailed moral justifications for its involvement. Perhaps it is time that critics examine the fact that if you fight for any moral cause, you will most likely help your own, and the world economy, because any economy operates better and more effectively when it is not under the iron hand of a repressive regime.

But freedom's obligation is not just to one country, our own United States, but to all forms of democracy around the world. Many critics suggest that the United States is too much of a policeman in the world, but how could one assume so? What is America about? It is about freedom for all of mankind and justice for everyone. When someone is ten feet outside of our borders, do they become any less human? No. Then do they deserve any less protection than we would give another human life within our borders? Freedom's obligation is not merely to protect

any specific people's freedom, but to help people to understand that any group's cry for freedom is paramount to a regime's sovereignty.

A sad example, Taiwan is in a constant state of protest over democratization, but China, a repressive Communist relic, refuses to let them break away. Should the people of the United States simply sit back and take the money of the Chinese Government while ignoring the wails for freedom sounded by the people of Taiwan?

Freedom is not about Gross Domestic Product, the Stockmarket, or Armies. It is about people, principles, and morality. Freedom gives great benefits, but it also demands great sacrifice. The crack of the flag is not just there to remind us that we are Americans. It is there to remind us that we are a free people! A regime demands no sacrifice because it does what it wants at the expense of the helpless. Freedom, however, demands that we give up something of ourselves so that others, anywhere in the world, can share at least a fraction of what we have here. That is what brave American forces have been fighting for.

The Bible, the Quran, the Torah, and the Book of Buddhist Principles all suggest that you give something of yourself, whether it be your time or your money, to help someone else. They all stress the personal and moral rewards of sacrifice. But there is another document that preaches the benefits of sacrifice: the Constitution, because wherever freedom resides, sacrifice must follow, because freedom is love and love is sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TED RAVELO OF
NORTH MIAMI

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MEEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful human being and a magnificent activist symbolized by North Miami community leader Ted Ravelo, a Filipino-American. On Saturday, June 7, 2003, at the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) in Broward County, he will be honored by the Philippine American Federation of South Florida, Inc. at a gala event celebrating the 105th Philippine Independence Day festivities.

Mr. Ravelo came to the North Miami community some 15 years ago. He was the Director of the Southern Apparel Exhibitors at the Miami Merchandise Mart, after which he directed the Southeastern Apparel Exhibitors in Atlanta, Georgia. The citation for this gala event defines ". . . his loyal service to the community of North Miami and the Filipino-American community he has helped with utmost care and concern." Above all, however, this pioneering leader is more saliently characterized by his deep faith in the God he serves through countless Filipino immigrants in search of a warm friendship and timely advice. Being a dutiful husband to his wife, Ma. Teresa Padua-Ravelo, and a loving father to his two teenage children, Jamie and Jo Anne, he

has taken upon himself the awesome responsibility of providing the same brand of love and affection to many more Filipino-American families who search for guidance and direction in the ways and processes of how government and its various agencies function.

Indeed, Mr. Ravelo represents the best and the noblest of our community in his unceasing involvement with the socio-cultural well-being of his fellow immigrants in a manner that uplifted their own self-esteem and dignity. He continues to demonstrate a remarkable wisdom and warm friendship in serving his North Miami community, and still manages to enlighten his fellow citizens on the agenda of conscientious public service and good governance impacting our duties and responsibilities toward the less fortunate.

I am indeed a beneficiary of the brand of genuine advocacy he demonstrates both by way of word and example. I have learned from him the many struggles that immigrants throughout my district have had to confront on a daily basis, conscious of the fact that the will to succeed and be aware of the many nuances of public service undergird the civic responsibilities of a community leader and must characterize his advocacy role toward those who could least fend for themselves.

Continuing his mission to represent his fellow citizens and immigrants, Mr. Ted Ravelo was named to the North Miami Community Relations Board from 1997 thru 1998 and served as President of the Filipino Community Association of South Florida, Inc. Indeed, his quest for making a little bit of difference in the lives of people has always been his genuine way of changing the kind of world to which he was given to serve.

Named as the Activist of the Year by the North Miami Mayor's Economic Task Force in 1997, he has held the presidency of the Central North Miami Homeowners Association and vice-presidency of the North Miami Mayor's Economic Task Force, and has likewise held memberships on the Miami-Dade County Asian-American Advisory Board, Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce and Asian-American Federation of Florida.

His involvement with the above organizations motivated his desire to run for the Mayor's seat of North Miami during the 1999 mayoral elections. Though he eventually lost his race, he ran a strong and credible campaign by focusing on the crucial issues impacting the well-being and equality of opportunity for his fellow citizens. His candidacy for public office has truly maximized his role as the consummate community activist who lives by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should have more from those fortunate enough to have received the greater blessings from God. The collective testimonies he has received from the parents, community leaders and residents of North Miami and beyond represent an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and gratitude he now enjoys.

With the gala tribute to him on the historic celebration of the 105th Philippine Independence Day, the Filipino-American community in

• 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.

my District will honor him for his undaunted leadership and utmost perseverance. I am truly privileged to represent Mr. Ravelo and his family in the Congress, and I am grateful that he continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God by serving our fellowmen. Above all, his caring and compassion for other immigrants in Florida's 17th Congressional District appeal to the noblest character of our common humanity. My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my deep gratitude for all that he has done to uplift the honor and dignity of Filipino-Americans and other immigrants in North Miami and beyond.

This is the remarkable legacy with which we will always honor and respect the wonderful leadership and magnificent advocacy of Mr. Ted Ravelo.

DIABETES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns about the effect that Diabetes is having on the Latino Community.

Right now, 16 million people in the United States are suffering with Type 2 Diabetes. About 3 million of them are Latinos. Due to diet and genetics, Latinos are twice as likely as the rest of the population to contract Type 2 Diabetes. I am horrified by the statistic that one in ten Latinos will contract Diabetes at some point in life, but I am even more horrified by the fact that most often the disease is preventable.

Both of my parents died from complications related to Diabetes. As the parents of 15 children, I believe that they didn't have the time or the resources to adequately care for themselves. With all of those mouths to feed, I believe that they were too busy trying to simply put food on the table to worry about proper nutrition. While that is undoubtedly noble, stories like this must change. My parents, because they did not have the proper care, suffered loss of vision, amputations, and eventually death.

We must make sure that Latino families are educated about prevention and have the resources to combat the disease. Prevention is key to fighting this disease but we cannot ignore the fact that eleven million Latinos still lack health insurance. How can a person get tested for Diabetes when they are uninsured? How can a person seek out a doctor when they can't even pay for the visit? This is something Congress must fight to change.

If we want to combat Diabetes, we must focus on prevention, education, and cultural changes. No one is saying that as a culture we can't enjoy our frijoles and tortillas. We simply must learn and teach our children, that moderation is the best approach.

We must educate our communities. We must spread the word about prevention. And we must help the uninsured. If we do not make these necessary changes, we won't have to worry about one in ten Latinos having Diabetes, we will have to worry about one in five.

A TRIBUTE TO ELVIS HERNANDEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Elvis Hernandez in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Elvis is currently in the fifth grade at Blessed Sacrament in Brooklyn, New York. He finished in first place in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Elvis Hernandez has demonstrated that he is committed to his academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. DANIEL D. SCHNEIDER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Daniel D. Schneider.

Whereas, Daniel Schneider served his community faithfully, dedicating three decades of his career to public service; and

Whereas, Daniel Schneider demonstrated a firm commitment to improving welfare services in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Daniel Schneider helped the lives of children by co-founding the Big Brothers Association and through his work at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio; and

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in mourning the loss of our friend, Daniel D. Schneider.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall numbers 229, 228, and 227, on June 2, 2003, and on numbers 232, 231, and 230 on June 3, 2003, I was unable to cast my vote because I was part of a Congressional Delegation to North Korea.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall number 232—S. 763—Birch Bayh Federal Building, I would have voted nay.

Rollcall number 231—S. 273—Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 230—S. 222—Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 229—H.R. 1465—General Charles Gabriel Post Office, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 228—H. Res. 195—Congratulating Sammy Sosa, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 227—H. Res. 159—Expressing Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the death of Irma Rangel, I would have voted yea.

ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 222, The Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2003. This legislation puts to rest longstanding water rights disputes between water users in the Little Colorado River basin in Arizona. More importantly, this legislation would also provide the Zuni tribe with the financial resources to acquire water rights in the Little Colorado River basin and to restore the riparian environment that existed previously at Zuni Heaven Reservation.

Recently, a delegation of Zuni tribal leaders and members visited my office here in Washington. They told me that Zuni Heaven, a riparian area along the Little Colorado River, is central to the Zuni religious and cultural traditions and is the place where Zuni deities and ancestors have resided from time immemorial. This sacred riparian area is the home of the Kachina, one of the highest religious orders in Zuni culture, and was in historical times, a very lush riparian area with willow, cottonwood, cattails, turtles, and waterfowl.

Ever since the 1877 Presidential order diminished the Zuni cultural homelands and established the current Zuni Reservation in New Mexico, the Zuni people have maintained the practice of making a pilgrimage to Zuni Heaven. Every four years, Zunis from western New Mexico trek over 50 miles to Zuni Heaven, located in northeast Arizona, to perform religious ceremonies during the summer solstice period. This pilgrimage is very important because it helps sustain and rejuvenate Zunis' cultural and religious traditions.

The Zuni Water Rights Settlement will help the Zuni people restore their sacred Zuni Heaven to the way it was as described in ancient traditional historical accounts. Furthermore, it will help them develop wetlands for water plants, birds and other animals so important and necessary in carrying on the Zuni Kachina religion.

Considering the above, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me today and support this very important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHER BETHEL FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mother Bethel Foundation as it begins its \$20,000,000 campaign to preserve and celebrate the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Situated in my District, Mother Bethel is the first home of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The land on which it sits has been owned by African-

Americans longer than any property in the United States. Founded in 1794, Mother Bethel Church is the oldest incorporated African-American church in the country.

The foundation has launched an ambitious effort to construct a new facility that will house an expanded Richard Allen museum, an interactive learning center, and archives focused on the story of Richard Allen. The ultimate goal of the Mother Bethel Foundation is to celebrate and affirm what the Church and its founder have meant to generations of Americans.

In honoring the established Foundation, one must not forget to honor Mother Bethel's distinguished founder, Richard Allen, for whom the Richard and Sarah Allen Center is named. Richard Allen was a man who overcame tremendous obstacles to foster change for the betterment of African-American people. Born into slavery, Mr. Allen purchased his freedom through an agreement with his master.

Rev. Allen eventually responded to a call to preach and became a regular preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. Due to segregationist practices at St. George's Church, Rev. Allen founded Mother Bethel Church.

While Rev. Allen is best known for founding Mother Bethel Church, he provided more to the African-American community. He was a critical member in the formation of the Free African Society, an organization to offer security and the benefits of association to Philadelphia's free blacks. He also joined with Absalom Jones to organize the Black Legion, a group of 2,500 men who defended Philadelphia against the British during the War of 1812.

Mr. Speaker, Philadelphia is America's most historic city. But, Mother Bethel stands out as one of our most cherished sites. It is a privilege to recognize an organization with such an admirable goal. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Mother Bethel Foundation as it begins its campaign this Juneteenth.

LET'S KEEP ALL
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the privately funded and privately constituted "Continuity of Government Commission" has recently proposed that, for the first time in our Nation's history, we should allow the appointment of members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Not only does this proposal fail to comport with the intention of the founders of this nation, but, even worse, it advocates a solution that has been repeatedly rejected by this body.

The report of this so-called "Commission" makes clear that while the Senate has, from time to time, voted to pass constitutional amendments allowing for the appointment of House members, this body has always jealously guarded its status as "the people's House" by failing to pass such amendments. A brief history review may be in order at this point. First, our Nation has been under attack from foreign powers in the past, such as in its nascent years when the British were con-

stantly "coming." In our own century, we faced an attack on Pearl Harbor as well as the very real threat of nuclear annihilation. Now, because we have learned that our Capitol was a potential target in a terror plot, there is an outcry from some corners regarding our vulnerability. Our government leaders are no more vulnerable today to mass extinction than they were 20 years ago. Our top-flight military makes us, in many ways, less vulnerable to attack and the assassination of our leaders than we were 200 years ago.

Even if we were to sustain such a devastating attack, the nightmare scenario painted in the first report of the "commission" is not only far-fetched, but also admits of a plethora of potential solutions already existent in our current constitutional structure. Though the report endeavors to cast doubt on the legitimacy of those structures, it is unsuccessful. Moreover, what could be more offensive to our republican form of government and of more questionable legitimacy, than to have a slew of un-elected "representatives" outvote elected people on the floor of our U.S. House?

Let's face it: we can scare people and doom-say anytime we wish, but it would only be in the case of a nearly complete annihilation that our government would fail to function. In such an instance there is no "system" that will preserve our government. On the other hand, if we surrender the right to elect people to the U.S. House of Representatives, under any circumstances, we will get on a slippery slope away from the few remaining vestiges and most precious principles of the government left to us by our founders.

In the event that this "proposal" gets more serious and is given long-term attention, I will place in the record more detailed statements defending the notion of an all-elected House of Representatives, and explaining the fallacies and illogic found in this report. For now Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to go on record as among those who would fight to the last to preserve the principle of a House of Representatives consisting entirely of members elected by the people.

HONORING DOUGLAS PERRY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor the life of Douglas Perry and to recognize his lifelong contributions to his community. He was born on February 8, 1920 in Somerville, Massachusetts and passed away earlier this week, on June 2, 2003.

Doug was much more to me than a resident of my Congressional District, he was my friend. I first met Doug and worked with him when I served on the San Diego City Council. I immediately noticed his enthusiasm and his seemingly unlimited energy on behalf of the San Ysidro community where he lived. Because of his work, he was known as the unofficial "Mayor of San Ysidro".

He moved to California in 1936 and served in the U.S. Navy, in North Africa and the Philippines, from 1942 to 1946. He met and married Jean Alexis Wadleigh in 1949, and they lived in the Inland Empire until their move to San Ysidro in 1974.

He was involved in many roles in the activities and organizations of San Ysidro. He served as President, Executive Director, and Information Center Manager of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in keeping the Chamber growing in membership. He organized and managed a Chamber Visitor's Information Center for several years, giving tourist information to thousands of visitors every month. It was through his efforts that the San Ysidro Chamber was designated the official Certificate of Origin supplier for the importation of goods by Mexican businesses—a vital part of the Chamber today. He took the lead in obtaining the first-ever fireworks in San Ysidro by developing plans for the Chamber to sponsor the first two years of exciting 4th of July displays and continuing to organize these yearly festivities.

Doug was Chair of the San Ysidro Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Vice President of the San Ysidro Senior Center, Chair and Vice Chair of the Southern Area Committee, Board Member of the South Bay YMCA, and Vice President of the San Ysidro Senior Center. He made possible communication cable at the Senior Center, soliciting a free donation from Cox Cable.

He was Treasurer of the San Ysidro Little League and was a member of Senior San Ysidrans. At the Sister of Nazareth, San Diego Mission, he was House Father for nine years.

As a member of the Park and Recreation Council, Doug represented the San Ysidro Recreation Council, supported their Annual Christmas events, acquired a big screen TV by soliciting donations, and raised funds for the La Mirada School Joint Use Turf Project. He played a significant role in opening the building at Larsen Sports Field, Cesar Chavez Community Center. He worked in obtaining Beyer Undeveloped Park.

He further obtained funding for the Coral Gate Neighborhood Park and the Larsen Field Parking Lot expansion, security lights and ball field renovation. All in all, he raised tens of thousands of dollars for projects and special events in San Ysidro. He worked to get donations for the Annual Food Drive. As you can see, Doug's commitment was to the community as a whole.

Doug was joined in all of his endeavors by his wife of 52 years. Together, they had four children: Philip Perry of Escondido, California, Kim McCormick of Rancho Cucamonga, California, Brooke Barbee of Alta Loma, California, and Craig Perry of Upland, California. His six grandchildren are Steven Barbee, Paige Flick, Brandy Barbee, Michael Perry, Christopher McCormick, and Scott Perry—and his two great-grandchildren are Tessa and Jacob Weir.

My condolences go to Doug's fine family. He will be missed, but his memory will live on in his beloved community of San Ysidro.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAJANDRA PENA

HON. EDLOPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Alajandra Pena in recognition of her outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Alajandra is currently in the fifth grade at P.S. 72 in Brooklyn, New York. She received a second place award in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Alajandra Pena has demonstrated that she is committed to her academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her and her accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
LEANNA MOON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, LeAnna Moon has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, LeAnna Moon has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

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

Whereas, LeAnna Moon must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Glenford and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating LeAnna Moon as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 300th Anniversary of the founding of their grand city.

St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great on May 27, 1703, and boasts an illustrious history, impressive architectural achievements, and a rich culture. Under the leadership of Catherine the Great, St. Petersburg became one of the cultural capitals of Europe.

The people of St. Petersburg suffered greatly under the brutal regimes led by Lenin and Stalin. Following the death of Vladimir Lenin and under the iron fist of communism, the city was renamed Leningrad. The city suffered further when during World War II the German Army led the Siege of Leningrad on September 8, 1941. During this 900-day siege, over 600,000 Russian citizens died, but Hitler never prevailed to take over the city due to the valiant defense by its residents.

Indeed, despite the devastation of war and the cruelty of communism, the spirit of the St. Petersburg people persevered. With the crumbling of communism, in 1991 the city reclaimed the name of St. Petersburg.

In 1995 I saw firsthand the beautiful city reflecting the extraordinary culture of the "Ven-

ice of the North." I was hosted by the parents of Maxim Kidalov, who in 1993 as a student at the University of South Carolina was the first Russian page to serve in the Senate of South Carolina. He is now a respected attorney in Washington, DC. Dr. Vladimir Nikolayevich Kidalov and Mrs. Lyudmila Mikhailovna Kidalova were gracious hosts, and they brought to life warm Russian hospitality.

It is fitting now for all Americans to salute the achievements of the people of St. Petersburg and wish Godspeed for its bright future as a valued participant in the democratic family of nations.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE CARLIN

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, It is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Joanne Carlin, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, who died on May 14 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Joanne's giving spirit was shaped by her experiences growing up in Cleveland's Tremont area. A product of St. Augustine Catholic School, she eventually moved to Garfield Heights, where she graduated from high school.

Joanne owned and operated a beauty salon on Cleveland's west side. Her former customers praised her as a loyal and generous person.

She later sold her business and moved to Medina County to become a full-time homemaker. An excellent cook, Joanne enriched the lives of her family and friends as the consummate hostess during family gatherings and holidays.

Our hearts go out to her husband and best friend, James; her four stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren; and legions of family and friends who recall the memories of these gatherings and the tremendous influence Joanne had in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MATORY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an outstanding doctor, educator, and mentor who is on the eve of his retirement as Director of Continuing Medical Education and Professor of Surgery at Howard University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Matory has had a distinguished career as a surgeon and a researcher and is well known in the Washington, D.C. metro area for his contributions to trauma and burn care.

His hospital activities included the directorship of the Emergency Care Area at both the Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University Hospital from 1960 to 1982, at a time when those facilities were the leading hospital emergency systems in Washington, D.C.

During his tenure, Dr. Matory reorganized the ambulatory care system at Howard to

ease emergency care follow-up and to facilitate continuity of patient care. He introduced vascular access as a service in 1970 in preparation for the Howard University Hospital chronic dialysis and renal transplantation programs.

Dr. Matory received the Distinguished Surgeon Award from the Southeastern Surgical Congress in 1998. He has been a Member of the National Academy of Science, and the Robert Wood Johnson Committee which encouraged the establishment of the "911" emergency response system throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Matory also developed the Howard University Family Practice Program, and served as its first chairman from 1970 to 1979; a program in which I had the honor of being a student, and the privilege of being taught and mentored by Dr. Matory, an experience which has shaped my medical and overall career. He was also co-founder of the Physician Assistant Training Program at Howard in 1972.

As an educator, he has been a leader in the continuing medical education of physicians from all over the world, who attend Howard to keep abreast of the ever changing medical landscape. He is a founder of the CME program at Howard, the first in the Washington, D.C. area to be certified by the American Medical Association, the Liaison Council on Continuing Medical Education and currently the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

During his illustrious career, he has also served as Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs at the College of Medicine, Assistant Medical Director for Postgraduate Affairs at Howard University Hospital and Chairman of the Washington, D.C. Board of Medicine.

He has been a member of several medical societies to include the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the American College of Surgeons, the National Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Mr. Speaker, aside from his medical accomplishments, Dr. Matory served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Japan from 1955 to 1957. He has also authored 16 publications and produced 130 surgical and general medical videotapes in continuing medical education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a resounding thank you to Dr. William Earle Matory for his tireless dedication to his community and his inspiration to us all.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE
AND DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST
AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND HER
COLLEAGUES IN BURMA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest possible terms this weekend's violent crackdown on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD). The Nobel Peace Prize winner was concluding a month

long speaking tour in Burma. The NLD won Burma's last democratic election in 1990, however, Burma's military regime has refused to honor the election results. I'm outraged to learn that Ms. Suu Kyi may have been seriously injured and many of her supporters killed.

I want to express my solidarity with the peoples of Burma and their struggle for democracy. As Ronald Reagan once said, "Regimes planted by bayonets do not take root". Now is the time for the United States to express our support for freedom in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, we should immediately move to increase pressure against this despicable regime.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS COOPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dennis Cooper in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Dennis is currently in the fifth grade at P.S. 306 in Brooklyn, New York. He received a third place award in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Cooper has demonstrated that he is committed to his academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MELANIE NEWLAND

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Melanie Newland has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

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

Whereas, Melanie Newland must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Kingston and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Melanie Newland as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

COMMENDING BULGARIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Res-

olution 177 commending the men and women of our Armed Forces, our leaders and our allies for the courage and dedication displayed during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Since that fateful day in September 2001 we have been a Nation at war. In one of the few instances in our history when our homeland was directly attacked, our President responded decisively by declaring a global war on terrorism.

That September night while the world watch in horror, the President directed the full power and might of the United States to bring the terrorists to justice and asked for our friends and allies to join us in the war against terrorists. Over 70 nations responded to his call to arms and one, the Republic of Bulgaria, has stood with us since that fateful day, sharing in the dangers and the determination to fight the global war on terrorism.

Since September 11, 2001 the Republic of Bulgaria has acted firmly and convincingly as a friend and a de facto ally of the United States. In the world councils, Bulgaria has supported the NATO decisions to help patrol our skies after the September 11, 2001, and backed the European Union's Plan of Action in support of the United States. As an important non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Republic of Bulgaria has contributed constructively to all of the resolutions to bring the terrorist networks to justice. With Bulgaria's help, UN Resolutions 1386 and 1390 to bring pressure on the Al Qaeda and Taliban networks were quickly passed, thereby cutting off any material aid to the Taliban regime that was providing safe haven for Osama Bin Laden's terrorists and their training camps.

But the Republic of Bulgaria has done more than just support us in international councils. It has come to our assistance both at home and in the theaters of war. Within days of our warning to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Bulgaria granted our air forces blanket overflight rights for any United States aircraft participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. As the tempo of air operations increased, Bulgaria expanded its support to provide a base for our aircraft at Sarafovo. To assist other NATO nations which were providing troops to Operations in Afghanistan, Bulgaria volunteered a security company to the peace-keeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo. And Bulgaria came to our direct assistance in Operation Enduring Freedom by providing a Decontamination Company to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. That force has been in place constructively working with U.S. and other allied forces since January 2002.

When the issue of Iraqi arose Bulgaria again stood with us both at the United Nations and at the battle front. Bulgaria took an active part in the passage of United Nations Resolution 1441 and has remained committed to the disarming of Iraq. When it became clear that Iraq had no intention of abiding by the United Nations Constraints, Bulgaria acted quickly to once again provide unfettered overflight, temporary basing and transit rights over its territory. Once again U.S. air forces soon found themselves a friendly base at Sarafovo. When the moment of decision arrived, Bulgaria stood steadfast with our determined President and sent a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Company to join our forces in Oper-

ation Iraqi Freedom and help protect them against Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

I wish to point out that the Republic of Bulgaria has conducted itself as a staunch and committed ally to the United States and its support should not go unnoticed by this great deliberative body. So I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing that the Republic of Bulgaria is one of the handful of nations that we are here today commending for having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us in these two campaigns in the global war on terrorists.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WETZEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual who is a regular visitor to my district. Mark Wetzel, a hitting coach from Omaha, Nebraska, travels to Western Colorado several times a year to work with the baseball team at Delta High School. He has done so for the past four years, and the results have been impressive. The Delta Panthers have raised the team batting average to .424, ranking in the top five in Colorado. Five players are hitting above .500, and confidence is high across the lineup.

Although Mark has played an important role in the team's success, he hasn't played the game since the age of 14. Disease forced him to quit playing, and for years Mark thought he didn't have anything to offer. When his son started playing the game, Mark eventually tried to impact his son's performance, and the results were readily apparent. That led to Mark helping the rest of the team, and before long word got out around Omaha about this hitting coach who could help improve performance when other coaches could not. Players he had never met, including some minor leaguers, began seeking out Mark for advice. Soon he was trading hitting philosophies with baseball legend Tony Gwynn and hitting coaches from the San Diego Padres.

What is so unique about Mark as a coach? Players and coaches say he has the ability to see things other coaches miss. One coach says that while he will concentrate on a problem and not find the cause, Mark will look at the end result and identify what is wrong.

Mark's ability to see things other coaches cannot is not the most unique thing about him, however. Mark is almost completely blind. The disease that caused him to quit playing baseball as a teenager also took away his vision. Yet he will tell you that losing his sight is the best thing that ever happened to him, because it taught him how to outwork others, stay positive, and be tenacious. It also has made him an inspiration to others, including the baseball team at Delta High School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mark Wetzel today by telling his amazing story to this Congress. He is a true asset to the Panthers baseball team, and I congratulate him on his success, commend him for his inspiring example, and thank him for his contribution to the youth of Delta, Colorado.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOUGLERSVILLE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gouglersville Fire Company of Gouglersville, PA during its 75th anniversary celebration.

Without a fire company of its own, the people of Gouglersville, PA had to rely on companies located in neighboring communities. On March 8, 1928, citizens of Gouglersville attended a town meeting to discuss the formation of their own company. Over the next few months, the Gouglersville Fire Company was created. Members were recruited, officers were elected and the company constitution and by-laws were adopted. Finally, on September 4, 1928, the Berks County Court of Common Pleas granted a charter to the Company.

Over the next few years, the Company purchased a firehouse and its first apparatus. As time went on, the Company outgrew its original building and purchased a larger space to accommodate its increased membership and growing number of vehicles. The charter and by-laws of the Company were amended on August 3, 1950 to permit women to join. A Junior Brigade was started in 1972. As time has passed and the Company has changed, one thing that has not altered is the dedication of the firefighters to their duties.

For the past 75 years, the citizens of Gouglersville have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of Gouglersville Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Gouglersville Fire Company on reaching this milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNY ALBINO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Johnny Albino, who will be honored this weekend as Yaucano del Año 2003. Mr. Albino is a renowned singer and songwriter who has recorded more than 300 records. He has traveled around the world sharing the gift of his music, in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, as well as places as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt and Israel, among others.

Mr. Albino was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, on December 19, 1919. He was one of seven children. He went to school in Guayama, Puerto Rico, and planned to pursue law studies at the University of Puerto Rico, but in 1940 he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces. He served in the Corps of Engineers and studied to become a telegraph operator. During his tenure in the military, he also found a way to pursue his interest in music by forming a quartet and singing in U.S.O. sponsored events for servicemen. He served in the military for seven years, retiring as a Lieutenant.

When he returned to Yauco, he formed El Trio San Juan with Chago Alvarado and Ola

Martinez. They used to rehearse at a house on Tental Street, on the way to Barrios Quebrada and Sierra Alta.

During his musical career as part of the famous Trio Los Panchos, with Alfredo Gil and Chucho Navarro, Albino traveled around the world seven times and had the opportunity to perform with luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole and Eydie Gorme. He also shared the stage with world-renowned figures like Xavier Cugat and Johnny Carson. He has been one of Puerto Rico's most talented musical ambassadors. He has been married for 43 years to Mrs. Maria Albino, who is also his manager.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Johnny Albino, an accomplished musician, for his achievements and for giving to the Hispanic community and to the world the gift of beautiful music.

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THE LONGEVITY OF A LEWISTON LANDMARK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wonderful story of Toni Orestis and her lifetime of achievement. Marois Restaurant, a Lewiston landmark since 1919, is closing on May 31, 2003. Started by Antoinette Marois Orestis' grandfather, carried on by her father Leon, and now run by Toni for more than 35 years, Marois is a first class restaurant that has anchored the downtown area of Lewiston for almost 85 years.

Marois started as a lunch counter business and expanded over the decades into the full service restaurant that it is today. During the Second World War, the restaurant was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, feeding the shipbuilders and other workers involved in supporting the war effort from home. When Lewiston and Maine had a need, Marois was always there to meet it.

Toni started working in the restaurant at the age of thirteen. She and her three sisters worked for their grandfather and father all through the years. In fact, no one knows the restaurant business better than Toni. Throughout the past 65 years she has performed every role, from starting as a helper, to becoming a server, then cook, and now owner and executive. Toni and Marois are an example of downtown Lewiston at its finest.

Along with her remarkable work ethic and business acumen, Toni has also been there for so many people in the community. From baptisms to bar mitzvahs, from weddings to anniversaries, from office and retirement parties to Christmas parties, and yes for funerals too, Toni is always there with wonderful food and hospitality. So many people remember fondly the food, the dessert cart, the French and Greek menus, the formal and correct table service, but most of all, the genuine and generous personality that is Toni Marois Orestis. No one ever went away hungry and everyone went away with a smile.

Now Toni, at 78 years young, is finally retiring. When asked if she wanted to keep working, she said "Yes, but part time, maybe 35 or

40 hours a week". That is the true mark of dedication; a life lived purposefully and well. Mr. Speaker, please join me and the residents of Lewiston in congratulating Toni Orestis on her retirement and thanking her for all she has done for her community.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN BECKER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a firefighter who has gone out of his way to serve his country. Ryan Becker, a firefighter from Vail, Colorado, left the comforts of home recently to assist in the search for wreckage of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Ryan's experience and training fighting wildland fires gave him exactly the kind of expertise NASA needed. So Ryan volunteered to help, and NASA supplied him and other members of his 18-person team with a map and put them to work in East Texas. The work wasn't always easy and at times was downright dangerous. Ryan walked through briar patches that tore his clothes and scratched his body, waded through muddy swamps and creeks, and dodged poisonous water moccasins and copperhead snakes; all in an effort to find a clue that might help investigators understand this tragic accident.

Yet despite the difficulties, Ryan and his teammates worked shifts up to 12-hours long, walked about eight miles a day, and covered many acres of territory. Their findings included debris that ranged in size from a four feet by six feet piece of the bulkhead to tiny chunks of about a quarter inch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Ryan's contributions to our Space Shuttle program. This outstanding individual sacrificed in order to ensure that a calamity like the *Columbia* disaster will never happen again. I am honored to tell Ryan's story before this body of Congress today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA SUE SPEARS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a remarkable woman on the occasion of a very special anniversary. In 1993, Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears, of Fayetteville, Georgia, was diagnosed with breast cancer. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mrs. Spears being "cancer free."

Today, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer approximately every 2 minutes. Thanks to the efforts of people like Mrs. Spears, we are making great strides to eradicate this devastating disease. As a breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Spears continues to raise money and awareness to fight breast cancer and is a true servant leader.

In 2002, at the age of 59, Mrs. Spears participated in the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer

Walk in Atlanta, Georgia. During this inspiring event, Mrs. Spears walked twenty-miles per day for 3 days and represented women everywhere that are battling this terrible disease. Recently, in Atlanta, she walked in the Susan G. Kormen Race For the Cure; an event that is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and is now the largest series of 5K races in the world. Thanks to dedicated volunteers like Mrs. Spears, the Susan G. Kormen Breast Cancer Foundation has raised over \$250 million for education, research, screening and treatment. On June 7, 2003, Mrs. Spears will walk again in her quest to fight cancer, here in our Nation's Capital, in the National Race For the Cure.

I am honored to recognize Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears on this momentous occasion. She is an inspiration to her husband, James E. Spears, her two daughters, Kathryn and Karen, her two sons Jimmy and Steven, her six grandchildren, and countless others who are battling this disease. In her own words she describes her relentless determination by saying, "I walk and will continue to walk until a cure is found with hopes and prayers that my daughters, grandchildren, other family members and friends, as well as millions of others, will never have to be told—you have cancer."

INTRODUCING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2003 continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by D.C. residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82%) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting

rights and legislative and budget autonomy that we are entitled to as American citizens, district residents are determined to make every effort to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be a dramatic development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CONGRATULATING MISS UNIVERSE
AMELIA VEGA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Amelia Vega of the Dominican Republic on being crowned Miss Universe in ceremonies held in Panama City, Panama on June 3, 2003. She was selected for this honor in a competition that featured more than 70 of the most beautiful young women in the world.

It was also a good night for the women of the Caribbean, who earned the pageant's other honors. Miss Dominican Republic, in addition to winning the big prize, was voted as the best dressed contestant while Miss Puerto Rico, Carla Tricoli, was awarded the title of Miss Photogenic and Miss Antigua and Barbuda, Kai Davis, was honored as Miss Congeniality.

Miss Vega, who is the first Dominican to win the beauty pageant, won the crowd and the judges over with a humble confidence that extended beyond her 18 years of age. She intends to spend the next year pursuing her dreams of an entertainment career and leading fundraising efforts on behalf of AIDS research and awareness.

The Miss Universe title opens doors for both its winner and her country of origin. As the native country of the current Miss Universe, Panama was able to host this year's pageant, helping to generate what government officials say could be as much as \$60,000,000 in revenues. Perhaps as important, it is also a source of national pride and inspiration for all those associated with the Dominican community, abroad and in the United States. As a representative of a district that contains the largest concentration of Dominicans outside of Quisqueya, I join the people of Washington Heights as they bask in the joy of seeing one of their own succeed on such a competitive world stage.

Miss Vega understands that alongside the numerous "once in a lifetime opportunities," her fame will allow her to affect the image that the world has of the Dominican people and its culture. Although potentially daunting, it is a responsibility that she is excited to accept. As she told the crowd last night, "I didn't come here just for the crown, but also to make my country proud."

Undoubtedly, she is on her way.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE NEWLIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand and pay tribute to an

outstanding educator from my district. Suzanne Newlin, a teacher at Montrose High School in Montrose, Colorado, is the recipient of this year's high school teacher of the year award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Suzanne is an innovative teacher with an uncanny ability to motivate her students, and I am honored to recognize her commitment and dedication to education today.

Suzanne has made it her life's work to get her students hooked on physical activities that they can enjoy throughout their lives. Most kids won't take part in team sports as adults, so she introduces them to other activities such as bicycling, rock climbing and power walking. Suzanne not only participates with her students, but she teaches them how to get the most out of their workouts and individualize the sessions by including heart-rate monitors. Suzanne does teach traditional team sports as well, though she does so by personally demonstrating skills and techniques to make the experience more meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, Suzanne's positive spirit, creativity and innovation make her a true asset to the students of Montrose High School, and it is my pleasure to recognize her efforts here today. She not only touches the lives of her students, but she gives them the tools to succeed later in life. That is a precious gift, and it is a great honor to speak of her inspirational accomplishments before this body.

HONORING MARÍA ELENA DURAZO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. María Elena Durazo who is receiving the 2003 Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award for her outstanding service to the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union of Los Angeles.

As President of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (H.E.R.E.) Ms. Durazo has helped the union emerge as a vital force in the life of Los Angeles residents, representing over 250,000 workers in the hospitality industry in the U.S. In 1996, she also became the first Latina to be elected to the national leadership of the H.E.R.E. International Union and has long served as a role model for other Latina leaders.

Ms. Durazo has worked tirelessly to obtain justice for the mostly immigrant-based union in Los Angeles, adopting a policy of bilingualism for its union meetings and newspaper. Furthermore, she has empowered countless bilingual employees to acquire positions and benefits they deserve. Under her leadership, the union has been widely recognized as one of the most active rank and file unions in southern California, striving to build valuable coalitions among community, church, academic, ethnic, and political organizations throughout the local area.

María Elena has further advanced the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union by securing and improving citywide hotel contracts, increasing wages and benefits for thousands of hotel workers in downtown Beverly Hills and the Westside. María Elena now serves as National Director of the Immigrant

Workers' Freedom Ride, campaigning to improve immigration laws in the United States.

With these accomplishments, it is fitting that she will receive the Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Maria Elena Durazo for her diligent work in improving labor conditions for the workers of southern California.

HONORING TESS CARMICHAEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a dedicated educator from my district. Tess Carmichael recently retired from Mesa State College in Grand Junction after teaching mass communications for over 30 years. We should all be inspired by the many years of enthusiastic service Tess has given to her students and it is my pleasure to highlight a few of her outstanding accomplishments here today.

Tess began her education at Western State College, receiving four Bachelor's Degrees. She went from there to the University of Colorado where she earned her Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications. Tess found her way to Mesa State in 1973, and through the years her passion and dedication to her students has remained steadfast. Her impact at Mesa State spans the entire campus, as she has taught courses in business, theater, speech, English, and mass communications. Just think of the countless number of lives Tess has touched. She not only has lent her talents but also passion to her work and, by so doing, she has given her students an awesome gift—the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress today to express my gratitude and reverence for Tess Carmichael's many years of service. This is a chance to remind us all of the importance teachers play in guiding our youth and of the admiration and respect they deserve. Teaching is truly a noble calling and Tess Carmichael has answered that call. Thank you Tess, for your many years of dedicated and selfless public service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
CORY M. SINNING ON HIS AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Cory M. Sinning of Van Wert, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Cory's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our nation's

military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Cory brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Van Wert High School, Van Wert, Ohio, Cory has attained a grade point average of 3.81, which places him twenty of one hundred sixty-nine students. During his time at Van Wert High School, Cory has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Cory's accomplishments include being a four year Renaissance Card Holder and a member of the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Cory has distinguished himself as an excellent athlete. On the fields of friendly strife, Cory participated in Basketball where he earned his Varsity Letter and served as a team captain for three years. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Cory proved himself a dedicated citizen of Van Wert through dedicating time to volunteer for Elementary Basketball Camps, Junior High Basketball Camps, YMCA, and Served as a Mentor for At-Risk Students.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Cory M. Sinning. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Cory will do very well during his career at United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.
ANTHONY ROSE, SR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional couple, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rose, Sr. as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, June 6, 2003.

Mr. Anthony Rose and his wife, Mrs. Francis Rose, are the proud parents of nine children, one of which lives in my Congressional District.

Their children are outstanding members of the communities in which they reside. Several are business owners and one son is a professional basketball player. They have nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild who are truly the "apples of their eyes".

The Roses have made invaluable contributions to our society and are commended for their achievements and commitments.

Mr. Rose is a decorated Veteran. He served with distinction in the United States Army, which included fighting in the Korean War. Mrs. Rose was employed for 18 years with Eastman Kodak where she worked in a lab until her retirement.

Today, the Roses are active members of Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Rochester, NY where they have worshipped for the last 52 years. They are also weekly volunteers at the local Soup Kitchen and the YMCA.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rose on 50 years

of a loving relationship. They are truly examples of what all married couples strive for—a life-long partnership.

I wish them continued success and more happy years.

THE F.C.C. DECISION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The health of our democracy depends on a full and open airing of ideas and opinions. Monday's action by the Federal Communications Commission will limit the range of voices and opinions Americans will hear in the marketplace of ideas. With marginal media coverage and little solicited public participation, the FCC's vote to relax media ownership rules has made possible the further concentration of the print and broadcast media in the hands of only a small number of powerful corporations.

The FCC's action will only deepen existing concerns about an industry plagued by accusations of homogeneity and fears that the news and views Americans hear is dominated and controlled by a few powerful voices. Years ago, Congress debated the rules that regulate the cable industry. One of the strongest arguments in support of cable at that time was that the medium would increase the opportunity for a diversity of voices in an arena where only a few corporations controlled America's access to information. Yesterday, the FCC said its decision to allow greater media concentration was motivated largely by the dearth of choices offered by the cable industry today. They argue that the current rules are outdated and discourage competition. But they ignore the fact that the lofty aspirations set years ago for the cable industry have fallen short of the mark. Today an alarmingly small number of corporations like General Electric, AOL Time Warner, Viacom and Disney control not only the conduits through which information flows to the public, but increasingly, the program content as well. The FCC's decision will only continue this trend.

This is a dangerous road we are on. As media concentration has grown over the years, we have watched as more and more voices have been pushed from the public stage. Not only minority voices and alternative viewpoints, but increasingly even local community voices are silenced as corporate executives adjust program schedules to maximize their bottom lines.

Despite the best efforts of the FCC and those in the media who stand to gain the most financially, the public has been able to make its opposition to this change known. Members of Congress have received thousands of calls from angry constituents who, already concerned about the lack of choice, fear that the FCC's decision will mean a further erosion of choice. The day before the FCC was to deliver its decision, they had to shut down their public email box because it overflowed with hundreds of thousands of complaints from ordinary citizens who recognized the gathering threat. Ted Turner and Barry Diller wrote editorials opposing the FCC's plan and groups across the political spectrum from the NRA to now joined the chorus of voices condemning the decision.

It now falls to the Congress to serve the public interest and work to reverse this effort to dumb down the American media. The public interest is not served by a cookie-cutter approach to important policy issues. At stake is a loss of competition, local community perspectives and diversity. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reverse the most troubling aspects of the FCC decision.

HONORING RENEE MULLIKEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a young woman from my district who exemplifies the positive attitude it takes to succeed in life. Renee Mulliken of Palisade, Colorado has known for some time that she wanted to be a gymnast. In fact, she began gymnastic classes at the age of three and has been competing in meets since she was 10. Her drive and determination escalated her up the gymnastic ranks, leading her to level nine, one step below the national level.

While warming up on a trampoline for a high school meet, Renee under-rotated on a flip and fractured her neck. The injury led to weeks in traction and several more in a stabilizing brace called a halo. The doctors told Renee that she would recover, but most thought her career as a gymnast was over. Renee set out to prove them wrong, and five days after she got the halo off, Renee was back competing.

It took some time and hard work for Renee to achieve her previous ability, but I am glad to say she has recently competed in the level eight state gymnastics meet. Renee's favorite event is the floor routine, where she can express herself through her movements and choice of music. Renee has made it clear to everyone who doubted her that she will continue her gymnastics career despite the injury she suffered.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress to recognize the accomplishments of Renee Mulliken. The hard work and determination Renee displayed should be an inspiration to us all. I wish Renee good luck in her gymnastics career and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN N. ARGER ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM TEACHING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of John Arger, a dear, close friend of mine who has challenged the thinking of literally thousands of students in his Marinette High School government and social studies classes since 1974.

John retired June 2, after 29 years of inspired teaching at Marinette High, which is just

a stone's throw across the Menominee River in Wisconsin from my 1st Congressional District of Michigan. We don't use passports to cross the river, and John has made many important contributions to the two communities of Marinette, WI, and Menominee, MI, over his many years of teaching and involvement in local politics.

I have seen John in action when I visited his classes at Marinette High, and can testify from experience that he made the subjects of government and social studies come alive for his students. A favorite tradition for his students was a surreptitious after-midnight visit to the Arger yard at election time. The Argers would wake up to find one of every single candidate's yard signs displayed on their front lawn—testimony to how well the students learned the value of becoming informed about local, State and national issues.

One of John's special pleasures as a teacher was being able to re-connect with students he taught as freshmen when they came back to him in senior government classes. He loved seeing how they had grown intellectually and become adult in their concepts of community and the world. Returning students who have graduated and left their hometown often seek him out on return visits from the "bigger world" that he has helped them to understand, and he cherishes these one-on-one exchanges.

John grew up in Marquette, MI, where his mother Rose still lives. He attended Marquette High School and graduated from Northern Michigan University, NMU, in Marquette in 1970. He then earned his teaching certificate at NMU. In later years, he went on to earn two master's degrees, one in political science and a second in guidance and counseling.

In 1994, John was honored as an outstanding alumnus when NMU presented him its Alumni Service Award. The award recognized his work in support of higher education, his service on the NMU Alumni Board and his tireless efforts as a regional NMU alumni coordinator.

I have heard rumors that when John was in high school and college, he was a Goldwater Republican. John started to adjust this misguided but most likely well-intentioned position as soon as he began teaching. One morning—I imagine the sun was shining and bluebirds were singing—he woke up to the realization that the Republican party was not the party of the average American. He has been an unabashed liberal ever since.

However, in his early years as a teacher, he also prided himself on the fact that none of his students could tell what his political preferences were, even after a year spent discussing government and how it works.

John has contributed countless hours to the life of his community, through public service and in political campaigns at several levels. He and his wife Janice have lived in Menominee since their marriage in 1984, when he finally coaxed Jan away from her teaching career in West Bend to Menominee after years of dating.

Jan herself is a great asset not just to their happy and long-lived marriage, but to the Menominee community. She has been a special-education teacher with the Menominee Intermediate School System since joining John in Menominee. She received her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and specializes in speech pathology.

On Saturday, June 7, along with many other friends and colleagues of John's, I will be in Menominee to celebrate John's achievements and wish him well. Although his dad Nick passed away when John was still a young man, I know that Nick will be there in spirit, alongside Rose, Jan and a roomful of friends, to lift a glass of retsina with us as we say "Opa" to John in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, John Arger is the kind of American who inspires our work here in this House. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in giving him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a full and happy retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
GEOFFREY J. WIGHTMAN ON HIS
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Geoffrey J. Wightman of Amherst, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Geoffrey's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Geoffrey brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Firelands High School, Oberlin-Henrietta Township, Ohio, Geoffrey has attained a grade point average of 3.6, which places him eighteenth in his class of one hundred fifty-four students. During his time at Firelands High School, Geoffrey has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Nathan's accomplishments include being on the honor role, being inducted into the National Honor Society, serving as the Historian in the National Honor Society, and First Place in the Science Fair in the field of Engineering.

Outside the classroom, Geoffrey has distinguished himself as an excellent musician, athlete and dedicated citizen of Amherst. On the fields of friendly strife, Geoffrey participated in Football, Wrestling in which he is a three year letter winner, cross country, and Track where he was again a three year letter winner. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Geoffrey is an active member in his community participating in the Boy Scouts of America where he became an Eagle Scout, he has remained active in his Church, and an active member of North Coast Pipe Band, Buckeye Boys State, and a member of the Firelands High School class council.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Geoffrey J. Wightman. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure

that Geoffrey will do very well during his career at United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING BRAD KOHRMANN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to praise a man who has volunteered his time to help solve the mystery behind the unfortunate explosion of the space shuttle *Columbia*. This event was a tragic moment in our nation's history, but I am proud to know that our country and its citizens are making every effort to ensure the future safety of our brave astronauts. Brad Kohrmann, a volunteer fire fighter from Eagle, Colorado, searched the state of Texas for debris from the shuttle in hopes of obtaining clues into this mysterious catastrophe.

Brad became part of an 18-person team designed and put together by the Forest Service to recover shuttle debris. Brad selflessly left his home and family to help since he understood that a firefighter's training would be of use to NASA in their search. Brad has worked to hone his attention to detail, which made him an ideal candidate for the search party.

Brad's team found many pieces from the shuttle; the biggest was a chunk of the bulkhead, which was four feet long and over six feet wide. The smallest piece they found was no bigger than a quarter inch. When a piece was discovered, the recovery team would mark the area, and transmit the coordinates to a Global Positioning Satellite. Brad estimated that his team walked about eight miles a day, covering farm country, creeks, and some swampland.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak before this Congress to highlight the contributions of Brad Kohrmann. He has sacrificed to assure the future safety of our astronauts as we lead the world in exploring the heavens. His actions exemplify the character and pride great Americans show in times of need by putting their country first. Thank you, Brad, for your work. You have done your country a tremendous service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ALISA L. FELLHAUER ON HER
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alisa L. Fellhauer of Port Clinton, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Alisa's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming

cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alisa brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force Academy cadets. While attending the Port Clinton High School, Port Clinton, Ohio, Alisa has attained a grade point average of 3.88, which places her 13th in her class of 161 students. During her time at Port Clinton High School, Alisa has received several commendations for her superior scholastic efforts. During her first year, she received the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award. Her second year was marked by her being again awarded the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award as well as being inducted into the National Honor Society. Alisa went on in her senior year to maintain her role in the National Honor Society as well being selected for participation in a highly selective biology program.

Outside the classroom, Alisa has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Port Clinton. On the fields of friendly strife, Alisa has participated in Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Basketball, and Varsity Softball. She is a three times Cross Country letter winner and served as the Team Captain her senior year. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Alisa is an active member in her community participating in Key Club, Future Professionals in Medicine, National Honor Society, Relay for Life, and the Buckeye Girl's State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Alisa L. Fellhauer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alisa will do very well during her career at Air Force and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER L. LEWIS ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jennifer L. Lewis of Sandusky, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Jennifer brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class

of West Point cadets. While attending Perkins High School, Sandusky, Ohio, Jennifer has attained a grade point average of 4.248, which places her first in her class of 152 students. During her time at Perkins High School, Jennifer has received several commendations for her superior scholastic efforts. Jennifer's accomplishments include being on the honor roll for all four years, placing third of fifty-four in the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers of Mathematics Integrated Math I exam and eighteenth of two hundred and four in the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers of Mathematics Geometry Exam.

Outside the classroom, Jennifer has distinguished herself as an excellent musician, athlete and dedicated citizen of Sandusky. On the fields of friendly strife, Jennifer participated in Track and Karate. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Jennifer is an active member in her community participating in Huron Township Conservation Club.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jennifer L. Lewis. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Jennifer will do very well during her career at the United States Military Academy and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
AARON M. WURST ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Aaron M. Wurst of Ottoville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Aaron brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Ottoville High School, Ottoville, Ohio, Aaron has attained a grade point average of 4.0. During his time at Ottoville High School, Aaron has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Aaron's accomplishments include Academic Letters, being awarded the Voice of Democracy School winner, was selected to participate in several highly selective mathematics competitions, as well as being inducted into the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Aaron has distinguished himself as an excellent athlete. On the fields of friendly strife, Aaron participated in Cross Country where he earned his Varsity Letter, Basketball, and Track. In addition to his

athletic accomplishments, Aaron is an active member in the student council where he served as his Class President and the drama club.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Aaron M. Wurst. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Aaron will do very well during his career at the United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Tobacco Company has requested that it be allowed to market certain dangerous and addictive products as less harmful than cigarettes. UST would like to market these products immediately without regulation by a health agency.

I recently obtained UST documents that speak to the clear need for effective and comprehensive regulation prior to any health claims for smokeless tobacco. Because it is in the public's interest to review the content of these documents, I am inserting them into the public record, along with a "dear colleague" letter I recently circulated, the UST response, and a letter I sent yesterday to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman BILLY TAUZIN on this matter.

APRIL 28, 2003.

SHOULD SMOKELESS TOBACCO BE MARKETED AS "REDUCED RISK"?

DEAR COLLEAGUE: In recent weeks, the United States Smokeless Tobacco Company, Incorporated (UST), the country's largest manufacturer of smokeless tobacco products, has begun to lobby Congress for permission to tell potential customers that using smokeless tobacco is safer than smoking cigarettes. The request follows a prior petition to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which UST has now withdrawn, in which UST proposed telling consumers: "Many researchers in the public health community have expressed the opinion that the use of smokeless tobacco involves significantly less risk of adverse health effects than smoking cigarettes."

It would be a serious mistake for Congress to endorse "reduced risk" claims proposed by UST outside of effective regulation of tobacco products. Attached are two documents from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids on (1) smokeless tobacco and (2) UST's request to Congress. I would draw your attention to several key points:

"Reduced risk" claims need to be scrutinized carefully. If new claims that smokeless tobacco is safer than cigarettes cause fewer smokers to quit tobacco altogether, or if these claims encourage non-tobacco users—especially young people—to begin using smokeless tobacco products, any theoretical benefit to those switching from cigarettes to smokeless tobacco products may be undermined. That's why the Institute of Medicine and other experts who favor risk reduction strategies, including several tobacco control advocates cited by UST, actually believe that such claims should be made only with regulatory oversight. A regulatory system would allow close monitoring of health

claims and assessment of the true impact on death and disease rates.

The Swedish model does necessarily not apply to the United States. UST points to Sweden as a country with relatively high levels of smokeless tobacco use and relatively low levels of cigarette smoking. Yet Sweden's situation is considerably different. First, Swedish smokeless tobacco is a different product from the one that UST makes. Second, Sweden also has tight restrictions on tobacco products, including high taxes and a marketing ban. Third, Sweden does not allow health claims to be made for smokeless tobacco products.

UST does not have a responsible track record. The U.S. Surgeon General, the National Cancer Institute, and other major scientific and public health agencies have concluded that smokeless tobacco poses significant health risks, causes oral cancer and other noncancerous oral conditions, and can lead to nicotine addiction. UST, however, has recently asserted that "smokeless tobacco has not been shown to be a cause of any human disease." The company also has a long history of marketing to children, including flouting restrictions on marketing to minors and the addition of cherry, mint, and other flavorings that increase their products' appeal to youth. This record indicates the need for close regulatory oversight of any health claims made by the company.

With cigarette smoking responsible for more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year, there is reason to consider non-conventional strategies to save lives. However, these strategies should be based upon science and carefully monitored in a regulatory scheme to assure that they do not cause more harm than good.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Sharfstein on the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member.

SMOKELESS ("SPIT") TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTH RISKS AND INDUSTRY MARKETING AIMED AT CHILDREN

What do the experts say about smokeless tobacco?

Smokeless tobacco in the United States causes cancer.

Smokeless tobacco in the United States is not a safe alternative to cigarettes.

Smokeless tobacco in the United States is not regulated and any health claims about the product have not been verified by an independent, objective government authority.

Smokeless tobacco manufacturers in the United States have systematically marketed their products to children and adolescents.

Smokeless tobacco, and the manner in which it is manufactured, marketed and sold, in the United States is substantially different from what is occurring in Sweden.

U.S. Surgeon General:

"After a careful examination of the relevant epidemiologic, experimental, and clinical data, the committee concludes that the oral use of smokeless tobacco represents a significant health risk. It is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. It can cause cancer and a number of non-cancerous oral conditions and can lead to nicotine addiction and dependence."

"The scientific evidence is strong that the use of snuff can cause cancer in humans. The evidence for causality is strongest for cancer of the oral cavity, wherein cancer may occur several times more frequently in snuff dippers compared to non-tobacco users. The ex-

cess risk of cancer of the cheek and gum may reach nearly fifty-fold among long-term snuff users."

U.S. National Cancer Institute:

"The bioassay data strongly support the epidemiological observation that ST is carcinogenic to humans. Twenty-eight carcinogens have been identified in chewing tobacco and snuff. The high concentrations of N-nitrosamines in ST, and especially the high levels of TSNA, are of great concern."

"The evidence that NNK and NNN play a role in human oral cancer induced by snuff is strong. Both compounds are present in significant amounts in snuff and in the saliva of snuff dippers. They are metabolically activated in snuff dippers to intermediates that bind to hemoglobin. They cause oral tumors in rats and are metabolically activated by rat and human oral tissue. Although there are many questions about the mechanisms by which snuff causes oral tumors in rats and humans, there is no doubt that the presence of NNK and NNN in snuff is an unacceptable risk to people who choose to use these products."

U.S. National Toxicology Program:

"The oral use of smokeless tobacco is known to be a human carcinogen based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans which indicate a causal relationship between exposure to smokeless tobacco and human cancer."

"Smokeless tobacco has been determined to cause cancers of the oral cavity. Cancers of the oral cavity have been associated with the use of chewing tobacco as well as snuff which are the two main forms of smokeless tobacco used in the United States."

World Health Organization:

"There is conclusive evidence that certain smokeless tobacco products increase risk of oral cancer, specifically . . . smokeless tobacco in the United States."

MARKETING SMOKELESS ("SPIT") TOBACCO TO KIDS

The smokeless tobacco companies have a long history of creating new products that appeal to kids and marketing them aggressively to children. Their efforts have created a whole new market for spit tobacco—in kids.

A SHIFT FROM OLDER TO YOUNGER SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS

Since 1970, smokeless tobacco has gone from a product used primarily by older men to one used predominantly by young men and boys. In 1970, males 65 and older were almost six times, as likely as those ages 18-24 to use smokeless tobacco regularly (12.7 percent vs. 2.2 percent. By 1991, however, young males were 50 percent more likely than the oldest ones to be regular users. (8.4 percent vs. 5.6 percent. This pattern holds especially true for moist snuff, the most popular type of smokeless tobacco. From 1970 to 1991 the regular use of moist snuff by 18-24 year old males increased almost ten-fold, from less than one percent to 6.2 percent. Conversely, use among males 65 and older decreased by almost half, from 4 to 2.2 percent. Among all high school seniors who have ever used smokeless tobacco, almost three-fourths began by the ninth grades.

Despite some recent declines in youth smokeless tobacco use, 14.8 percent of all boys in U.S. high schools—and 1.9 percent of high-school girls—currently use smokeless tobacco products. In some states, smokeless tobacco use among high school males is particularly high, including Montana (25.2 percent), Wyoming (28.6 percent), West Virginia (33.0 percent), and Arkansas (24.9 percent).

UST (the parent company of the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company) is the biggest smokeless tobacco company in the United States. It controls about 40 percent of the total U.S. smokeless tobacco market, including 75 percent of the moist snuff tobacco

market, which is both the largest segment of the smokeless tobacco market and the only segment that has recently grown.

STRATEGIES TO HOOK KIDS

According to internal company documents, UST developed a strategy some time ago for hooking new smokeless tobacco users, which means kids. As one document states: "New users of smokeless tobacco—attracted to the product for a variety of reasons—are most likely to begin with products that are milder tasting, more flavored, and/or easier to control in the mouth. After a period of time there is a natural progression of product switching to brands that are more full-bodied, less flavored, have more concentrated 'tobacco taste' than the entry brand."

Following this strategy, in 1983-84, UST introduced Skoal Bandits and Skoal Long Cut, designed to "graduate" new users from beginner strength, to stronger, more potent products. A 1985 internal UST newsletter indicates the company's desire to appeal to youth: "Skoal Bandits is the introductory product, and then we look towards establishing a normal graduation process." In 1993, cherry flavoring was added to UST's Skoal Long Cut, another starter product. A former UST sales representative revealed that "Cherry Skoal is for somebody who likes the taste of candy, if you know what I'm saying."

Smokeless tobacco products have been marketed to youth through a number of channels, including sports events like auto racing and rodeos that are widely attended by kids. Although the state tobacco settlement agreements have limited UST's ability to continue to do brand-name sponsorships of events and teams, UST continues to be a promotional sponsor of both professional motorsports and rodeo and bull riding. In motorsports, UST sponsors are Skoal Racing funny car team on the National Hot Rod Association circuit. In rodeo and bull riding, UST supports the Rodeo Cowboys Association, the Professional Bull Riders, Inc., and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. As the general manager of the College Finals said, "U.S. Tobacco is the oldest and best friend college rodeo ever had."

Continuing its efforts to lure and maintain young users, in February 1999, UST ran a full-color advertising insert for its Rooster brand smokeless tobacco in the Daily Aztec, the college paper at San Diego State University. The ad offered a sweepstakes for an all expenses paid trip to the Playboy mansion and, in direct violation of California law, included a \$1.00 coupon. State enforcement efforts related to the ad forced UST to pay a fine of \$150,000 and also pay for a parallel ad insert opposing smokeless tobacco use.

From 1985 to 1999 (the most recent year with available data), the total marketing expenditures of the top-five smokeless tobacco companies in the United States (Conwood Company, National Tobacco Company, Swedish Match North America, Inc., Swisher International, and United States Tobacco Company) have more than doubled, as have their sales revenues. In 1999, these smokeless tobacco companies spent more than \$170 million to advertise and market their deadly products. Some of these funds pay for smokeless tobacco ads in magazines with high youth readership, such as Sports Illustrated and Rolling Stone. In fact, despite the restrictions placed on youth advertising by the Smokeless Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (STMSA), UST has continued to heavily advertise in youth-oriented magazines. For the period 1997-2001, UST's expenditures in youth magazines increased from \$3.6 million to \$9.4 million, a 161% increase.

In August 2001, UST announced plans to market a brand new smokeless tobacco prod-

uct called Revel. UST is marketing the new product as a way to consume tobacco in places or situations when smoking is not allowed or is not socially acceptable. Public health organizations and others are concerned that this new product may lure even more kids into smokeless tobacco use and addiction—both because of its novelty and the misconception that it is a safe form of tobacco use, and because it can be consumed much less conspicuously than either cigarettes or existing smokeless tobacco products at home, in school, and in other locations. There is also a concern that some current cigarette smokers who might ultimately quit because of the social stigma associated with smoking, the inconvenience caused by smoking restrictions at work and elsewhere, or a desire to protect their family and friends from secondhand smoke will switch to Revel or other smokeless products, instead.

These public health risks are significant, especially since the Star tobacco company has also begun selling a smokeless product, known as Ariva, and has sold Brown & Williamson (the third largest U.S. cigarette company) the right to market Star's new product under B&W's own brand name.

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE

Smokeless tobacco use can lead to oral cancer, gum disease, and nicotine addiction; and it increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, including heart attack. More specifically:

Smokeless tobacco causes leukoplakia, a disease of the mouth characterized by white patches and oral lesions on the cheeks, gums, and/or tongue. Leukoplakia, which can lead to oral cancer, occurs in more than half of all users in the first three years of use. Studies have found that 60 to 78 percent of smokeless tobacco users have oral lesions.

Constant exposure to tobacco juice causes cancer of the esophagus, pharynx, larynx, stomach and pancreas. Smokeless tobacco users are up to 50 times more likely to get oral cancer than non-users. These cancers can form within five years of regular use.

Smokeless tobacco contains nitrosamines, proven carcinogens, as well as 30 metals and a radioactive compound called polonium-210. A study by the American Health Foundation for the State of Massachusetts found that the level of cancer causing tobacco specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) in U.S. oral snuff brands were significantly higher than comparable Swedish Match brands. These data suggest that it is possible for smokeless tobacco companies to produce oral snuff with significantly lower TSNA levels.

This same study found that the two leading U.S. snuff brands, Copenhagen and Skoal, had large increases in TSNA levels when placed on a shelf at room temperature over a six-month time period. The TSNA levels increased 20 percent in Skoal and by 137 percent in Copenhagen, while no significant changes were observed in Swedish match brands.

Chewing tobacco has been linked to dental caries. A study by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found chewing tobacco users were four times more likely than non-users to have decayed dental root surfaces. Smokeless tobacco also causes gum disease (gingivitis), which can lead to bone and tooth loss.

A number of researchers and at least one U.S. smokeless tobacco company (UST) who point to the experience of Sweden and their use of a smokeless product called "snus", as a prime example of why smokeless tobacco is not harmful and should be promoted as a harm reduction and/or smoking cessation

aid. However, upon closer examination the snus experience in Sweden is completely irrelevant in the context of the United States for a number of reasons. First, snus is a different product from American smokeless products (even the products sold by the North American division of Swedish Match) in that Swedish snus is highly regulated and manufactured according to strict standards. The makers of Swedish snus (Swedish Match) are not allowed to make health claims, and they are forbidden from even marketing the product at all. In the United States, we have a situation where all tobacco products (including smokeless products) are exempt from product regulation and that have been marketed irresponsibly to kids for decades. In addition, there is also disagreement among the researchers as to whether snus has, in fact, played a role in reducing smoking in Sweden.

INDUSTRY DENIALS OF HARMS OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Despite all the evidence of the harms of smokeless tobacco, in April 1999, a spokesperson for UST, quoted in the Providence Journal, claimed that it has not been "scientifically established" that smokeless tobacco is "a cause of oral cancer." The Rhode Island Attorney General subsequently filed a legal action against U.S. Tobacco for violating the multistate settlement agreement's provisions prohibiting false statements about the health effects of tobacco products. As a result, UST was required to formally acknowledge that the Surgeon General and other public health authorities have concluded that smokeless tobacco is addictive and can cause oral cancer and to pay \$15,000 to the Attorney General's office for efforts to prevent Rhode Island youths from using tobacco.

On February 5, 2002, in a letter to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission seeking an advisory opinion to make statements in its advertising that smokeless tobacco products are safe alternatives to cigarettes, UST concluded that, "... it is USSTC's position that smokeless tobacco has not been shown to be a cause of any human disease [emphasis added]."

SMOKELESS TOBACCO A "GATEWAY" TO OTHER DRUGS?

High school students who use smokeless tobacco 20 to 30 days per month are nearly four times more likely to currently use marijuana than nonusers, almost three times more likely to ever use cocaine, and nearly three times more likely to ever use inhalants to get high. In addition, heavy users of smokeless tobacco are almost 16 times more likely than nonusers are to currently consume alcohol, as well.

A recent study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that "snuff use may be a gateway form of nicotine dosing among males in the United States that may lead to subsequent cigarette smoking." Further, the study found that "the prevalence of smoking was substantially higher among men who had quit using snuff than among those who had never used snuff, suggesting that more than 40 percent of men who had been snuff users continued or initiated smoking."

TYPES OF SPIT TOBACCO

Oral (moist) snuff is a finely cut, processed tobacco, which the user places between the cheek and gum, that releases nicotine which, in turn, is absorbed by the membranes of the mouth.

Looseleaf chewing tobacco is stripped and processed cigar-type tobacco leaves that are loosely packed to form small strips. It is often sold in a foil-lined pouch and usually treated with sugar or licorice.

Plug chewing tobacco consists of small, oblong blocks of semi-soft chewing tobacco

that often contain sweeteners and other flavoring agents.

Nasal snuff is a fine tobacco powder that is sniffed into the nostrils. Flavorings may be added during fermentation, and perfumes may be added after grinding.

USSTC SPIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Split Tobacco Is Harmful: The Surgeon General, the National Cancer Institute and numerous other scientific bodies have determined that there is conclusive evidence that the use of the spit tobacco products sold in the United States, also known as smokeless tobacco, increases the risk of serious disease, including oral cancer. This conclusion is as true today as when Congress mandated health warnings on all spit tobacco products in 1986. This is not surprising because 28 cancer-causing chemicals have been found in these products. Spit tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking. Despite this and a 1999 agreement with the Rhode Island Attorney General by U.S. Tobacco Company (the parent company of U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company or USSTC) not to make statements "to any news media . . . to the effect that any of its tobacco products do not cause or have not been proven to cause adverse health consequences . . ." USSTC claimed in a 2002 letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) "smokeless tobacco has not been shown to be a cause of any human disease."

Spit Tobacco and Its Marketing Should Be Regulated by a Science-Based, Health Agency: USSTC wants government approval for it to market its products as less hazardous than cigarettes without any additional control over its marketing or its products. Unless the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is first given meaningful authority over spit tobacco products, including the authority to oversee the content, manufacture, sale, and marketing of spit tobacco, this request will only increase the harm caused by tobacco. Why is this so? Absent such regulation, marketing by USSTC of its products as less hazardous is likely to result in the following:

It will attract new young users to use spit tobacco by communicating that it does not pose a serious risk. This is precisely what happened twenty years ago when USSTC used similar messages as part of a marketing campaign that led to an explosive growth in youth spit tobacco use; and

It may discourage some smokers from quitting by misleading them to believe that smokeless tobacco products offer a safe alternative to quitting.

In addition, in the absence of FDA regulation there are no manufacturing standards governing these products or their relative safety. This is especially important because tests have shown extremely wide variations in levels of toxins in spit tobacco products across brands in the United States as well as across the same brands over their shelf life.

USSTC Markets Its Products To Youth: USSTC has a long history of marketing its products to youth through the development of starter products (pouches, long cut, etc.), the addition of flavorings (cherry, mint), and the strategy of graduating users from entry products to stronger ones. In fact, it is the company most responsible for turning spit tobacco from a product used primarily by old men and women to one used by young people. Despite the restrictions placed on youth advertising by the Smokeless Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, the U.S. Tobacco Company (UST) has continued to heavily advertise in youth-oriented magazines. For the period 1997-2001, UST's expenditures in youth magazines increased from \$3.6 million to \$9.4 million, a 161% increase. Without regulation of the way its harm reduction claims are

marketed, there is absolutely no reason to believe that their marketing will lead to anything other than an overall greater use of tobacco products, with the attendant harm on public health.

Comparing USSTC Products to Swedish Snus Is Like Comparing Apples To Ants: USSTC likes to compare its efforts to those of Snus in Sweden and to claim that its products can be an effective harm reduction strategy. The differences in the Swedish and U.S. products and the differences in the Swedish and U.S. regulatory environments render this comparison ludicrous. Any gains that might have been achieved by Snus in Sweden have been accomplished with a product that is many times lower in cancer-causing nitrosamines and other toxic substances than the USSTC products sold in the US. Sweden also carefully regulates spit tobacco products and their marketing. To prevent marketing claims from making these products more attractive to non-users, Sweden prohibits ANY advertising of the product and prohibits the kinds of claims USSTC wants to make here. There is every reason to believe that operating in an unregulated environment, a company such as USSTC, with its long history of employing every possible marketing avenue to attract youth, would only use health claims to further expand its market, especially among youth.

USSTC Should Support FDA Regulation of Tobacco As The Solution: If USSTC is serious about reducing the harm caused by tobacco, and about assuring that the marketing of its products as less hazardous contributes to improvement in public health, it would support the effective regulation of tobacco products by the FDA as outlined by the major public health groups. Less hazardous, nicotine-replacement therapies are regulated by the FDA. Why should the manufacturers of spit tobacco products, attempting to make similar health claims, be treated any differently? Only regulation of spit tobacco products by a qualified, science-based agency like the FDA can assure that health claims for spit tobacco are accurate, appropriate and protect public health.

U.S. SMOKELESS TOBACCO CO.,
Greenwich, CT, May 23, 2003.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN: I read with interest your "Dear Colleague" letter dated April 28, 2003, regarding smokeless tobacco in the context of tobacco harm reduction and the attached documents from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, portions of which are referenced in your letter. There appears to be widespread agreement in the public health community regarding your observation that "with cigarette smoking responsible for more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year, there is reason to consider nonconventional strategies to save lives." As you are aware, one such "non-conventional strategy" increasingly discussed in the public health community is that cigarette smokers who do not quit and do not use medicinal nicotine products should switch completely to smokeless tobacco products.

The debate regarding tobacco harm reduction and the role of smokeless tobacco products as part of that effort is at a crossroads. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company ("USSTC") has been actively and constructively engaged in discussing the merits of that issue. Unfortunately, the Campaign of Tobacco-Free Kids does not seem interested in discussing the merits of communicating to adult cigarette smokers that smokeless

tobacco is a significantly reduced risk alternative to cigarette smoking. Rather, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids disseminates documents of the type attached to your letter that have little relevance to the issue at hand, but contain numerous statements that are inaccurate or misleading. Several of those statements relating directly to USSTC require a response.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' central allegation is that USSTC has engaged in "strategies to hook kids" on smokeless tobacco products. In particular, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids alleges that USSTC (i) employed a "graduation strategy" for hooking new smokeless tobacco users, which means kids," (ii) added cherry flavoring to Skoal Long Cut in 1993 in order to appeal to underage youth (iii) "marketed to youth through a number of channels including sports events like auto racing and rodeos that are widely attended by kids," and (iv) places "smokeless tobacco ads in magazines with high youth readership, such as Sports Illustrated and Rolling Stone.

The allegation that USSTC engages in "strategies to hook kids" could not be further from the truth. USSTC has made clear its commitment to market its smokeless tobacco products only to adults. For example, USSTC is the only smokeless tobacco company to enter into the Smokeless Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement ("STMSA") with the Attorneys General of 45 states and various territories. As a result, USSTC is supporting programs to reduce youth usage of tobacco, and has agreed to limitations on its advertising and marketing efforts that might be attractive, in the view of the Attorneys General, to underage potential consumers of smokeless tobacco, even though USSTC's competitors have agreed to no such restrictions.

"Graduation Strategy" Allegations: USSTC does not employ any marketing strategy based upon a theory that consumers can be enticed to begin using "beginner strength" smokeless tobacco products, and subsequently be caused to "graduate" to smokeless tobacco products that are "stronger" or "more potent." Any suggestion that USSTC's line of products is developed based upon "graduating" levels of "strength" or "potency" is not true. Smokeless tobacco consumers remain loyal to a single brand or switch among a variety of brands according to their preference for flavor, cut of tobacco, form and packaging. Moreover, there is no set pattern of brand switching among smokeless tobacco consumers. They do not conform to any so-called "graduation strategy."

Company documents from the early 1980s reflect that there were discussions among some at the Company about a "graduation process," "hypothesis" or "theory." While the term "graduation process" apparently meant different things to different people, the theory seems to have been an attempt by some to provide a shorthand explanation for consumer behavior in switching between brands of smokeless tobacco, including between the Company's own brands. The term "graduation process" as used in the early 1980s: (i) did not relate to marketing to youth, (ii) did not drive the Company's marketing strategies, and (iii) is contradicted by consumer behavior in the marketplace.

Cherry Flavoring: The suggestion that cherry flavored Skoal Long Cut was designed to appeal to underage youth is baseless. Cherry flavored tobacco products have been on the market since 1910. Since then, there have been dozens of brands of cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe and other smoking tobacco products with cherry flavor marketed to adults. The use of cherry flavor tobacco products is not surprising. Many products marketed for adults, such as Maalox, Alka-Seltzer and

Tums, are available in cherry flavor because of its appeal to those adults.

Sponsorship of Professional Motorsports and Rodeos: As noted above, an underlying purpose of the STMSA contains a comprehensive array of restrictions that substantially limit the Company's activities with respect to marketing its smokeless tobacco products. Among other restrictions USSTC has agreed that it will not engage in brand name sponsorships of concerts, events in which youth comprise a significant portion of the audience, events in which youth are paid participants or contestants, football, soccer, basketball and hockey. USSTC's sponsorship of professional motorsports and rodeos is part of the Company's efforts to promote its products to adult consumers and is wholly appropriate under the terms of the STMSA.

Magazine Ads: As the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is fully aware, USSTC does not currently advertise in Sports Illustrated or Rolling Stone. On June 7, 2002, USSTC announced that in order to leave no doubt that its marketing program is oriented to adults and adults only, it would suspend advertising in a small number of magazines while it reviewed concerns regarding possible youth readership, even though the overwhelming majority of readers of those magazines were adults. The magazines involved were Sports Illustrated, Hot Rod, Motor Trend and sporting News. USSTC stopped advertising in Rolling Stone in 2001.

USSTC appreciates your interest in this important public health issue, and looks forward to continuing its participation in the debate regarding tobacco harm reduction and the potential role of smokeless tobacco.

Sincerely,

RICHARD H. VERHEIJ.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, June 3, 2003.

Hon. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: You may have recently received a copy of a May 23, 2003, letter from U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company (UST) in connection with today's hearings on "reduced risk" tobacco products. As you consider this letter, you should know that it is deceptive on important issues.

The UST letter was written in response to a "Dear Colleague" letter that I wrote on April 28, 2003. My Dear Colleague made two major points: (1) that public health authorities have concluded that "reduced risk" claims for tobacco products should be made only in the context of strict regulatory oversight and (2) that the need for regulatory oversight of such claims is underscored by UST's history of untrustworthy marketing. The Dear Colleague attached two fact sheets from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. The fact sheets detailed UST's use of a "graduation strategy" to hook young users on low-nicotine products and then "graduate" them to higher-nicotine products. They also described the company's strategy of appealing to children through the use of cherry flavoring in its "starter" products.

In its May 23 response, UST dismisses the allegation that the company "has engaged in strategies to hook kids" as "inaccurate or misleading." UST claims that it does not and has never used a "graduation strategy," certainly not one related to marketing to youth. UST also rejects as "baseless" the suggestion that its cherry-flavored products were designed to appeal to children.

Since receiving UST's May 23 letter, I have obtained copies of internal company documents that validate the points made in my Dear Colleague and conflict with the asser-

tions in UST's letter. These documents show that the company planned a "graduation strategy" starting with "young" consumers, that the company has long known that flavoring in smokeless tobacco products appeals to young smokeless tobacco users, and that UST deliberately adds flavoring to "starter products." The documents also indicate that UST marketed its products to children as young as 13 or 14. Copies of these previously undisclosed documents are enclosed with this letter.

These documents and UST's response are relevant to the Committee's consideration of UST's request for permission to market smokeless tobacco as safer than cigarettes. While UST may say that it would never abuse authority to make "reduced risk" claims, the company's past practices—and its recent correspondence denying these practices—call the company's veracity seriously into question.

UST'S GRADUATION STRATEGY

UST states that it never employed a "graduation strategy" in marketing its tobacco products and that any documents from officials at the company discussing the strategy merely reflected a "hypothesis," "did not relate to marketing to youth," and "did not drive the Company's marketing strategies."

This claim is difficult to believe in light of the documents that I have obtained. The documents show definitively that a graduation strategy aimed at youth was in fact the company's goal and that implementing this strategy was the objective of the highest-ranking officials in the company. In particular, a 1980 memo from the Senior Vice President for Marketing and Sales to the Chairman of the Board and President of UST sets forth two of the company's marketing "objectives" as follows:

Introduce an easy-to-use, "starter" product; and

Provide new users with an easy graduation process.

That this graduation process is aimed at young customers is expressly stated later in the document. A chart labeled "Marketing Action/Staging," which includes specific dates for implementation of each action as early as two months from the date of the memo, reads as follows:

Brand/segment	Objective
Ball'n Chew Wintergreen Plastic Can	Introduce easy to use, "starter" product to increase consumer base, especially among the young.
Skoal Straight Plastic Can	Introduce line extension to support "natural vertical" graduation process.

This document also contains a chart, entitled "Product Development and Positioning," that depicts "young, newer" "light" users at the bottom of a continuum that ends in "older, confirmed" "heavy" users. Marching up this continuum are the company's smokeless products, with the lightest products at the bottom and the strongest products at the top.

USE OF FLAVORED PRODUCTS TO APPEAL TO YOUTH

UST claims that cherry flavoring is common in adult products like Maalox and Tums and therefore that there is no basis to believe that the company used sweet flavors to appeal to children. But the company had clear understanding that favors appeal to young users and not to adults. In the document quoted above, the Senior Vice President for Marketing and Sales states the following "assumptions":

ASSUMPTIONS:

Younger and lighter users prefer a favor, not a natural.

Older and heavier users prefer real tobacco taste and strength.

Happy Days [a lighter product] can be a better brand and better "graduato[r]" with a change in favor.

UST'S MARKETING TO CHILDREN

Another document indicates that the UST's sales force marketed to children as young as 13 or 14. A memo from a regional sales manager to UST's National Sales Manager describes the effect of a competing product on sales of UST products. The memo states that retailers report that Hawken, a product from a UST competitor: "is being used by young kids and young adults. The age of the kids is from 9 years old and up. I believe this to be true because outlets located close to schools (all grades) are definitely the heavier Hawken outlets we visited. . . . Also, the people who knew about mouth tobaccos felt the sweet taste was a definite factor with the kids."

This memo goes on to say that Hawken "has reached kids four or five years earlier than we have contacted them in the past." Because the memo is describing a product being used by 9-year-olds, the clear indication is that UST was marketing to kids of 13 or 14 years.

CONCLUSION

As we consider UST's desire to market its products as safer than cigarettes, we must keep in mind both the company's marketing history and its continuing deceptions. Essentially, UST is asking Congress to trust that the company will make responsible claims about its products. But it is hard to see how such trust is warranted given the company's track record. Certainly, the company should not be permitted to make "reduced risk" claims about its products without strict regulatory oversight.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member.

Enclosures (2).

U.S. TOBACCO INTRA-COMPANY
CORRESPONDENCE

JANUARY 4, 1980.

From: Barry J. Nova, Sr., Vice President
Marketing and Sales.

To: Louis P. Bantle, Chairman of the Board
and President.

Subject: "Moist" Development.

U.S. Tobacco has "made" the market in moist smokeless tobacco; a segment that remains in the early stages of growth on a product life cycle graph. We must continue to "lead" the category in order to:

Enlarge our consumer base;

Preempt probable competition; and

Maintain corporate growth and profit.

A recent document from Peter directed itself to "product leadership"; to the methods of ascertaining the right products in the right positions to meet potential user needs. While some of the choices and recommendations might be questioned, it is not the intent of the writer to mark down a good beginning. Rather, in conjunction with those carbonated above it is the purpose of this memorandum to further define marketing action needed to meet the following objectives:

Introduce an easy-to-use, "starter" product;

Provide new users with an easy graduation process;

Develop better packaging; and

Maintain a simplicity in the product line.

Easy graduation process

There are two "leaders" extant in today's marketplace: Skoal, with a wintergreen flavor; and Copenhagen, with a more natural tobacco taste. While Skoal is the biggest

seller, reasonable percentage growth is still apparent in the Copenhagen brand; and both continue to outpace Happy Days (mint)—where about 20% of current poundage is samples—on a poundage growth basis.

In addition, two other “natural” brands continue to show strength with very limited promotional support—W B Cut and Key.

Simply, then, we should concentrate on the two proven areas of acceptability—Wintergreen and Natural; and build vertically in these two flavors, permitting the consumer to “move-up” or strengthen his pleasure in a taste that he is used to and comfortable with. Even our new loose leaf chew would fit comfortably in the pattern.

And while we do feel that mint/spearmint is an acceptable American flavoring in food and gums, it has not yet been completely proven as a tobacco additive; and a triple flavor track rather than a vertical duality would be too complex now.

Simplified product line

We cannot, and should not, attempt to be “all things to all people” now. After all, it must be remembered that we are just beginning to tap the market’s potential, and that the brands we sell, in most cases, seem to meet a need or a want. To proliferate many new products/line extensions might very well cause:

Confusion among potential new users as to where to begin and with what.

Confusion among current users regarding what to move to; possibly creating no new business, just a transfer of business intra-line.

Problems in media promotion: difficulty in creating strong, separate positioning statements; lack of frequency to explain all various elements.

Trade dismay and lack of support. Moist has been “welcomed” by the trade, but for the next four to five years we will not be at the point where we can demand two to three times the warehouse or retail shelf space that we now enjoy. To try to put out a myriad of products is to run the severe risk of alienating a carefully built trade rapport based on good sales from consumer demand, as well as inviting an ever-increasing damaged goods problem.

“Easy-to-use” starter product development and intro

This must be our priority niche at present, for obvious reasons:

Expansion demands a continually enlarging new user base.

“Floating” and saliva build-up are still negatives to the “beginner”.

Most readily available entry segment for competition on both a product development basis and ratio of pay-back to investment. (And who is to say that a so-called “starter” product cannot carve-out, in part, its own on-going user base.)

Happy Days, because of some difficulty in use and apparent ill-defined flavor, may not be the best effort we can make for “starters”. It can be improved, and then perhaps, could be positioned as part of the “regular” line.

Good Luck, a technological advance in packaging rather than a break through in taste, is selling reasonably well in most test areas; but requires better flavor and a final, true evaluation before capital is expended on additional machinery.

Our new, shag cut, “balling” smokeless brand (whether it is truly “balled” or just flattened between the fingers) is the one that “gut” feelings tell us can be the most successful entry. It is easy to use. Saliva build-up is minimal. It takes flavoring well. Raw materials are available. Production methods have been proven. A machine to pack both it and W B Cut could be ready by the fourth quarter of ’80. However, only thorough testing of the concept will prove its validity.

Better packaging

The general view is that the plastic can would be a positive packaging step:

- Lower manufacturing costs;
- Decreases freight costs;
- Easier to open;
- Stands-up better in the wearing;
- Adaptable to holding lesser amounts of tobacco; and
- May keep product fresher, longer.

A small amount of research done in our overseas market, coupled with some results from Hawken testing in Jonesboro indicate good consumer acceptance for the plastic container. And it is understood that both Happy Days and Skoal can be packed this way now, without any loss in product quality.

However, we can visualize the possibility of some problems that might occur:

Consumer perception that change in package means a change in formula and flavor. Panel testing can prove or disprove this.

Keeping the product fresher, longer could negate the “built-in obsolescence” in the present container, thereby lessening poundage. Still, good users might just use more because it is fresher. The answer might be gotten through focus groups.

Finally, one important facet of plastic packaging—its adaptability—needs further

commentary regarding how important it could become in creating new users and meeting competitive pressure.

Supposition and strategy

New users “pinch” less often and will use less tobacco per “dip”: Build up bottom of plastic can—without changing height and circumference—in order to pack a “full” lower weight in a “starter” product; i.e. .6 ounces.

Pricing can be a determinant to trial; and may well be used as a competitive advantage: Lower price on “starter” brands to increase trial, lower sampling costs, and preempt competitive, “low ball” pricing, for example:

Present can price: UST, 42¢; Jobber, 52¢; Retail, 65¢ (packing half as much tobacco may save 20% or more while maintaining margins).

“Reduced” can price: UST, 33¢; Jobber, 41¢; Retail, 50¢.

Possible result: More new users, happy with a “fair” entry price, unconcerned with lesser amounts of product, who can be graduated to one of our “regular” products at a “regular” price (and may want to “move” there faster since 1.2 ounces at 65¢ is a better “deal”) . . . and competitors who probably will have to cut their own margins to find a price point entry meaningfully below ours.

The foregoing discussions point the way to the recommendations included on the Product Development and Positioning Chart that follows; after which a Marketing Action Staging form indicates the H&D, research and market testing required to prove their viability.

Product development and positioning vertical duality

Assumptions:

Younger and lighter users prefer a flavor, not a “natural”.

Older and heavier users prefer real tobacco taste and strength.

Skoal is our largest selling and fastest growing product (and best known); all “starter” products should acquaint people with its taste.

Copenhagen is our second largest selling product and its growth could improve with a lead-in from a “natural” line extension, whose name and blend have proven themselves.

Happy Days can be a better brand and a better “graduator” with a change in flavor.

The “top of the line”—W B—may yet be our fastest growing product and deserves a place in both “verticals”.

MARKETING ACTION

[Staging]

Brand/Segment	Objective	Manufacture/develop period	Reserch period	Test market/period	Roll-out/period
Ball'n Chew Wintergreen/Plastic Can ..	Introduce easy-to-use, “starter” product, to increase consumer base especially among the young.	Blend and flavor—2/80. Hand pack for research—3/80; Hand pack for test markets—8-12/80; Develop machine packing by 1/81; Name and label development—3/80.	Taste test with new Happy Days user panel, vs. Good Luck and Hawken. In addition, test in potential user focus groups vs. Good Luck, Hawken and Happy Days 4/80 thru 8/80.	4 Markets: 2 control w/media; 2 reduced price and weight w/media 9/80 thru 12/80.	By region, with promotional support, during 1981.
Good Luck Wintermint/Plastic Can	Change to a new taste. Evaluate “bag” concept in terms of future sales potential and machine needs.	Blend and flavor—3/80. Full production—6/80. Prototype machinery—9/80.	Taste test with user panel—new vs. present product, also gather user profile and concept acceptance data—3/80-6/80. Audit selected outlets in current areas to determine future national volume.	Current areas utilizing present production capacity fully.	By region as machinery becomes available.
Skoal Straight Plastic Can	Introduce line extension to support “natural vertical” graduation process.	Utilize existing Key blend, and change label—3/80.	Audit in test markets at retail and wholesale to ascertain new sales growth vs. “pull down” from existing brands. 4/80 thru 9/80.	4 Markets: 2 Copenhagen areas, one with local adv.; 2 Skoal Areas, one with local adv. 4/80 thru 9/80.	National, supported by “. . . Skoal, and new Skoal Straight” network TV spot
Happy Days Wintermint/Plastic Can	Change to a new taste and evaluate with current users.	Blend and flavor—3/80. Full production—7/80.	Taste test—existing vs. new—with large Happy Days user panel. 5/80-7/80.	None	National distribution—8/80.
W B Cut Wintergreen/Pouch	Introduce line extension to create a “top-of-the-line” duality.	Blend and flavor—5/80. Packing machinery developed and full production by 1/81.	Taste test in panel of W B Cut users. 6/80-10/80.	None	Region by region distribution only after further acceptance of natural brand is accomplished. 1/81 thru 12/81.

MARKETING ACTION—Continued

[Staging]

Brand/Segment	Objective	Manufacture/develop period	Reserch period	Test market/period	Roll-out/period
Plastic Packaging	Evaluate consumer acceptance of plastic can concept.	Label development—4/80. Possible new can colorations—4/80.	Full, large panel test for Happy Days with Happy Days users—5/80–9/80. Full, large panel test for Skoal with Skoal users—5/80–9/80. Results should be at least 95 percent positive.	None	National distribution beginning—1/81.
Stetson Natural/Wintergreen Pouch	Introduce a loose leaf chewing entry point toward capture of 10 percent of market in three years.	Per T. Cornell: Blend and flavor—2/80. Samples production—3/80. Production for test markets—7/80–1/81. Full production 2/81.	Full, loose leaf user panel tests—Stetson vs. Levi Garrett, Red Man, Beechnut 4/80–7/80: Name and package design perception testing in 2 focus groups, 4/80–7/80; Audit at wholesale and retail to determine movement and growth vs. competition.	8 test markets conducted in strong loose leaf areas: 2 Stetson natural—lower media; 2 Stetson natural—higher media; 2 Stetson wintergreen—lower media; 2 Stetson wintergreen—higher media 8/20–2/81.	National distribution 3/81–6/81: supported by national—media effort.

U.S. TOBACCO INTRA-COMPANY
CORRESPONDENCE

JANUARY 21, 1980.

FROM: A. E. Cameron, Regional Sales Manager.

TO: Mr. R. R. Marconi, National Sales Manager.

Re: Hawken review.

Tuesday and Wednesday was spent in the tri-city area (Briston, Tennessee; Bristol, Virginia; and Johnson City, Tennessee) in an attempt to further evaluate Conwood's new item "Hawken". I spent this time working with Mr. C. E. Jordan, division manager. *Factual* information was hard to come by in some of the areas; however, I will attempt to cover what we found from consumers, retailers, and distributors.

Consumers

We were only able to actually discuss Hawken with two consumers who have used the brand for any length of time. One of these was a convenience store manager (male about 55 years old). This man was supplied with samples on a regular basis for at least four to five weeks. By this time he had developed a taste for Hawken and now believes the flavor and taste last longer than SKOAL, the brand he used before Hawken. The second consumer was a 12 year old male and his mother. He stated, and it was confirmed by his mother, that all other brands of mouth tobacco he had tried to use would make him sick. This included SKOAL, HAPPY DAYS MINT, and several brands of scrap. He felt the cause with SKOAL and HAPPY DAYS MINT was the brands were too hard to use, he could never keep them together. Scrap produced too much juice and he swallowed too much. He also felt Hawken's flavor lasted longer. A very interesting observation—his mother was delighted he had finally found a mouth tobacco he could use. During my questioning of this lady, it was clearly evident that she believes mouth tobacco is the least harmful of many habits her son could develop; therefore, she openly encourages him to chew. The price made no difference to these two consumers.

Retailers

While contacting most of the retailers we have had on the "Tracking Program", we could only find two who definitely believe Hawken is still increasing in sales. All others state the brand has peaked and most report a decline in sales. Every retailer stated that SKOAL definitely was hurt the worst; however, they all state that SKOAL is coming back and is either at, or close to its previous sales level. They all report consumers of all ages are buying Hawken. Also, all type of consumers are using Hawken. These retailers all agree that the majority of Hawken is being used by young kids and young adults. The age of the kids is from 9 years old and up. I believe this to be true because outlets located close to schools (all grades) are definitely the heavier Hawken outlets we visited. Several retailers indicated that price

was a factor with the young kids. Also, the people who knew about mouth tobaccos felt the sweet tests was a definite factor with the kids. No retailer expressed any problem with the lower price of Hawken. They all state their mark-up is the same percentage as on SKOAL and other tobaccos.

Distributors

Distributors all state that they did no more on Hawken than any other new item. They all report that the brand has peaked and they are seeing declines. No distributor indicated any promotional activity was planned for Hawken.

As you can see, all levels are pointing the same way on Hawken. I believe the brand has hurt SKOAL and HAPPY DAYS MINT as much as it is going to. Figures prove Hawken killed our increase on SKOAL (30 percent); and at this point, we are showing about 9 percent decrease in sales where Hawken is available. At one point, our loss was well over 20 percent. This has turned around and I believe SKOAL will be back to a break-even point within the next few weeks. I feel by the end of the next three-month tracking period, our increase will be back to normal. I am not at all sure our increase won't be greater than ever. It definitely is a fact that Hawken has brought a lot of new consumers into the mouth tobacco market. I think this brand has reached kids four or five years earlier than we have contacted them in the past. Indications are that some of these new users are moving up to a stronger brand. Also, indications are that some older consumers are moving from Hawken back to the brands they were using before, and some consumers have begun mixing Hawken with SKOAL and Levi Scrap. If these trends continue, Hawken may prove to be a very good starter product for SKOAL.

I am convinced we must continue our tracking of Hawken for at least another three months before our questions can be answered. However, all figures indicate Hawken, when introduced in a new market, will kill our increase on SKOAL and, in fact, cause a 10 to 20 percent loss for the first three months.

Our field personnel will continue to supply all information possible on Hawken.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ALEXANDER M. HUBER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I

am happy to announce that Alexander M. Huber of Milan, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Alexander's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alexander brings a special mix of leadership, service, dedication to the incoming class of Merchant Marine Academy cadets. While attending Edison High School, Milan, Ohio, Alexander has attained a grade point average of 3.942 which places him 7th in his class of 129 students. During his time at Edison High School, Alexander has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Alexander's accomplishments include being on the honor roll for all four years, being awarded the Student of the Quarter for Business, recipient of the Mathematics Award, student of the quarter award for Science, and recipient of the Scholarship Pin. Aside from his accomplishments Alexander also participated in the National Honor Society, the Math Club, and the Spanish Club.

Outside the classroom, Alexander has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Milan. On the fields of friendly strife, Alexander has participated in Soccer, Tennis, and Weight Lifting. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Alexander is an active member in his community participating in National Youth Leadership Conference and Boys State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Alexander M. Huber. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alexander will do very well during his career at United States Merchant Marine Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
NATHAN A. STEIN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young

man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Nathan A. Stein of Sandusky, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Nathan's offer an appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Nathan brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Navy midshipmen. While attending Perkins High School, Sandusky, Ohio, Nathan has attained a grade point average of 4.0, which places him eleventh in his class of 58 students. During his time at Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic High School, Nathan has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Nathan's accomplishments include being in the honor roll, two year academic letterman, and two years of being named Who's Who in American High School Students.

Outside the classroom, Nathan has distinguished himself as an excellent musician, athlete and dedicated citizen of Sandusky. On the fields of friendly strife, Nathan participated in Football becoming a team captain his senior year and Basketball. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Nathan is an active member in his community participating in the Environment Club, volunteering for service in his local Library, and participating in community musicals.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Nathan A. Stein. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Nathan will do very well during his career at United States Naval Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE
BAILEY AND KATE EVANS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to Michelle Bailey of Harrisburg, Illinois, and Kate Evans of Galatia, Illinois, in honor of their achievements.

Michelle Bailey is a student at Benton Middle School who was recognized as a United States National Honor Roll Award Winner. Her picture will be published in the United States

Achievement Academy Official Yearbook in order to showcase her accomplishment. Today I would like to recognize Michelle for her commitment to scholarship and academic excellence and also to encourage her to continue along the path to success.

Kate Evans was the top heifer exhibitor for the 2002 IBA Junior Points Program. She competed against other juniors in 2002 and received prizes for placing in the top 20. I would like to congratulate Kate on her win and wish her good luck in her future exhibitions.

In closing, I would like to congratulate both Michelle and Kate on their successes. They are excellent examples of the promising youth of today and should serve as role models for their peers and those around them. Our thanks go to the families and teachers for the foundation they have given these young women. God bless.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERB SADLER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's most distinguished and dedicated pastors, Dr. Herb Sadler. After 28 years of faithful service to the Northwest Florida community as pastor of the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, Dr. Sadler will leave Gulf Breeze to become the District Superintendent of the Dothan District in Dothan, AL, of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. We are grateful for the time that Dr. Sadler has spent with us in Northwest Florida and we wish him the best in his future position.

Born on February 7, 1942 in Montgomery, AL and raised in Thomasville, AL, Herb holds an undergraduate degree from Livingston University and both the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Emory University. Proudly married to his wife Barbara and the father of four wonderful children, Bert, Tracy, Stuart, and Scott, he has been blessed with three grandchildren, Brady, Breanna, and Jacob.

Since 1975 Herb has been at the service of the Gulf Breeze United Methodist congregation, he has overseen the growth of the parish, from 500 members to over 4,000 members, and has personally had a direct influence on the tremendous increase in worship attendance, from 100 people to nearly 2,000 people.

In addition to his duties at Gulf Breeze United Methodist, Herb has served his Annual Conference, Alabama-West Florida, as Chairperson of The Board of Ordained Ministry and as President of the Council on Finance and Administration. He has been a delegate to the 1988, 1992, 1996, and 2000 Jurisdictional

Conferences and the 1992, 1996, and 2000 General Conferences. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Birmingham-Southern College and from 1992 to 2000 he was a member of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

The author of two books, "We Can All Be Winners" and "Today is the Only Day", Herb has previously been President of the Gulf Breeze Rotary Club and was a charter member of the Board of Gulf Breeze Hospital, a role he continues to serve in today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to my good friend Dr. Herb Sadler on his new position with the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. Herb was recently named one of the top 11 leaders in Northwest Florida by Climate Magazine and I can think of no person that is more deserving of such an honor. We will be sad to see his him leave, but wish him all the best in his new journey. Mr. Speaker, on this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens.

HONORING CREATIVE ARTS
THERAPIES WEEK

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Creative Arts Therapies Week, which began on June 1 and continues through June 7.

Creative Arts Therapies are an increasingly important tool for healing both physical and mental health needs. There are currently more than 15,000 Creative Arts Therapists practicing in the United States and around the world—all working to address major societal issues including school violence, substance abuse, breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and domestic violence.

Since its first application over 50 years ago, Creative Arts Therapists have provided individual and group art experiences for people in need of care and treatment to address and overcome great personal challenges. Using art, dance, movement, drama, music, and poetry, therapists are able to achieve remarkable results.

I commend Creative Arts therapists and the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies for their tireless work to improve health, communication, and expression, to enhance self-awareness, and to facilitate positive change in human experience and behavior.

HONORING LYNN DYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I stand before this body of Congress to recognize one of Colorado's outstanding citizens. Lynn Dyer resides in Cortez and has been working there as the director of tourism for Mesa Verde Country. Lynn has recently been chosen as Citizen of the Year by the City of Cortez and is currently the President of the Southwest Colorado Travel Region.

Lynn recently planned the Mesa Verde Country Indian Arts and Western Culture Festival, which was recognized as one of the top 100 events in North America in 2003 by the American Bus Association. The organization and planning of this festival also earned Lynn the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Tourism Initiative. This award, presented by Colorado's Governor Bill Owens, is given to a community that helps to promote tourism in Colorado.

As most of you know, the Mesa Verde area has been challenged by a number of severe wildfires in recent years, making many think tourism would sharply decrease. The efforts of Lynn and her team have helped to keep tourism steady, so people across the nation can see the wonders of the Mesa Verde area.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand and express my gratitude for the hard work of Lynn Dyer. Lynn is the kind of individual who makes my district proud. I wish Lynn the best as she continues her work promoting tourism in Colorado and it is my hope that Americans will continue to discover the beauty of this region.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LYNDONVILLE, NEW YORK

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Village of Lyndonville, New York. This congressional recognition will be presented later this month when village officials and citizens gather together to celebrate this historic event.

The Village of Lyndonville is a small town that has evolved with the times, but whose residents have never lost touch with their roots. Its history resembles that of many of the small towns on which our nation was built. In the 1820s, the area began to grow after the construction of a corduroy road, which was built of logs laid side by side transversely. This road is now Route 63—Lyndonville's Main Street. The locale began to prosper after several merchants built businesses on Main Street in 1836. Settlers also found the area attractive due to the possibilities offered by Johnson's Creek, which runs through the village. Named for the British Indian agent, Sir William Johnson, Johnson's Creek was harnessed by early settlers as a power source. Early settlers built the first flouring mills using the creek, including S. W. Mudgett, Samuel Tappan, and Richard Barry, among others.

The village was originally called Lyndon—in honor of Lyndon, Vermont, the home of many of its original settlers. Lyndon's name was eventually changed to Lyndonville in order to distinguish the village from nearby Linden, New York. One hundred years ago, the Village of Lyndonville was officially incorporated in Orleans County, on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The village sits on one square mile of beautiful, fertile Western New York land. The surrounding area is home to many of New York's famous apple orchards, as well as the lush, rolling vistas created by the retreating glaciers ages ago. Nestled against Lake Ontario, Lyndonville is blessed with the rich soil and pastoral serenity that Americans consider the ideal of our countryside, evocative of Mayberry and Grover's Corners.

With a population of 950, Lyndonville is a close-knit community where everyone is a neighbor. Most people know each other, and even if you are not well acquainted, faces smile with recognition and greetings are exchanged with warmth. Friendly inquiries are made when there has been an experience with pain—or joy. Anytime a neighbor is suffering from ill health or some loss, the community is there to help, to lighten the burden, and to express its loving concern. Beyond the village's long and distinguished history, Lyndonville is simply a place residents are proud to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Village of Lyndonville's 100th birthday, I unite with its residents to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to Orleans County, our state, and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO ALFREDO MONTES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the well-articulated environmental message of a fourth grader, Alfredo Montes, winner of the Friends of San Leandro Creek's 11th annual poetry contest. This contest was held in conjunction with the annual Watershed Festival Event, held in my district and cosponsored by the city of San Leandro, the Friends of San Leandro Creek (FSLC), and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Protection program.

Organized in 1991 and officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1995, the FSLC is a wonderful organization that brings the Bay Area community together around the San Leandro Creek in order to raise awareness of environmental issues. In addition to the Watershed Festival, the FSLC frequently organizes educational programs such as field trips and conservation projects for students in kindergarten through 12th grade; and regular cleanup and revegetation projects. I also regularly participate with other legislators in the FSLC's annual environmental forum. The FSLC's latest project—hopefully to be completed within the next two years—is building a new environmental education center at a new site.

Alfredo is a student at Monarch Academy, an Aspire Public School in Oakland, CA. His teacher, Andrea Main, thanked the FSLC for substantially helping to “complement my cur-

riculum” with activities like field trips and water quality testing that “totally inspired my kids.”

Ms. Main described Alfredo as a “diligent, hardworking” student who hopes to become an elected official when he grows up. His work was selected from about 20 poetry entries, by a panel of judges from the FSLC's board of directors and active members. FSLC Watershed Awareness Coordinator Susan Criswell added, “I am in awe of the energy, talent and determination of this young man. It gives me hope for the future of our environment to see such dedication.”

Alfredo attended an FSLC-organized field trip with his class and said, “I always go to places like the creek that have shallow water, because they have pollution in them, and that's what inspired me to write this poem.”

THE CREEK

(By Alfredo Montes)

The creek grows weak,
the frog no longer speaks,
the water almost falls asleep,
the trees continue to seek,
the creek feels like it has a leak,
like every time growing weak,
it gets lower and shallower as we speak,
so I will have to speak no more and hit the poem's core,
we have to clean up the pollution so we keep
on the revolution.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 760, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

Partial-birth abortion is an inhumane procedure which is never necessary to preserve the health of the mother. Indeed, this procedure poses serious health risks to the mother, and it is unnecessarily brutal to the baby. I have heard from numerous physicians that there are other safe methods for terminating a pregnancy when the life of the mother is in danger, and the American Medical Association has stated that partial-birth abortion is not an accepted medical practice.

H.R. 760 addresses the constitutional issues raised by the Supreme Court decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart*. It does so by using a more precise definition of the gruesome partial-birth procedure, clearly distinguishing between this and other forms of abortion. Furthermore, H.R. 760 provides extensive congressional findings which show that a partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary to preserve the health of a woman.

The House has passed this legislation in previous Congresses, yet a final vote did not take place in the Senate or in conference. The Senate recently passed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. We now have a historic opportunity to pass this legislation and send it to the White House for the President's approval. I strongly support enactment of a ban on partial-birth abortion, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 760.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORA ANZIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding volunteer and community member from my district. Nora Anzik is the recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award given by TREC, the Therapeutic Riding and Education Center of Pueblo, Colorado. Nora's hard work helps children with disabilities experience the joy of riding horses, something they could not accomplish without her.

Nora's enthusiasm, patience, and effectiveness became obvious in her first week at TREC. She began her work with a young autistic boy named Steven. Steven was not comfortable with some of the aspects of riding, and it was Susan's persuasive, positive attitude that helped him to adjust. Her work with Steven is just one example of the compassion she has for those in need. Nora continues to work with Steven and numerous other children, becoming a role model in many of their lives. She is a wonderful teacher, who knows how to get through to children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, great Americans like Nora, who volunteer their time, have helped to make our country great. I am proud of her accomplishments and it gives me great joy to inform this body of Congress and this nation of her outstanding community service. Thank you, Nora, for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment and involvement in the Pueblo community will not be forgotten.

POLITICAL TENSIONS IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I risk today to express my deepest concerns about the ongoing political problems in Burma and the recent arrest of opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi. I am deeply troubled by the military regime's stifling of political life. This equals a brutal, unacceptable situation lacking democratic essentials. Obviously, the military junta tries to block and prevent democratic change for which nobel peace prize laureate Suu Kyi's life and work stand for.

With the detention of Suu Kyi and nineteen members of her National League for Democracy party last Friday, the political tensions are on the rise again. The NLD headquarters and universities were also closed. It is common practice for the junta to crash NLD meetings by sending bullies to intimidate pro-democracy advocates. Only last year Suu Kyi was released from custody while at the same time the junta arrested many NLD party members. The military regime allowed her to travel freely throughout the country and organize her party but during her last two trips she met harassment and obstruction. This clearly indicates that hope for democratic reform, which was stirred by Suu Kyi's release, has suffered a major setback. The illegitimate government

further promised to engage in a dialogue with the NLD, supervised by the United Nations. Sadly, the talks failed to make significant progress.

Deficits are not only visible in the political arena but also in the social and economic field. Long-term economic mismanagement under authoritarian rule created severe economic and social ills. Due to the government's human rights' abuses and the unfriendly business environment, international companies have left the country. Inflation is rampant, probably as high as fifty percent. The social sector is in dire straits with every third child suffering from malnutrition. Yet 40 percent of the budget is spent for defense.

The problems in Burma are grave and wide-reaching. There's a democratic movement that deserves and needs our support, there's a military regime that needs to realize that its only way out of Burma's crisis is to fully respect democracy and human rights. This regime must accept the results of the 1990 election which were won by Aung Sang Suu Syi. To achieve these goals, I have cosponsored the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003," which—amongst other provisions—prohibits imports from Burma in order to press the regime to adapt full-fledged democratic reforms and supports democracy activists within Burma.

A BILL TO RESTORE EQUITY IN THE TAXATION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will restore equity in the taxation of political campaign committees.

Currently, the tax code treats income in federal political campaign committees the same as corporate income. This allows candidates for congressional office to pay campaign taxes on a graduated rate scale, offering us significant tax benefits.

Specifically, we pay a 15 percent tax rate on the first \$50,000 of income in our campaign accounts. Income in our accounts between \$50,001 and \$75,000 is taxed at 25 percent, and income between \$75,001 and \$10 million is taxed at 34 percent. Only when our campaign accounts boast over \$10 million are we subjected to a 35 percent tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, each of us in this chamber can attest to the ridiculously high amount of money that we must raise in order to run a formidable campaign for Congress. However, I doubt that many of us actually reach that \$10 million threshold and pay a 35 percent tax rate on the money in our campaign accounts.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in state legislatures across the country aren't as fortunate. As Texas State Senator Jon Lindsay pointed out to us in the Texas Delegation, every dollar in his campaign account is taxed at a flat 35 percent rate. In fact, only candidates for Congress are able to enjoy this graduated tax schedule.

To correct this inequity in our tax code, I am introducing legislation today to amend the Internal Revenue Code and mandate that state

political campaign committees are taxed in the same manner as our federal campaign committees.

Joining me in this effort to ensure that the tax code treats our state legislators fairly is the entire Democratic wing of the Texas delegation: Representative CHRIS BELL, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, Representative CHET EDWARDS, Representative MARTIN FROST, Representative CHARLES GONZALEZ, Representative RALPH HALL, Representative RUBEN HINOJOSA, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Representative NICK LAMPSON, Representative SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, Representative SILVESTRE REYES, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Representative MAX SANDLIN, Representative CHARLES STENHOLM, and Representative JIM TURNER.

My thanks goes out to each of them for their support, as well as to Senator Lindsay for bringing this matter to our attention. I urge my fellow colleagues to co-sponsor this bill and show their support for the state legislators who work hard representing them back home.

RECOGNITION OF BRADEN CHRISTIAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Braden Christian of Harrisburg, Illinois in honor of his participation in the 76th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Braden was the winner of the Tri-State Spelling Bee held at Bosse High School in Evansville, Illinois on March 15 earlier this year. His win secured him an invitation to the National Spelling Bee.

Today, I would like to congratulate Braden on his victory and wish him luck in the National Competition.

The Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee is held annually and features 251 students from grades five through eight from all over the country. Students are quizzed on a large selection of words from the Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary. I would like to commend Braden for his hard work and dedication to pursuing his goal of winning the National Title.

In closing, I would like to praise Braden for all of his achievements and also thank his parents and teachers who have nurtured and inspired Braden's desire for excellence and love of knowledge. He is a truly wonderful young man and I look forward to hearing of his future accomplishments. God Bless.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN WELDON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a longtime servant of Alamosa, Colorado, Lynn Weldon. Lynn has served the Alamosa City Council diligently for almost twenty years. In recognition

of his service, I would like to recognize his dedication and a few of his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

People in Alamosa have long felt deep respect for Lynn's patience, his integrity, and his dedication. People have referred to Lynn, who served as a chaplain's assistant during the Korean War, as a source of tranquility in the face of battle. Lynn has proved this countless times during many years of public service, where he has calmly listened to others, and stood his ground resolutely on issues of principle, no matter how heated the debates before him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lynn's long service to Alamosa before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to join the rest of Alamosa in expressing my gratitude to Lynn for his dedication to his community. Lynn, our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

IN TRIBUTE TO MICHELE MILLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who believes that public education is the foundation of a prosperous and democratic society. Michele Miller always wanted to be a teacher. As a student at Spring Valley Senior High School, Michele was a member of Future Teachers of America. Graduating from the State University of New York at Albany, she attended Hunter College for a masters degree in education with a concentration in social studies.

A lifelong New Yorker, Michele has spent her entire career teaching the students of Pearl River, New York. She has spent 33 years teaching social studies at the Pearl River School District's Middle School and High School. Michele began as a student teacher in Pearl River when Lyndon Johnson was the President of the United States in the fall of 1968. She will end her career this month, eight Presidents later and after providing thousands of her students with the knowledge and appreciation of the democratic values that underpin our great country.

Michele is the epitome of a great teacher. Although she's known throughout Pearl River as one of the toughest teachers around, she's also known for being caring, compassionate, and funny. She thrives on being in the classroom, the students have always kept her youthful in both appearance and in personality. Moreover, she constantly learns from her students and hopes that they leave the classroom every day knowing a bit more about the world.

I hope that new teachers are inspired by Michele's dedication to teaching. She will be sorely missed by the Pearl River School District.

I would like to join the Pearl River community, her family and friends in thanking Michele for her years of service and wishing her congratulations on the occasion of her retirement.

HONORING BOB SCHROEDER

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Schroeder upon being named the Town of Hooksett's Citizen of the Year.

Bob was instrumental in the restoration and revitalization of a truly historic local, state and national landmark. Robie's Country Store in Hooksett has a lengthy history of acting as the town's gathering spot, a place to argue politics, play checkers and buy groceries and homemade baked goods. Robie's was also a required stop for local politicians and presidential candidates visiting the first-in-the-nation primary state for over 30 years. The store closed in 1997 after the store's owners, Lloyd and Dorothy Robie, retired. After five years of dormancy and a lack of funds and dedicated owners, Robie's Country Store reopened, continuing its 30-year political tradition and its 110-year presence in the town.

Bob saw an imperative need to preserve this cultural and political landmark and formed the Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Association to spearhead the renovation effort. The Association has worked diligently to bring the store to life again, and on May 24, 2003, Robie's Country Store reopened to an eager and proud community. Bob and the Preservation Association were careful to maintain Robie's historical accuracy by keeping the 97-year old building's original flooring, ceiling and picture wall of political memorabilia. Always humble, Bob refuses to take the credit for the grand reopening of the store, instead pointing the spotlight on the efforts of the entire community. Under Bob's leadership, people of all ages worked together to restore Robie's through fundraising and renovation efforts. The community's hard work will undoubtedly ensure that the rich heritage and traditions of the store will remain in tact for future generations to enjoy.

Bob's tireless commitment to preserving this landmark and energizing the whole community to get involved is a wonderful example of his perseverance and dedication to improving the community and state in which he lives. I can think of no better person than Bob to receive the Hooksett Citizen of the Year Award. I am honored to represent concerned and conscientious citizens like Bob in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 760 and for our voiceless unborn children, who were merely inches away from their first breath, when their life was brutally ended. For them, partial-birth abortion is not an option—it is a death sentence.

It is truly shameful that we cannot protect the most innocent and vulnerable in our society from this gruesome medical procedure. Delivering a child up to its head and then using a syringe to suck out the child's brain and discard this miracle of life is revolting.

Do not call that child a fetus. Do not elevate any personal freedom above that child's right to life. That fetus is a human baby—call it what it is.

I hope the mental image this conjures disturbs everyone—and that I once again receive calls from those shaken by the mere description of this barbaric act. Be thankful you're not on the business end of that syringe.

We have the responsibility to do everything in our power to put an end to this practice which has no place in a civilized society. We cannot remain silent while a procedure such as partial-birth remains an acceptable part of our society—after all, if done a short time later and a few inches further, it would be considered murder.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VAIL HOTEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a long-time landmark of Pueblo, Colorado, the Vail Hotel. Opened in 1911, the Vail Hotel was once known as the most luxurious hotel west of Chicago. Its many custom windows, door-knobs, and its tasteful use of wood and stone, truly make the Vail Hotel an architectural wonder. Over the years, the hotel's beauty attracted President Woodrow Wilson, Clark Gable, Tallulah Bankhead, Jack Benny and generations of Puebloans to its gracious halls.

However, without the love of the people of Pueblo, even this great treasure would not be as marvelous as it is today. I am impressed by the numerous craftsmen who labored to restore this magnificent building, from Kathleen Sheard-Hodges, who painstakingly restored many of the jeweled windows and recreated missing ones, to Bill Agnes, who salvaged tiles to restore and extend the lobby's gorgeous mosaic floor. Also among those deserving of praise is Gary Trujillo, the lead architect for the renovation, who restored the building with painstaking attention to its historic past and for its remarkable beauty.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to mention one of this country's magnificent historic landmarks. The Vail Hotel serves as an example of the pride and hard work that the citizens of Pueblo have dedicated in making their home a more beautiful place. Built by Puebloans, restored by Puebloans, and beloved by all, it gives me great pride to recognize today this historic building, as well as the efforts made to restore it. Its beauty and history enrich the Pueblo community and will be cherished for generations to come.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF
HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 4 does not outlaw flag desecration; rather, this proposal merely sets the boundaries by which Congress can enact subsequent legislation, if it so chooses, to prohibit such conduct. H.J. Res. 4 simply returns to Congress the authority that it possessed for over 200 years to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

This past week, I visited North Korea, where freedom is nowhere and democratic thought is oppressed. Our American flag is the most revered and beloved symbol of our Nation, representing all that is American and reminding the world of our love of our freedom and democracy. The flag is a bedrock of our principles and values as a country, leading our men and women into conflicts around the globe and draping the caskets of those same individuals when they return home after giving the ultimate sacrifice in defense of such values. It is the flag to which we pledge allegiance, here on the floor of the House of Representatives, in civic organizations in every town in America, and in schools throughout our country. It is this object and all that it represents that Americans hold so dear.

House Joint Resolution 4 will nullify two erroneous Supreme Court decisions, restoring the original interpretation to the First Amendment that had persisted for over two centuries since the birth of our country. When considering the powers of our respective branches of government in effecting the will of the American people, we should be reminded of the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address in 1861, "If the policy of the government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers."

I commend my colleagues for recognizing the wishes of the American people and restoring the original interpretation and understanding of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights to the Constitution by supporting this resolution.

COLONEL TIMOTHY WRIGHTON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual and patriot whose dedication and contributions to his country and the military community of March Air Reserve Base, March ARB, in Riverside, CA, are exceptional. March ARB has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Colonel Timothy Wrighton is one of these individuals. On June 6, 2003, he will be honored at a farewell celebration and dinner.

After completing his education at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and receiving a degree in engineering Tim completed his undergraduate pilot training in 1976 and in 1977 he became a First Lieutenant. Tim served as a C-141 pilot for the 53rd Military Airlift Squadron out of Norton Air Force Base in California from 1976 to 1982 during which time he was promoted to Captain. In 1984, he was assigned as the chief pilot for the 728th Military Airlift Squadron. Three years later he was promoted to Major and was assigned as the chief of wing standardization/evaluation for the 445th Airlift Wing at Norton and would later become assistant deputy commander for operations. Over the next 13 years he would be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and then Colonel. Since 2002 he has been the Commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March Air Reserve Base. Col. Wrighton has logged over 7,800 flight hours in a variety of aircraft including the C-141 A/B, KC-10, and KC-135R.

Col. Wrighton has received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career including: Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Air Medal; Aerial Achievement Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; Air Force Training Ribbon; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Saudi Arabian Government.

Col. Wrighton is also a life member and Chapter President of the Reserve Officers' Association, a Life Member of the Airlift/Tanker Association, Life Member of the AFA, a Life Member of the VFW and a Member of Daedalians.

Col. Wrighton's tireless commitment to service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the country and the community of Riverside, CA. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his patriotic service and salute him.

HONORING MELVIN E. OLSSON

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Melvin E. Olsson of Mystic, CT, for his dedicated service to the community throughout his 43-year career at Electric Boat in Groton, CT.

Yesterday, for the first time in 13 years, Mel Olsson's name did not appear on the ballot for the Marine Draftsmen's Association, MDA, union elections at Electric Boat. Olsson is retiring from his post as president of the local 571 at Electric Boat and will return to his trade as piping designer.

Mel began as an apprentice in the shipyard in 1962 and moved to the design force just 2 years later. Elected vice president of the local in 1975, Olsson has dedicated much of his career to serving the MDA.

I commend Mel Olsson for his dedicated service to the working men and women of Electric Boat who design the best submarines in the world. He has worked to establish a re-

lationship with the company that is better than it has ever been. Mel is a true leader in his community and a role model for the future leaders of the MDA.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Melvin Olsson for his 13 years of service as head of the MDA. I wish him all the best.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO POLICE
CHIEF LONNIE WESTPHAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated his life to protecting the American public. Lonnie Westphal of Lakespur, Colorado first donned the badge of a Colorado State Patrolman 29 years ago. This week he will retire from the force after an impressive career in which he rose in the ranks from a state trooper to the head of the Colorado State Patrol.

Chief Westphal is one of those special people in our society who willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the public. He knew he would never get rich in his chosen profession, but he also knew that some things, such as keeping our families out of harm's way, come with rewards not measured by monetary means. Thus, it is not surprising that Chief Westphal distinguished himself so honorably by serving on numerous boards such as the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the State Patrol Protective Association, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes a great debt to Chief Westphal and all brave heroes like him who keep the peace at home. Because of his service, the state of Colorado is a better and safer place to live. I thank Chief Westphal for his service to his community, the State of Colorado, and this nation. All the best to you, Lonnie; enjoy your retirement!

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.
DONALD WALLACE OF FLORENCE

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wallace of Florence, AL. For 23 years, they have provided outstanding service to the American Legion—Mr. Wallace as adjutant and Mrs. Wallace as his assistant.

Mr. Wallace began serving the American Legion as an assistant to the former adjutant and will be retiring later this month. As adjutant, Mr. Wallace was charged with maintaining both the records and activities of the group of over 1,000; however, he did not limit himself to those tasks. Mr. Wallace helped rebuild

the American Legion's reputation as both a veteran's advocacy and community service organization. Under Wallace's leadership, the post received state and national attention as a leader in supporting the Boys State Program, a program which teaches lessons of patriotism and civics to high school juniors. He also worked with the American Legion Baseball program and oratorical contests that offered scholarships to local participants.

Although Mr. Wallace does not like taking credit for the success of the group, many veterans and families in the Shoals will tell you that without him the Legion would not be what it is today. Wallace simply believes that his work at the American Legion is just the continuation of work begun by an earlier generation, the original Legionnaires who established the post in 1919 and the World War I veterans who built their current hall in 1939. As adjutant, Wallace helped maintain this building that has been their home for 64 years.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to Mr. Wallace's wife of 60 years, Mrs. Ellen Wallace. As his assistant at the Legion, Mrs. Wallace filed paperwork and served with the Ladies Auxiliary during the chicken stews and other activities. Mr. Wallace credits her with making him the man he is today.

Despite the irregular hours, low pay, and lack of prestige, both Mr. and Mrs. Wallace enjoyed helping many people during their time of service with the American Legion. They have dedicated themselves to their community, and on behalf of the people of north Alabama I thank them for their service and congratulate them on a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill with my friend, the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee, ROB SIMMONS. This bill will authorize several desperately needed major medical construction projects in Chicago, IL; San Diego, CA; Las Vegas, NV; and West Haven, CT. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill to jump start the stalled major medical construction endeavor in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

My bill would honor the commitment the Department of Veterans Affairs made to build a new bed tower at the West Side division of VA Chicago. While Secretary Anthony Principi has decided to move forward with the closure of inpatient services at the Lakeside division, he has not asked for an appropriation for the new construction project at West Side. Instead, the funding for this project—\$98.5 million—is supposed to come from an enhanced use lease agreement whose value some experts claim has been greatly overestimated. I am not willing to make such a gamble on veterans' access to a functional medical center in the Chicago area.

The West Side facility is a 50-year old facility ill-suited to respond to the demands of a modern health care delivery system, even

without the additional workload anticipated from the integration with Lakeside scheduled for early August. VA Chicago is working to accommodate its inpatients in a facility that has inadequate intensive care units, inpatient units, and surgical suites. Once the new facility is operational, the existing facility will also have to undergo significant renovations to improve the emergency department, laboratory and radiological services, and food and nutritional areas.

Because of the importance and the urgency of this project, my legislation would prohibit VA Chicago from disposing, in any manner, of the Lakeside division without first entering into a contract for the construction of the new bed tower promised to Chicago area veterans.

The bill would also fund a project to replace the existing ambulatory care center in Las Vegas, NV. As my good friend, Shelley Berkeley often reminds the Committee, Las Vegas has the fastest growing populations in the country and its veteran enrollees are not expected to peak until 2012. Veterans' use of services is expected to remain higher than it is currently throughout the 20-year timeframe studied for VA's Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services project.

Unfortunately, in constructing a new ambulatory care clinic there in 1997, VA seems to have fallen prey to a contractor whose work was seriously substandard. An independent assessment by John A. Martin and Associates yielded an opinion that the clinic was "unsafe for continued occupancy." Because of the contractor's repeated failure to address serious structural deficiencies in the building, VA is now forced to abandon it. As an interim measure, VA is sending its patients to 10 different ambulatory care clinics around the city. This inefficient delivery system is forcing VA to add 80 full-time employees with significant new operational costs. My bill would request \$97.3 million to build a new centralized facility that would also include space for a new regional office for the Veterans Benefits Administration.

In FY 2002, VA listed seismic corrections at the San Diego VA Medical Center as one of its highest construction priorities. Later, I am told, cost considerations—not any change in the assessment of need—yielded a lower priority for the project. I am still convinced that there is a great risk to VA patients and staff at the site and my bill would authorize \$48.6 million to address the needs at the facility.

West Haven VA Medical Center is in serious need of major renovations to its inpatient wards and research facilities. For many years, the inpatient ward renovations have been a high priority for VA construction, but resources have not allowed the project to move forward. I am requesting \$50 million for this project and to renovate the research facilities.

Finally, Charlotte, NC, is home to one of the largest populations in the country without a significant VA health care system presence. The project requested in this bill would allow VA to greatly expand its current workload in a clinic in the downtown area and enroll veterans who are now unable to receive care. I have included \$3 million for the cost of the lease.

All of these projects merit our immediate attention and approval by all Members. I urge your favorable consideration.

HONORING COLE REVIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of pride that I stand before this Congress to speak about the actions of Cole Revis. Cole, a second grader in Grand Junction, Colorado, has shown more kindness and maturity in the face of adversity than most people have three times his age. Cole's father, a veteran of the first Gulf War, passed away this spring from skin cancer. Cole understood the sacrifices his father made in the service of our country and he is trying his best to follow his father's courageous example.

Mark Revis, Cole's father, was a Staff Sergeant in the 143rd Signal Company of the Colorado National Guard for six years, having previously served for 14 years in the Army. Mark was forced to retire from the National Guard when he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He was later diagnosed with lung cancer and then skin cancer. Mark fought each disease and that same fighting spirit is evident in his son. He passed away in February, at the age of 44.

After receiving a death benefit check from the government, Cole felt strongly that this inheritance should go to his father's fellow soldiers. While most eight year olds would have bought candy, Cole wanted to use his money in a way that would help others. So Cole decided his money would be spent buying care packages for United States troops serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak today about Cole Revis. His passion, kindness, maturity and heart are an inspiration to us all. Cole's optimism and understanding of the role and duty that his father fulfilled have allowed him to understand that while his father is gone, his actions will never be forgotten. I know that if he were here today, Mark Revis would be extremely proud of his son. Thank you, Cole. Your actions are a testament to the will and unyielding strength that America's youth represents.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND SUPPORTED OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, with yesterday's passage of H. Con. Res. 177, we formally recognized and commended our Armed Forces for their participation and success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our magnificent men and women in uniform serve as the greatest ambassadors of what is good and right in our world. They are the bearers of the tremendous might, the indomitable spirit, and the boundless compassion of our nation and the freedom loving people everywhere.

Our forces are, as they always have been throughout our history, Americans first, citizen soldiers, and great patriots. They have come from ordinary walks of life rising to do extraordinary things that shape our world and leave us forever awestruck. I again want to extend our collective and sincere thanks to all our members who serve, and I also want to recognize a particular group of truly unsung yet most deserving heroes—our U.S. Merchant Mariners.

Once again, our country has turned to its mariners to take the fight to the enemy, to project our force half a world away, to secure the precious freedom that now spreads to an Iraqi people free to choose their own destiny, to raise their families as they choose, and to renew the glories of one of the world's greatest civilizations. Our liberating force was decisive and it moved on the brawn, ingenuity, and dedication of our merchant marine. Not in 12 years have we moved such a force by sea, and we have done it better, against greater challenge than ever before.

We recently saw a line of ships spread from our east coast through the Straights of Gibraltar, through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, and into the Gulf of Oman—a “steel bridge” of resolve. A bridge as strong as those mariners who crew our enormous ships and who go on in harms way to deliver our force anyplace, anytime they are called.

Since the beginning of the War on Terrorism, over 6,800 U.S. merchant mariners and civil servant mariners have served and provided support to our global military operations. Currently serving on 211 vessels, our U.S. mariners face many of the same hazards confronting our uniformed military as they regularly transit and operate within potential targeted areas of chemical and biological weapons, waterborne mines, and terrorist activities. Truly, our country's merchant mariners have answered the call selflessly and brilliantly.

Our mariners activated and crewed 40 vessels of our ready reserve force, essential to the early movement of ammunition, tanks, aircraft, and military vehicles. These U.S. mariners crewed our vital prepositioned ships and our fast response surge sealift vessels, providing time-critical warfighting equipment and supplies to the battlefield. Over 4,000 civil servant mariners manned and supported the continuous worldwide operations of our ships supporting U.S. naval and coalition forces at sea. Around the clock, every day, across the globe, our mariners make it happen.

At this crucial time in history, our U.S. mariners stepped forward with skill, bravery, and an unrivaled legacy of service. They made all the difference. Our nation continues to rely on these warriors, and their impact is profound. Long after the fighting stops, our mariners will still be on the watch, returning the troops, sustaining the force, and providing for the needy as we renew a proud but shattered land.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our Congress and a grateful Nation, it is my humble honor to say thank you to all our U.S. Merchant Mariners. We wish them God Speed and a safe return. They are indeed a national treasure—long may they serve.

OMAR BRADLEY DAY

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Moberly, Missouri celebrated its annual Omar Bradley Day. This day is an opportunity for area residents to remember a great hero and reflect on General Bradley's role in preserving the freedoms we hold dear.

As such, I wish to enter the following article, “Who Is Omar Bradley and Why Should I Care?” into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Written by Moberly resident Sam Richardson, this item appeared in the Sunday, May 11, 2003 edition of the Moberly Monitor-Index. I believe the points it makes are a fitting tribute to General Bradley.

WHO IS OMAR BRADLEY AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Here's a good topic to toss around over your dinner tonight:

“Who is Omar Bradley and why should I care?”

It's a fair question around these parts, what with the annual General Omar Bradley Luncheon, Lecture and Symposium coming up Monday, May 12, at the Municipal Auditorium in Moberly.

“What did old Omar Bradley do to cause a whole lot of people to come to his hometown 22 years after he died?”

Another more than fair question.

The stock answer is that he is Missouri's most famous military figure, a member of the Missouri Hall of Fame, a guy with a 34-cent stamp with his picture on it, the fellow captured in bronze in the soaring statue in Rothwell Park, the “Bradley” who is the namesake for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle so prominent in last month's Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Moberly public schools, St. Pius X School, Moberly Area Community College, the University of Missouri, Truman State University and other educational institutions in Bradley's home state may teach young Missourians why Omar Bradley is important to them. And, indeed, he is important to them.

Of course, young and old alike should know Bradley went from Moberly High School to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and eventually commanded the largest American fighting force ever assembled, was our nation's last five-star general officer and first Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff.

At the 2002 Bradley Symposium, LTC Jay Carafano, then editor at the National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., told the audience one of the key reasons Bradley was not high on the public awareness screen was because of his low profile on the silver screen. Hollywood's big films about World War II didn't have much of a role for Bradley. LTC Carafano noted Bradley was on screen in “Patton,” “The Longest Day” and “Saving Private Ryan” only briefly, hardly a leading character.

At this year's Bradley Symposium, two of the Truman Presidential Library's leading historians will make the point that Bradley was a pillar of leadership in his time.

Tom Heuertz, associate education coordinator, and Ray Geselbracht, education and academic outreach coordinator, at the great Independence museum will try to explain how highly Bradley was esteemed by President Harry S. Truman. “Truman saw him as one of the world's greatest generals ever, in the same class with Hannibal and Napoleon,” Heuertz said yesterday.

Because of the positions he held, Bradley clearly was a favorite of at least three Presidents: Franklin Roosevelt, Truman and Dwight Eisenhower.

On a recent edition of “The Newshour with Jim Lehrer,” Lucian Truscott IV, a noted military history author, reflecting on American generals' leadership in Operation Iraqi Freedom, suggested the U.S. Central Command's Gen. Tommy Franks and others were nowhere near the class of “great generals like Patton, Bradley and Eisenhower.”

Monday, Colonel Jon H. Moilanen, dean of students and administration at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas, will describe how Bradley's military expertise still molds the careers of young officers who serve throughout the world today.

This is pretty heady stuff for a chap from our town. In a story about Bradley Day in The Washington Times recently, Moberly was referred to as “quaint” and “picturesque.”

For his part, Bradley was, indeed, quiet, modest and unselfish, along with very smart, a natural leader and an exceptional athlete. The kind of man you'd expect to come from a quaint and picturesque town like ours.

In the 1915 West Point class yearbook, it is reported Bradley was a sergeant, first sergeant and lieutenant; he was a sharpshooter; he was a member of the football team and track squad; and, perhaps most importantly to him at the time, he was the star of the Army baseball team all four years he was there.

The yearbook says, “His greatest passion is baseball, football and F Company. In baseball, many an opposing player has trifled once with Brad's throwing arm, but never twice. And a batting average of .383 is never to be sneezed at.”

“His most prominent characteristic is ‘getting there,’ and if he keeps up the clip he's started, some of us will some day be bragging to our grandchildren that, ‘sure, General Bradley was a classmate of mine,’” the yearbook says of our favorite son.

And, in the style of the day, the yearbook assigned each cadet a motto. Bradley's: “True merit is like a river, the deeper it is, the less noise it makes,” attributed to Anonymous.

How true that turned out.

Although his classmate Eisenhower became Supreme Allied Commander in World War II, and then President, Bradley was the first in his class to become a brigadier general.

One reporter wrote in May 1944, “Endowed with the mind of a mathematician and the body of an athlete, General Bradley is essentially American in ancestry, training and experience; he is slow spoken but sharp witted; he is polite and at times even diffident, but immensely certain of his own skill—the type of soldier who for 168 years has sustained the republic.”

And finally, this former captain of the Moberly High School baseball team, a boy worthy of his own shotgun at age 13, a young man who graduated 44th in a class of 164 at West Point, would tell a reporter about dinner at his humble home in Randolph County:

“We'd sit down at the supper table, my mother, my dad and I, and we'd talk things over. That's where I learned a lot about love of country and right from wrong.”

From a dinner table in Randolph County to the greatness of the world, that was the man who will be remembered Monday at the 2003 General Omar Bradley Luncheon, Lecture and Symposium.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
CORDOVA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bill Cordova of Grand Junction, Colorado, who has been a profound inspiration to all who have known him. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of those in need for decades, and it is my honor to recognize his service here, before this body of Congress and this nation.

In his life, Bill has served his fellow neighbor in a number of capacities. Early on, Bill worked to provide adequate housing for migrant workers, which led to his working some years later for Colorado Housing Incorporated in order to provide homes for low-income families. Bill was instrumental in developing a community center in Montrose, and he has also had an enduring influence in the lives of local prisoners to whom he has ministered. Currently, Bill works six days a week at the Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen, and serves on the board of Catholic Outreach as well.

Mr. Speaker, in his lifetime, Bill has touched the lives of many. His numerous good works are an example of the benevolence and perseverance that have contributed to the strength of this nation. I commend Bill for his dedication and commitment to the less fortunate, and it is an honor to pay tribute to his selfless work today.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVI-
TALIZING CITIES THROUGH
PARKS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, the "Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act," that would establish a \$10 million grant program for qualified, non-profit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks.

These vacant lots often are areas of heavy drug-trafficking. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the local government for at least seven years.

WE CAN END HUNGER IN AMERICA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

We have refrigeration systems to prevent food from spoiling.

We have pasteurization to prevent bacteria from poisoning our food.

And we have ways to fortify our foods with vitamins and nutrients to make the food we eat healthier.

Yet, with all these advances, people still go hungry in America.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political problem. But I believe it's a problem we can solve.

Thirty-seven years ago, Senator Bobby Kennedy traveled throughout America, and saw first-hand the hunger ravaging the most vulnerable in our Nation. As a result, we made a national commitment to do something about it.

Congress, under the leadership of Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, and with the support of President Nixon, created the school breakfast program, WIC, the elderly nutrition program, and the food stamp program.

Since then, we have made great strides. But we have a lot of work left to do. Indeed, many Americans don't realize that hunger still exists in their communities.

There are 33 million hungry people in the United States—11 million of them are children. In my district in Massachusetts, I talk to food bank directors who have noticed a sharp increase in the number of families who need help.

The food bank that serves my home town, the Worcester County Food Bank, helped feed over 80,000 people in 2001. Of the 3.7 million pounds of food, almost 38 percent went to kids under the age of 18. The food bank, run by Jean McMurray, donates food to more than 260 local shelters, food pantries, senior centers, and after school programs.

The Worcester County Food Bank is doing great work, and the people who work there do their best to provide for every single person who needs help. Unfortunately, it's not enough.

That is why I am proud to stand with my colleague Congressman FRANK WOLF in introducing a resolution to recognize June 5 as a National Hunger Awareness Day. This resolution encourages Americans to recognize the issue of hunger, and to work toward ending hunger—in their own home towns and across the nation.

I'm also honored to join Congressman WOLF in sponsoring the Congressional Food Drive. I hope that we have wide participation in this drive from the Capitol Hill community. The Members and staff who work here are very blessed. It's important that we try to share those blessings with others. There are drop-off bins all across the Hill, and I hope people will fill them with non-perishable food items.

But this is just a start. Clearly, more must be done.

With that sentiment in mind, I call on President Bush to convene a White House summit on hunger. Too long has the scourge of hunger plagued the people of this nation. There is

no reason why we should not focus our efforts on ending hunger in America, once and for all time.

President Nixon convened such a summit, and the result was landmark legislation to feed the hungry people in America.

A 21st Century Summit would bring fresh ideas to this problem, and help us to focus on the challenges that face the hungry in the 21st century.

Simply, Mr. Speaker, it's the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

We have the foot soldiers we need in this war against hunger. The people at America's Second Harvest and Bread for the World are already working around the country to fight hunger. The Food Research and Action Center and the Congressional Hunger Center are tireless advocates on behalf of the hungry. And the dedicated people who run the food banks in this country see first-hand the need for a reinvigorated effort to end hunger.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. We have the resources to put an end to hunger once and for all. What we need—all we need—is the political will to do it.

HONORING LOUIS MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a man who exemplifies the heart, determination, and enthusiastic spirit that makes up the backbone of this great nation. Louis Martinez, a 57-year-old man from Grand Junction, Colorado, is an elementary school counselor who takes pride in helping to motivate and encourage his young students.

The lessons in Louis's life started right away, as his parents showed him the determination it takes to succeed. Louis's father worked for the railroad laying track and his mother worked in a canning factory. They worked hard to provide for their children and instilled a similar work ethic in their son. Louis was responsible for duties all over the house, including cooking and cleaning. This work ethic led Louis down a path that he never dreamed he would take. Louis left high school his senior year and joined the Navy. He served three tours in Vietnam, traveling all over the Western Pacific. Louis returned to Grand Junction and a job at City Market in the bakery department.

In the spirit of contributing to his community, Louis set his sights on becoming a police officer. His hard work paid off and he became the first Hispanic officer on the force. While on the police force, Louis decided to go back to school, enrolling at the University of Northern Colorado. It was at this time that Louis was injured in a car accident and once again was presented with the opportunity to overcome adversity. Louis was paralyzed in the accident, forcing him to work even harder to receive his degree. He continued through school with the support of his family, and received his diploma.

With his degree in hand, Louis set off to help as many young people as possible. He

ended up at Tope and Wingate Elementary Schools, where he became a school counselor. He has worked for the schools for eleven years and hopes to work there for many more. Everyday on the job Louis provides the children with a positive influence, giving them a mentor they can respect and admire.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Louis Martinez before this body of Congress and this nation. His determination and optimism are models for today's youth. I am pleased that Louis has chosen a career where he can extend his positive influence to our children. Thank you, Louis, for the outstanding example of hard work, determination, and optimism that you have given our children.

RECOGNITION OF RALPH
CLEMINGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mr. Ralph Clemings of Troy VFW Post 976, Illinois. Ralph recently presented two protective vests for the dogs of the Illinois State Police K-9 unit from District 11 in Collinsville, Illinois.

Ralph came up with the idea after watching the K-9 units work in the aftermath of 9-11. He thought that since these dogs are now being sent in to risk their lives in dangerous situations, they should have the same type of protective vests that the policemen have. He then contacted the Illinois State Police and found out that the state didn't have enough funding in the budget to purchase any vests for the dogs. After hearing this Ralph set out to raise the needed funds to purchase the vests. It took him nearly 7 months, but he raised the money without ever asking anyone else for help.

On April 27, 2003, Ralph presented two dog vests to Sergeant Fred Scholl and his K-9 partner "DAX" and also to Trooper Rampert and his K-9 partner "Rogune." Ralph also noted that K-9 units have been used to save thousands of lives in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and most recently in Iraq.

I would like to congratulate and thank Ralph for his hard work on this cause. This selfless act is a prime example of someone giving back to the community and the dedication that makes this country so great.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. LEBOW

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. David A. Lebow on the occasion of his retirement as the President of the Montebello Teachers Association. I also want to thank him for 39 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Montebello Unified School District.

David Lebow first joined the Montebello Unified School District in 1964, as a teacher at Eastmont Junior High School. In 1971 he

began enriching the minds of students at Schurr High School in the disciplines of Music, Theater Arts, Advanced Placement American History, and Advanced Placement American Government. Over the last 33 years his service to the education community has been demonstrated through numerous positions including Fine Arts and Social Studies Department Chair, High Risk Academic Cluster Coordinator, Key Club Sponsor, National Honor Society Sponsor, Principal's Advisory Committee Chair, and Class Sponsor in 1974 and 1979.

In 1981 David Lebow began dedicating his time and skills to the Montebello Teachers Association (M.T.A.), serving as High School Representative from 1981 through 1984, Vice President from 1984 through 1985 and again in 1998 through 2000. He served as Treasurer from 1991 through 1993. In 2001, the membership elected Mr. Lebow President, where he has served as the voice of over 1,600 teachers for the past two years.

Mr. Lebow has also served as the M.T.A. Lifetime Health Benefits Trust Chairperson since 1987. Additionally, David Lebow's advocacy on behalf of teachers extends to the state level, where he has served on the California Teachers' Association (C.T.A.) Board of Directors from 1990 through 2001. He has served as member and Chairperson of the Alliance of Urban Teachers from 1985 through 1989 as well as Liaison Coordinator to the C.T.A. Board of Directors.

Mr. Lebow has lead with integrity and has enjoyed the respect of many in the field of education. So it is not surprising that his skills and devotion have earned him many awards and recognitions. He has been the recipient of the P.T.A. Founders Award, the Los Angeles County Bravo Award, the C.T.A. Local and State "Who" Award for outstanding work on behalf of members, and the C.T.A. Human Rights Award for work in fostering the advancement of women and minorities in leadership positions.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I wish the very best to David Lebow as he is recognized for his years of service to the Montebello Unified School District. His strong leadership skills and devotion to the teaching profession and to children will be greatly missed. During the last 39 years of service, he certainly has earned recognition, and I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding his tenure in education and wishing him all the best for his retirement.

HONORING RUTH ZEMLOCK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before this body of Congress today to express my thanks and admiration for Ruth Zemlock, the winner of the May 2003 "9 Who Care Award". Channel Nine News in Denver, Colorado awards this honor to someone who strives to give back to his or her community through volunteering, something Ruth has succeeded in doing for over 14 years.

Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado is lucky to have such a determined and hard working volunteer; a woman who

has done so much for the hospital that she has garnered the nickname "Dr. Ruth." Her fellow co-workers explain that Ruth knows "anything and everything" about the hospital, because at one time or another she has worked in every department. Today, Ruth is working at the information desk and in outpatient surgery and is a member of the hospital's Board of Directors. To date, she has amazingly given over 11,000 hours of her time, about 458 days, to the care of others.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth's hard work and determination have provided Valley View Hospital with an exemplary model of heart and kindness. Volunteers are an integral part of America's workforce. Each day, they make an impact on everyone around them. At the age of 85, Ruth's endless energy and enthusiastic spirit amaze all who know her. Thank you, Ruth, for your years of distinguished, honorable service. Valley View Hospital and Glenwood Springs, Colorado will forever be in your debt.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative ED CASE and I are introducing legislation to authorize certain Bureau of Reclamation activities that will have profound impacts on the future of Hawaii's economy.

The legislation is a companion bill to one introduced in the Senate by Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DAN INOUE. It will expand the scope of the Bureau of Reclamation water resources study authorized by the 105th Congress as well as authorize three specific projects needed to address Hawaii water needs. This law, the Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2000, included Hawaii in the Bureau's wastewater reclamation program and expanded its drought relief programs to include Hawaii.

Although one of Hawaii's greatest assets is its tropical climate, there are vast areas where little rainfall occurs and conditions are very similar to that of the high arid regions of the mainland U.S. In addition, similar to current conditions in these U.S. areas, drought conditions have been occurring in most recent years.

The most recent projection of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply indicates that the island of Oahu will exhaust the fresh water supplies of the island by the year 2018. Seventy-two percent of Hawaii's population lives on Oahu, so it is easy to imagine the cataclysmic consequences of ignoring the dire warnings that are being sounded. There are numerous efforts underway at both the State and local levels to begin addressing problems, such as substituting recycled water for potable water when appropriate, improving storage to preserve surface water, and implementing conservation technologies.

Enactment of the legislation will help lead us to long-term solutions. There are, however, several projects ready for implementation that would begin to mitigate current and future conditions. Three of them would be authorized

under the bill. Briefly, a desalinization facility would be built on Oahu, capable of producing 5 million gallons of potable water a day. Secondly, on the leeward side of the Big Island of Hawaii, a facility is to be built creating sub-surface wetlands and an open surface wetland to treat effluent and generate useable water. The third project, in Lahaina, Maui, is to expand the existing recycled water distribution system so that numerous commercial users can substitute readily available recycled water appropriately where currently potable water is used.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to help find solutions to water development, conservation, reuse and recycling in Hawaii.

HONORING JESSE M. HARRISON

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Jesse M. Harrison of Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Mr. Harrison is a veteran of the Second World War, and I recently had the privilege of presenting him with the Distinguished Flying Cross, which he earned nearly 60 years ago during his service as an Air Force pilot, but never received.

Mr. Harrison, now 82, served in the Air Force from March 20, 1943 to January 8, 1946. He piloted an aircraft on D-Day, June 6, 1944 at about 1:00 am carrying 17 paratroopers from the allied base in England to their "drop zone" behind German lines in Ste. Mare Eglise, France, only miles from the Normandy beaches. Two of the three planes in Mr. Harrison's group went down in flames under heavy German fire, however First Lieutenant Harrison, then 24, dropped his aircraft down to tree top level and took complicated evasive actions to avoid German fire. After overshooting the drop zone because of the German fire, he returned to the drop zone and the paratroopers dropped and hit their mark. When he returned to base in England, his aircraft had 67 holes in it from German gunfire.

On September 19, 1944, Mr. Harrison was again the pilot of a plane flying over the Netherlands towing a glider with 10 American soldiers and a jeep on board to their drop zone near German lines. His plane came under heavy enemy fire and his crew bailed out after the plane caught fire and began losing altitude. Were Harrison to bail out as well, the troops on the glider he was towing would likely have had to let go early, resulting in their death or capture. Mr. Harrison alone continued to guide the glider with his burning aircraft to their drop zone. After dropping the glider at their mark, Mr. Harrison had to walk through a wall of flame to reach his exit door—with the plane only 300 feet from the ground and falling—to jump. He was assisted by two Dutch priests who found him. Mr. Harrison suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns from his waist to his face and spent 15 months recovering, receiving numerous skin grafts.

It was a privilege for me to be able to present him with his well-deserved medal on behalf of an eternally grateful Nation with all his family and friends present at Rocky Hill Town Hall on Wednesday, May 28, 2003. Mr.

Harrison is one of the thousands of real life heroes whose story must be told again and again so that each new generation of Americans will know that heroes do indeed walk among us, and that we must never forget the service and sacrifice our veterans gave for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking and honoring Jesse Harrison for his service to the Nation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives took up H. Res. 231, a resolution supporting Peace Officers Memorial Day, which took place on May 15, and honoring law enforcement officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. I want to thank my colleague Mr. HEFLEY for sponsoring this important legislation again this year, and wholeheartedly back this important resolution.

Supporting law enforcement is very important to me. Before coming to Congress in 1993, I served for over 12 years as a Michigan state police officer for the Escanaba City Police Department. I was the founder and have continuously served as co-chair of the House Law Enforcement Caucus for the past 11 years.

Since September 11, 2001, many in this nation and this Congress have come to realize the importance of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers. Every day law enforcement men and women protect and serve, often putting their own lives at risk. In Michigan alone, over 40 officers have given their lives in the line of duty over the past 15 years.

Peace Officers Memorial Day brings us together in honoring the extreme sacrifice our nation's law enforcement and public safety officers make to our communities and our nation every day.

I think it is important as we discuss this important resolution, to resolve to focus in Congress on providing the necessary funding and support to law enforcement in the growing challenges they face.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will follow up on their support of this resolution, and continue our commitment to law enforcement by supporting these important funding needs. It is the least we can do for those who put their lives on the line every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows on the following rollcall votes: Roll No. 227—"yea"; Roll No. 228—"yea"; Roll No. 229—"yea"; Roll No. 230—"yea";

Roll No. 231—"yea"; Roll No. 232—"yea"; Roll No. 233—"nay"; Roll No. 234—"yea"; and Roll No. 235—"yea".

IN HONOR OF FRANK G. JACKSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Frank G. Jackson, President of Cleveland City Council, as he was honored by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party on May 18, 2003.

Mr. Jackson is a United States veteran, having served our country in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he returned to his East 38th Street neighborhood and began attending classes at Cuyahoga Community College. In 1975, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University. In 1977, Mr. Jackson was awarded a Master's degree in Urban Studies from CSU. In 1983, after working his way through law school as a night clerk at Cleveland Municipal Clerk's Office, Mr. Jackson was awarded a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and worked as an assistant county prosecutor until his 1990 election to Cleveland City Council, representing Ward 5.

For the past 13 years, Mr. Jackson has focused his efforts on revitalizing the housing and commercial aspects of the Ward 5 community, and has done so by working closely with neighborhood leaders and development organizations, and by setting a tone of integrity, diligence, commitment and cooperation among City Council members and City administrators.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Frank G. Jackson, President of Cleveland City Council, as we recognize his outstanding contribution to our community. Mr. Jackson's work, expertise and dedication have served to improve and strengthen our urban neighborhoods, bringing light and hope to the citizens of Ward 5, and to our entire community.

TRANSPORTATION CRUNCH TIME
IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, with nearly 300 million visitors to our National Park System each year, there are times when the roads in America's Crown Jewels look little different than the scene on I-395 into the District of Columbia during morning rush hour. The level of traffic congestion being experienced in many of our National Parks not only diminishes the visitor experience, but is adversely impacting the resource values these parks were established to protect in the first place.

While the automobile will continue to reign supreme, our National Parks and the people who visit them are suffering from a lack of alternative transportation opportunities. To address this situation, today I am introducing the Transit in Parks Act (TRIP).

Recognizing the growing problems many of America's 'crown jewels' are experiencing as a

result of high visitation levels, Congress in the last major federal highway and transit reauthorization law known as TEA 21 required the Secretaries of Transportation and Interior to undertake a study of alternative transportation needs in National Parks. The study found a pressing need to increase transit opportunities in order to relieve traffic congestion, enhance visitor accessibility, preserve sensitive resources and reduce pollution. However, it identified a number of barriers to implementing successful transit systems in National Parks, including the lack of a dedicated funding source.

The TRIP bill carries out the study findings by establishing a Transit in Parks Program to be administered by the Secretary of Transportation (Federal Transit Administration) and the Secretary of the Interior (National Park Service). The program would generally follow existing law requirements for mass transportation as it relates to the planning and development of transit facilities and would create a transit counterpart to the Federal Highway Administration's Parkways and Park Roads program. The legislation proposes a \$90 million annual allocation for the Transit in Parks Program from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.

It should be noted that the National Park Service is currently using on average \$11 million of its \$165 million annual Parkways and Park Roads allocation for alternative transportation. This amount is insufficient to meet the alternative transportation needs for units of the National Park System identified by the TEA 21 study of approximately \$90 million a year. Moreover, as the study noted, this shift in funding increases the gap between available funding and the amount needed to maintain the rapidly deteriorating and already underfunded park roadway system.

Currently, we are squandering some of our most unique natural resource heritage contained in units of the National Park System as a result of a relatively small investment in alternative transportation facilities. It is my hope that the funding in this bill will be additive to the extensively documented but unmet rural and urban transit funding needs which must be addressed in the TEA 21 reauthorization.

THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER
TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUC-
TION ACT OF 2003

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, the companion to a bill introduced in the Senate today by Senator DEWINE.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 16 percent of adults incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons have a mental illness. In addition, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that over 20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have serious mental health problems, and

many more have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

These statistics, however, cannot adequately describe how devastating the combination of untreated mental illness and the criminal justice system can be for both an individual and the system. Today I had the pleasure to meet Tom Lane. Tom, a 43-year-old man who lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, now works for the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) as the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs. However, just a few years ago in July 1997, Tom was suffering from severe depression. He was a cabinet-maker who had sustained a head injury from a construction accident that caused him to have seizures and prevented him from working. When he called a suicide hotline, police were dispatched. The officers put him in jail, where he did not receive treatment for depression and was not allowed to take his anti-seizure medication. When he started suffering two seizures a day, he was hospitalized. Upon his release from the hospital he still did not receive any treatment or recommendation of treatment for his mental illness and for days he slept in the bushes outside the hospital. Fortunately, Tom was eventually able to contact his family from a pay phone and they came to his rescue. Once he began receiving treatment, Tom was able to get back on his feet. Today he is a highly functioning, highly effective professional advocate for people with mental illness.

Tom's story illustrates how easy it is for a person with mental illness to become entangled with the criminal justice system. Untreated mental illness often leads to behaviors that attract the attention of police officers. If a person with mental illness does not receive treatment, his or her condition almost definitely will worsen when they are in custody. Generally, the criminal justice system is not equipped to identify and ensure people with mental illness find appropriate treatment programs, either through diversion into community treatment or within a jail or prison. The bill I am introducing seeks to make sure people like Tom Lane don't fall through the cracks. It encourages collaboration between the mental health treatment and the criminal justice systems. This collaboration is essential for ensuring mentally ill offenders are given the treatment they need.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003 is phase two of an effort that started in the 106th Congress, when Senator DEWINE and I successfully passed America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project (P.L. 106-515). This bill created a Department of Justice grant program assisting State and local governments with the establishment of mental health courts. Mental health courts—which are modeled on drug courts—provide specialized dockets in non-adversarial settings to bring mental health professionals, social workers, public defenders and prosecutors together to divert mentally ill offenders into a treatment plan. The goals of a mental health court are to expand access to mental health treatment, improve the community's response to mentally ill offenders, and reduce recidivism among the mentally ill population. I am pleased that this program has been incredibly popular.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003 will build on America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project by providing additional resources for communities that wish to create mental health courts. The new bill represents a significant commitment to addressing the needs of both the criminal justice system and the mentally ill offender population. The bill will create a grants program for communities that will provide resources for diversion programs across the spectrum of the criminal justice community, including prebooking diversion programs like those that have been so successful in Los Angeles, California and Memphis, Tennessee. Communities will be able to design programs that provide mental health treatment in jails and in prisons. And finally, grants will be available for transitional or aftercare programs that seek to ensure offenders are provided appropriate treatment and care when they transition from jail or prison back into the community when they have completed their sentences.

The bill is intended to give communities much flexibility to design and operate the programs they identify as most appropriate for meeting their needs, and grant funds will be able to be used for planning, establishing a structure, and funding treatment. All successful grant applicants will be required to demonstrate collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health treatment agencies in a community. Too often, mentally ill offenders fall through the cracks because the relevant systems in a community do not work together. This lack of collaboration is detrimental to both the mentally ill offender as well as the stability of the criminal justice system. Therefore, criminal justice and mental health treatment agencies will be required to apply together for the grants established by the bill, compelling the collaboration that is needed to get those who are mentally ill and coming in contact with the criminal justice system the mental health and substance abuse treatment they need. In addition, the bill requires that grant applicants ensure mentally ill offenders are connected to education, job training and placement, and housing programs.

In addition, the bill calls for an Interagency Task Force to be established at the Federal level. Task Force members will include: the Attorney General; the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development; and the Commissioner of Social Security. The Task Force will be charged with identifying ways that Federal departments can respond collaboratively to the needs of mentally ill adults and juveniles.

I strongly believe that encouraging collaboration at the Federal, State, and local levels of government is essential to ensuring that people with mental illness are able to access the mental health treatment and other support programs they need.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make our communities safer for all.

APPLAUDING THE RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in strong support of the recent actions taken by the Illinois state legislature regarding the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a proposed amendment to the Constitution which would unequivocally guarantee equal gender rights under the law. As many of my colleagues are certainly aware, the Illinois State Assembly recently voted on and passed the ERA, clearing the way for their counterparts in the Senate to consider this crucial legislation at the conclusion of their current recess. If Illinois' State Senate agrees to ratify the ERA, then only two more state ratifications will be necessary for this long overdue amendment to be added to our Constitution.

Some people have argued that the addition of an ERA amendment to the Constitution would simply be a change in semantics and nothing more. I strongly disagree. Presently, on average, women receive only 76 percent of the pay that men receive for comparable full time positions. Inequities such as these are inexcusable; they are disastrously damaging not just to women, but also to their families. Through the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment, women would have an expanded legal basis to call for equal compensation for equal work.

Although the Equal Rights Amendment may have faded from the public spotlight at times, the movement to include women in the Constitution never died, and it is growing vigorously once again. Women had to wait until 1920 to be granted the right to vote under the Constitution. While this was certainly a monumental development, it has not produced full gender equality. The 14th Amendment, granting "equal protection of the laws," did not, and still does not, fully protect women from damaging gender discrimination. Only an Equal Rights Amendment would ensure the Constitutionally guaranteed full equality that women deserve.

The ERA was originally passed by Congress in 1972, along with a seven-year time limit for ratification. In 1979, Congress extended the time limit for three more years, leaving the deadline at 1982. Within a decade of the initial 1972 passage, the amendment had been ratified by 35 states, three short of the necessary 38. For many years after that, the ERA was, for technical reasons, generally considered "dead." However, legal analyses indicate that with just three more state ratifications, the ERA may in fact meet the requirements to be added to the Constitution. As has been verified by several legal experts, the fact that the time limit appears in the proposing clause rather than the text of the legislation leaves this deadline open to adjustment. When Congress chose to extend the deadline in 1979, a precedent was set; subsequent sessions of Congress may adjust time limits placed in proposing clauses by their predecessors. These adjustments may include extensions of time, reductions, or elimination of the deadline altogether.

It is therefore possible for current or future sessions of Congress to eliminate the deadline originally placed on ratification of the ERA, thus allowing the amendment to be added to the Constitution once it is ratified by three more states. This "three state strategy" is a very real possibility, and I have introduced legislation into the House of Representatives, H. Res. 38, to ensure that action will be immediately considered by Congress once three more state legislatures ratify the ERA.

Put simply, it is time for the Constitution to be amended to include an amendment which ensures gender equality for all Americans. Today, unlike some times in the past, the American people are decidedly ready for Constitutionally-guaranteed equal rights for men and women. A July 2001 nationwide survey by Opinion Research Corporation showed that 96 percent of American adults believe that male and female citizens of the U.S. should have equal rights, and 88 percent believe that our Constitution should explicitly guarantee those rights. Having the ERA in the Constitution will simply recognize what the American people already want—equal justice under the law.

Many leaders both here in Congress and in state legislatures are advocating for the "three state strategy," as well as a renewal of the ERA by Congress through a second passage of the amendment. I feel that anyone who is serious about guaranteeing equal rights to women should be supportive of both of these approaches. It does not matter how the ERA is eventually made part of the Constitution, as long as guaranteed gender equality rights are the end result.

As the Equal Rights Amendment reads, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." The ERA is unfinished business for the Constitution. It will be achieved, and present and future generations of women—and men—will thank us for it, and wonder why it took so long. It is simple justice, it is long overdue, and it is time.

INTRODUCTION OF FOCUS ON COMMITTED AND UNDERPAID STAFF FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Mr. PLATTS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SANDERS in introducing the FOCUS Act. This legislation would be an important step in increasing child care quality for all children.

High-quality child care can play an important role in healthy child development and school-readiness. Just as it is the parents who matters at home, it is the teachers who matter in child care. One of the most critical components of quality child care is a stable and qualified teaching staff. Children learning from more highly educated teachers perform better on tests of verbal and math achievement. Yet, child care staff—who have the responsibility of helping guide children's develop-

ment—are among the lowest paid workers in America. In 2000, the average hourly wage for a child care provider was \$8.16, which is approximately \$16,980 annually. Moreover, most providers do not receive health insurance or paid leave and the annual turnover rate is about 30 percent. Academic and government studies conclude that low pay is one of the leading causes of poor quality child care. Low wages keeps qualified providers from remaining in the field and deters new providers from entering the field. A 2001 report by the Center for Child Care Workforce and the University of California Berkeley found that centers are losing qualified staff because of low wages and are forced to hire less qualified replacements. The study also found that not only are wages extremely low, but they are not keeping pace with cost of living increases. States report centers are closing or turning away children because they cannot properly staff their programs.

FOCUS directly addresses the problems low pay creates by providing stipends to qualified child care staff based on the level of education. This legislation would be a mechanism to assist States increase the pay of child care workers and to improve the overall quality of child care. The bill would supplement wages by a minimum of \$1000 per year for providers with child development associate credentials and a minimum of \$3000 per year for providers with B.A.'s in the area of child development. These stipends will help attract new qualified workers to the field and increase the retention and skill level of current workers. FOCUS also would provide funds for scholarships so that we can continue to increase the qualifications of the child care workforce.

Research on early childhood and brain development clearly demonstrates that the experiences children have early in life have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their later development and learning. We cannot expect children to transition to kindergarten and succeed in school if we do not take the necessary steps to provide quality care in the years prior to school entry. The average quality of child care is far poorer than what it should be in a country as wealthy and committed to our children's future as is ours. It is time we work to make quality child care for all children a national priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Focus Act.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ACT OF 2003

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to introduce the Native American Languages Act Amendments of 2003, with Representatives NEIL ABERCROMBIE and DON YOUNG as original cosponsors.

This vital legislation will authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to or enter into contracts with Native American language educational organizations, Native American language colleges, Indian tribal governments, organizations that demonstrate the potential to become Native American language educational organizations, or consortia of such

entities, to establish Native American language "nests" for students under the age of 7 and their families. It will also authorize grants for these entities to operate, expand, and increase the number of Native American language survival schools throughout the country for Native American children and Native American language-speaking children. Finally, the bill will authorize the establishment of three demonstration projects that will provide assistance to Native American language survival schools and Native American language nests.

Today's measure is a companion to S. 575, which was introduced by the senior member of Hawaii's delegation, Senator DANIEL INOUE, and is cosponsored by Senators DANIEL AKAKA, BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL, and TOM DASCHLE. A hearing was held by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on May 15, 2003, at which there was broad-based support from native language speakers, educators, and supporters from across the country, including Hawaii, Alaska, California, New Mexico, Montana, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Virginia.

This proposal forwards current federal self-determination policies toward native peoples, which support the promotion of economic and social self-sufficiency, as well as the preservation and revitalization of native culture, languages, art, history, religion, and values. Since language is a significant factor in the perpetuation of native cultures, the federal government enacted the Native American Languages Act of 1990 urging federal support for Native American languages, and the Native American Languages Act Amendments of 1992 establishing a grant program at the Administration for Native Americans to fund the preservation of Native American languages. My bill continues this commitment by our federal government to ensure the survival of these unique cultures and languages.

In my home state, I am proud that the people of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii have strongly supported the revitalization of Hawaiian culture, art, and language. In 1978, for example, the State of Hawaii wrote into its constitution a specific declaration that Hawaiian is one of our two official languages, along with English.

There is also support for Hawaiian language programs in both our public and private schools. At the forefront of these efforts have been supporters of Aha Punana Leo, a Hawaiian language immersion program which has endeavored to include both students and parents in an exciting and innovative way to revitalize Hawaiian language and culture. Ms. Namaka Rawlins, Director of Aha Punana Leo, and her husband, Dr. William (Pila) Wilson, have been pivotal in these efforts. The lessons of family and community involvement in the preservation of the Hawaiian language that they and other have proven are and can be used by other native communities and cultures across the country.

While the Aha Punana Leo program initially started with pre-school students, Hawaiian language survival schools were also established to allow for students to graduate from high school. Over 2,000 students are currently enrolled in Hawaiian language nests and survival schools. A Hawaiian language center—Hale Kuamoo—was eventually established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo with the collaboration of Aha Punana Leo as well as a Native College—Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College. Both programs have been crucial in providing

training to teachers in Hawaiian language, college courses in Hawaiian, and graduate education in Hawaiian language and culture.

The revitalization of the Hawaiian language in my state has been instrumental in the preservation of Hawaiian culture, which is important to all of us who call Hawaii home. Today's legislation will take this lesson nationwide in continuing the commitment made by the federal government in 1990 and the progress that has been made since that time to preserve Native American languages, including the Hawaiian language.

TRIBUTE TO COACH LOU GIANI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Coach Lou Giani of Huntington High School on his induction into the U.S. National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Coach Giani is among the most successful wrestling coaches in New York State history, having compiled 388 victories in 34 seasons. This past season Coach Giani and his Huntington High School team won the New York State team title—a remarkable eighth title for Coach Giani. In addition to the team accolades, Huntington High School also had three individual wrestlers win State Championships, increasing the career total of Coach Giani to a record 22 individual state champions. In recognition of these accomplishments, the National Wrestling Coaches Association bestowed on him the honor of "Coach of the Year".

In addition to his service to Huntington High School and New York State, Coach Giani has served as an international ambassador for wrestling. Having organized cultural exchange programs in both the Soviet Union and Poland, he has provided disadvantaged youth with the opportunity to learn wrestling from one of the sport's best coaches.

Beyond his service as a coach and international teacher, Mr. Giani had an equally impressive career as a wrestler. Having not begun to wrestle until his junior year of high school, Mr. Giani went on to win ten New York Athletic Club titles, a gold medal at the 1959 Pan American Games and was given the honor of representing the United States on the 1960 Olympic Freestyle team.

I commend Coach Lou Giani for his dedication to the sport as well as his service to the students of Huntington High School and I congratulate him on his induction into the U.S. National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG MINORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss the state of Health Care in America. Mr. Speaker, we have a health care crisis in America and in particular, we have a

crisis in the African-American community with regard to disparities in treatment and access to care.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has made Universal Health Care the centerpiece of our agenda. The Congressional Black Caucus believes that everyone in America should have some basic level of health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, today, as in the past, being Black in America is a medically dangerous condition. Being Black and poor can be deadly. That is a national tragedy that the Congressional Black Caucus is determined to end.

In 1998, President Clinton committed this Nation to eliminating racially based health disparities by the year 2010. As a result of this initiative, in the report entitled "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care" issued March 2002, the IOM research team concludes that: Americans of color tend to receive lower-quality health care than do Caucasians and that African-Americans receive inferior medical care—compared to the majority population—even when the patients' incomes and insurance plans are the same. These disparities contribute to higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

The Report found that African-American Medicare patients were almost 4 times less likely than their Caucasian counterparts to receive needed coronary bypass surgery.

Black seniors were nearly 2 times less likely to receive treatment for prostate cancer.

Older Black Americans were 3.6 times more likely to have lower limbs amputated as a result of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, access to health care is becoming a critical issue for Black and Hispanic-Americans.

Overall, more than 40 percent of nonelderly African-Americans (12.5 million) and more than 50 percent of nonelderly Hispanic-Americans (18.5 million) had no health insurance in 2001–2002.

Minority children face obstacles in getting the health care they need. In 2001, there were 9.2 million uninsured children, the majority of them were minorities: 36 percent were Hispanic and 18 percent were Black.

Four-and-a-half million Black children now receive their health coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP (the Federal health program for children), and 4.7 million Hispanic children get healthcare through Medicaid or SCHIP.

That is why Medicaid, which provides health care coverage to low-income Americans, is critical to minorities.

The most recent data show that 9.8 million Blacks and 6.4 million Hispanics need Medicaid to get access to health care.

Mr. Speaker, despite these disparities the Bush budget continues to shortchange healthcare. To pay for the tax cuts for the wealthiest 5 percent, the Republican leadership under-funds numerous health programs including the Ryan White program, eliminates the Community Access Program, cuts the Veterans Health programs and the SCHIP program.

Despite these disparities the Republicans cut funding for Medicaid coverage for children, low-income seniors, people in nursing homes, and the disabled. And the Bush administration wants to block grant Medicaid—cut the funding by \$3.2 billion over 10 years and give the

money to the States to let the States spend it on other competing priorities.

This will basically dismantle Medicaid's guarantee of access to healthcare for low-income individuals.

Mr. Speaker, this sort of policymaking does not make sense in the "land of plenty." I can only quote my good friend Jocelyn Elders who stated, "We, in our society believe that every criminal has a right to a lawyer. But yet we are one of only two countries, the United States and South Africa, who does not believe that every sick person should have a right to a doctor."

Mr. Speaker, every American is entitled to access to quality healthcare. That's why I co-sponsored Congressman JOHN CONYERS' bill to provide health insurance to every resident of the United States.

Our bill, the United States National Health Insurance Act, H.R. 676, would provide all individuals residing within the United States with insurance covering primary care, and preventative health services, prescription drug coverage, emergency care, and mental health services.

In essence, it would expand Medicare to cover all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is going to be a long hard fight. But I am convinced that the time for a "single-payer" system has come.

If we can spend hundreds of billions of dollars in an effort to protect the American people from foreign attack, we can raise and spend the money that it will take to protect the American people from dying before their time from accident or disease on our soil. If we can give universal health coverage to those on foreign soil, we can also do it for our own citizens.

It's time to make health care a civil right for all Americans, my friends. That is the hard lesson that Americans of color learned from our experience with this Nation's health care system.

And that is the same hard lesson that many, many other Americans are learning today. We speak truth to power, when we declare that discrimination and racial disparities continue to plague our system of health care.

Increasing the number of qualified minority physicians and other health care professionals—and assuring that they are adequately compensated for their work—are core prerequisites to transforming that equation.

That is the truth—but it is not the whole truth. It also is true that: Most poor children in America are not Black; Most sick children in America are not Black; And most Americans who cannot afford health insurance are not Black.

Mr. Speaker, these American children are our children, whatever may be the color of their skin. We must never allow the virus of racial division to infect our vision of what it means to be human beings.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I implore my Republican colleagues to correct the injustice in the recently passed tax bill that denies millions of poor families, those making between \$10,000 and \$26,000 the Child Tax credit of \$400 they so desperately need.

We should not shift the tax burdens from the wealthy to the working poor. These families need our help—we should give it to them. Restore fairness to the tax bill—tax cuts to the wealthy should not out millions of families.

Lastly, I thank my friend DANNY DAVIS for leading this floor effort.

THE CHILD TAX CREDIT:
SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of legislation to expand the child tax credit to working families left out of the tax bill that the President recently signed.

Last week, the President signed a \$350 billion tax cut plan, a package of large tax cuts that are weighted heavily toward America's wealthiest families, and that will do little to spur economic growth or reduce the Nation's jobless rates. These additional cuts are likely to further burden the economy's future with growing budget deficits and debt—spending the Social Security Trust Fund surplus and threatening essential programs such as Medicare.

The most disturbing aspect of this legislative effort was the Majority's last-minute exclusion of a provision that would help nearly 12 million children and their families to get the child tax credit. In their persistent efforts to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans, the Majority stripped this important provision from the final bill in order to make room for a dividend tax cut and other measures benefiting only those wealthiest taxpayers.

For some time now, the Administration has maintained that all Americans deserve a tax break. However, this new law did not honor that promise, and the President should not have signed legislation that denies a promised child tax credit to the millions of families that need it the most and are the most likely to spend it.

These families with children, earning between \$10,500 and \$26,625, are already working hard to make ends meet. Our immediate priority in Congress should now be to pass legislation that will correct this last-minute injustice and provide these moderate-income families with the relief they deserve. Therefore, I support the legislation introduced by House Democratic leaders to accomplish this goal and benefit almost 3 million children in my home State of California. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in helping those Americans in most need.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC
SHINSEKI

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MURTHA and I rise today to pay tribute to General Eric Shinseki, an outstanding soldier and American who is retiring as the 34th Chief of Staff of the Army after more than 38 years of distinguished service to his country. He is an exceptional leader with a clear sense of purpose, conviction, and conscience of service to his nation.

General Shinseki has served as Chief of Staff in one of the most dynamic and chal-

lenging periods in the storied 228-year history of the United States Army. Under his leadership, the Army began a "transformation" from a force focused on a defined threat that won the Cold War to a more flexible force that is capable of meeting the new and varied threats of the 21st century. At the same time General Shinseki was managing this historic level of change, he ensured the Army maintained the highest levels of combat readiness that were demonstrated so successfully during operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

General Shinseki received his commission from the United States Military Academy in 1965. He served two combat tours in the Republic of Vietnam with the 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, first as an artillery forward observer and later as Commander of Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry. During both he was seriously wounded.

Since Vietnam, General Shinseki has served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the Continental United States and overseas. He served in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks with Headquarters, United States Army Hawaii, and at Ft. Shafter with Headquarters, United States Army Pacific. He also taught at the United States Military Academy's Department of English. During duty with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Bliss, Texas, he served as Regimental Adjutant and Executive Officer with the 1st Squadron.

Ric spent over ten years in Europe, which included assignments as Commander, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry; Commander, 2nd Brigade; Assistant Chief of Staff G3; and Assistant Division Commander, all with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

From 1994 to July 1995, he commanded the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood, Texas and in July 1996, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and became the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at the Department of the Army.

He was selected for the rank of General in June 1997 and assumed duties as Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Commander, NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In November 1998 he assumed duties as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

In addition to receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy, he also holds a Master of Arts Degree in English Literature from Duke University. General Shinseki's military education includes the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), as well the Purple Heart (with Oak Leaf Cluster). He has also been awarded the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, Joint Chief of Staff Identification Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

History will look very favorably on the accomplishments of General Shinseki. It is easy to talk about concepts such as "transformation", but it takes a visionary leader to implement them. There are countless decisions that he has had to make that might very

well mean the difference between success and failure on current and future battlefields. General Shinseki successfully met every challenge during his tenure as Chief of Staff with professionalism, commitment, and perseverance.

To Ric and his wife Patti, God speed and enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

The United States Army will miss you and so will we.

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would provide the Filipino veterans of World War II who now live in the United States health care benefits on the same basis as if they were veterans of the U.S. armed services.

This legislation would require the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, within the limits of the Department's facilities, to provide hospital, nursing home and medical care services to certain Filipino World War II veterans of the Philippines Commonwealth Army and former Philippines New Scouts who legally reside in the United States, in the same manner as their American veteran peers.

The substance of this bill was included in the Veterans Health Care and Procurement Improvement Act of 2002 that passed the House last year, but failed to clear the other Body. I thank the President for his leadership and acknowledgement of the importance of addressing the health care issues of the Filipino veterans by recently requesting the introduction and prompt consideration of similar legislation this Congress. I also acknowledge the advocacy of my colleague from California, Mr. FILNER, who for years has kept this issue before the House as a matter of equity and recognition for an important allied force during a time of great peril for this Nation.

Currently, Commonwealth Army veterans residing in the U.S. are only eligible for VA health care services for treatment of service-connected disabilities and for non service-connected disabilities if they are in receipt of certain compensation. My bill would remove these barriers to treatment of veterans of World War II who are of Filipino descent by eliminating the receipt-of-compensation requirement for Commonwealth Army veterans and extending to new Philippine Scouts the same eligibility for medical care and services as Commonwealth Army veterans. Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts would be subject to the same eligibility and means test requirements as their American counterparts.

The military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were called into the United States Armed Forces during World War II by President Roosevelt's Executive Order. Under the Command of General MacArthur, the Filipino soldiers served side-by-side with forces from the United States and exhibited great courage at the battles of Bataan and Corregidor. The participation of the Filipino forces delayed and disrupted the initial Japanese effort to control the Western Pacific and was

vital to giving the U.S. time to prepare the forces necessary to defeat Japan.

When the United States granted independence to the Philippines, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, reducing or eliminating many of the veterans' benefits for which Filipino veterans had been eligible, based on service in the Commonwealth Army. The reclassification of their service to the United States during World War II by the Rescissions Act unfortunately left many Filipino veterans residing in the United States without eligibility for VA health care.

It is due time that these Filipino veterans are given the health care benefits they have been waiting more than 50 years to receive. I urge all my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill, one that recognizes our Nation's moral obligation to extend VA health care services to the approximately 14,000 Filipino veterans who are in their senior years here in the United States.

THE BINGE ISN'T OVER FOR DILLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, June 5, 2003]

THE BINGE ISN'T OVER FOR DILLER

(By Leslie Walker)

Barry Diller may prove Woody Allen was right when he said 80 percent of success is showing up.

The onetime Hollywood mogul first got into electronic commerce more than a decade ago, never left and may end up being one of its biggest successes. It was 1993, soon after he entered the television home-shopping business, that he started extolling the convenience of "buying underwear in your underwear."

When the real electronic commerce wave arrived on personal computers instead of television, Diller regrouped and started buying Internet ventures. Yet except for his failed \$18 billion bid to buy the Lycos Web portal in 1999, Diller has remained largely known as an entertainment and media executive, and his online escapades have attracted little attention.

Until now. The digerati are finally taking notice of Diller's online empire since his conglomerate, USA Interactive (USAI), announced a recent string of takeovers that are transforming it into one of the Internet's superpowers. Diller's moves are part of a consolidation wave gaining speed in the high-tech sector, where start-ups are still struggling to overcome depressed stock prices and an oversupply of goods and services.

"We want to be the largest and most profitable e-commerce company utilizing multiple brands," Diller, chief executive of USAI, declared in an interview this week. (Diller is a director of The Washington Post Co.)

Diller's recent acquisitions appear to reflect a shift toward more direct forms of commerce online, where new commercial matchmakers that could bypass traditional forms of advertising are catching on.

First, a look at Diller's march across the Web: Since early last year, USA Interactive has announced it will acquire LendingTree Inc., which pairs home buyers with lenders

and real estate agents online; travel agent Expedia Inc., which lets consumers make travel reservations online; British UDate.com, an online personals site; the outstanding shares of Hotels.com, an online provider of discount lodging bookings; and the remaining shares of Ticketmaster, the electronic ticketing agency in which USAI first took a 50 percent stake back in 1997.

Also in the past year, Diller's company snapped up a string of offline travel-related companies, including the Entertainment discount-coupon book, the vacation exchange network Interval International and Britain's TV Travel Group. USAI already owned various "back office" services, thanks to acquisitions made a few years ago. In 1999, for example, it bought one of the world's biggest customer call-center operations, Precision Response Corp., which also conducts e-mail marketing campaigns and database services. And, of course, USAI still owns the Home Shopping Network.

As a result of its takeovers, USA Interactive appears poised to take in more than \$6 billion in revenue this year—more than Amazon.com, eBay, Yahoo or any other Internet firm except America Online.

Diller said that his Internet binge is not over. He intends to buy more Net gems and hinted that LendingTree points in the direction he is headed. (Think financial services.) Some analysts worry that the LendingTree deal, a stock swap valued at roughly \$700 million, may be inflated because the home refinancing wave caused a temporary spurt in its business. But Diller discounts such talk. "We couldn't care less what happens in the very, very, very near term," he told analysts when he announced the deal last month. "What we care about is that we've bought the right business in the right category."

Still, his company seems to garner more dollars than respect, perhaps because it resembles a giant Internet puzzle with the pieces not yet snapped into place. That may explain why Diller said this week he is flirting with changing the name of his company again. USAI has gone by at least five names in the past, none too memorable. The latest moniker makeover came last year when it sold off its cable TV channels and replaced "Networks" in "USA Networks" with "Interactive" to focus more on electronic commerce.

Diller said the company's current mission is to act as a "middleman" between supply and demand in interactive commerce, making it more like eBay than retailer Amazon.com. Like eBay, USAI's companies typically take commissions for matching buyers and sellers. They hold little or no inventory, which lowers their costs and potentially boosts profit margins.

Ebay mostly auctions used goods but is aggressively courting sellers of new merchandise as part of its avowed bid to become "the world's marketplace." While analysts think this could make it a head-to-head competitor with USAI, Diller doesn't see it that way. He said he doubts eBay will succeed in becoming the world's marketplace: "They are not going to make the transition in every category to a fixed-price model," he predicted, "and will be predominantly based in peer-to-peer auctions."

Time will tell how much advantage can be gained from lumping together different Internet entities or "multiple brands" online. But for starters, there should be savings from no longer having to run five separate public accounting operations for LendingTree, Expedia, Hotels.com, Ticketmaster and USA Interactive, all of which have been trading under separate stock symbols. After buying a controlling stake in Expedia from Microsoft Corp. last

summer, USAI declared its intention to buy the outstanding shares of its key subsidiaries. Expedia and Hotels.com resisted briefly but yielded this spring.

Soon USAI will introduce loyalty incentive programs for people using its various e-commerce services. Diller said the first incarnation, perhaps points-based rewards, will debut later this year or early next. He added that he has no plans to create an overarching Internet network with a "single sign-on" for users of USAI sites, such as AOL attempted with its Web properties and Time Warner did with its original magazine sites at the ill-fated Pathfinder.com.

"We do not believe in unnatural synergies, and we don't have one totalitarian brand," Diller said. "We only want to make relationships where natural law dictates they make sense."

AOL and Time Warner, of course, hyped "synergies" among their many brands when the two companies merged three years ago. Diller said the big lesson he learned from watching that merger flop was not to short-change his Internet products but to keep improving them. "They took care of everything but the product itself and paid a terrible price for it," Diller said of AOL.

But USAI will exploit natural connections, he added, such as cross-linking among its Web sites and pursuing other cross-marketing opportunities. For instance, Evite.com, a free invitation service owned by USAI, already rotates banner ads on its online personals site, Match.com, and the Entertainment book. You can imagine its Citysearch's online city guides linking prominently to LendingTree's real estate service, or Hotels.com offering local event tickets from Ticketmaster when people book rooms.

Whatever Diller winds up calling his many-headed Internet beast, it's a good bet it will grow up to be one of the surviving giants of the dot-corn jungle.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes because of a death in the family. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 4, 2003: Roll call vote 236, on agreeing to H. Res. 257, I would have voted "yea"; Roll call vote 237, on motion to suspend the rules and agreeing to H. Con. Res. 177, I would have voted "yea"; Roll call vote 238, on motion to suspend the rules and agreeing to H. Res. 201, I would have voted "yea"; and also on June 4, 2003—Roll call vote 239, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1954, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. STARK and I rise today to honor Shiloh Baptist Church of Hayward, California and its pastor, Reverend Jesse L. Davis, Sr. on the 35th Anniversary of its founding.

On September 5, 1968, a small group of Christians met at the home of Emmett & Ber-

nice Mason to organize a church. The Reverend Jesse L. Davis accepted the charge and was installed as Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church by Adolph Kelly, Pastor of Macedonian Baptist Church in Milpitas, California.

Shiloh Baptist's first facility was shared with Indian Baptist Church on Arthur Street in Oakland. In its second year, Shiloh Baptist bought that building as well as the one adjacent. Additionally, an Assistant Pastor was ordained and appointed, the Reverend Porter Clewis. The old building was demolished in 1976 and a new one was dedicated in June of 1978, along with the Jesse L. Davis Educational building. The congregation outgrew its facility once more, and moved to its present location in Hayward in October, 1992.

Shiloh Baptist has been honored by the Southern Baptist Convention of California. Also, the Mass Choir has received the "Church Choir of the Year Award" at the 24th Annual Gospel Academy Awards. Sister Doria Cummins-Lewis was awarded "Director of the Year."

Among the ministries Shiloh Baptist has organized are Angel Tree (part of Prison Ministry), Street Witnessing, Feeding Program, Tutorial Program, Singles Ministry, Sisters of Excellence Women's Ministry, Alpha & Omega Drama and Dance Troupe. Together they have changed the lives of many people for the better.

Since its inception, Shiloh Baptist's rise has mirrored that of its leader, Reverend, Jesse L. Davis, Sr. Reverend Davis was born in Louisiana in 1937 and will celebrate his 66th birthday on June 11. He attained an Associate of Arts Degree at Merritt College before graduating the Bay Cities Bible Institute, both in Oakland. He later attended the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley and had an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree conferred upon him by the University of Biblical Studies at Burbank, California.

In addition to his guidance of Shiloh Baptist for the past 35 years, Jesse has been a Lay Evangelism School Teacher with the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Vice-President and past President of the Baptist Pastor's and Minister's Conference of Oakland, Director of Christian Education for the Mt. Zion District Association, and Treasurer for the California Baptist State Convention.

Finally as we honor Shiloh Baptist Church and the esteemed Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Davis, Sr., we want to thank them on behalf of the entire 9th and 13th Congressional District for serving the greater Bay Area for 35 years. Reverend Davis and his wife, Sister Alma Davis, have shared their wisdom and been great community leaders. Due to their positive influence, their sons, Rev. Jesse L. Davis, II and Rev. Andrew Paul Davis have followed in their father's footsteps. Most of all, we thank them for their friendship and for their prayers.

I take great pride in joining friends, family, and the congregation to salute Shiloh Baptist Church and its leader, the extraordinary Pastor Jesse L. Davis, Sr.

HONORING SMALLWOOD DRIVE SCHOOL ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PRESENT LOCATION

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the

Smallwood Drive School for its excellence in pursuing its mission of "Learning, Growing, and Changing" in educating the children in its community. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary since the school's relocation to its current site on Smallwood Drive in Snyder, New York.

Smallwood Drive School was founded in 1813. On January 5th, 1952, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the creation of a new campus. On June 21st, 1952, the cornerstone was laid of what is the current Smallwood Drive School. And in February of 1953, the first principal, George Brighton, opened the classroom wings.

Beyond providing students with an outstanding education, Smallwood Drive School has been looked upon as an innovative school—a pioneer on many educational fronts—such as learning style approaches and an inclusion program to serve children with special needs. The school has brought in authors, writers, and scientists, and planned special days centered on communication and science. The school has worked with numerous outside groups over the years including the Young Audience, the University of Buffalo, and the World University Games.

Smallwood Drive School has also developed a number of unique and fun traditions that greatly benefit the children, such as bicycle safety rodeos, annual concerts, gym shows, class plays, annual craft shows, ice-cream socials, and a 5th grade operetta.

On the whole, Smallwood Drive School provides an outstanding education and social environment in which children may learn, grow, and change—all for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting the Smallwood Drive School as it marks its 50th Anniversary at its current location. For the past 50 years, Smallwood Drive School has excelled in educating our youth and made its surrounding community a better place.

MEMORIAL DAY BRAT FEST OF MADISON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the annual Memorial Day Brat Fest of Madison.

This event, run by locally owned Metcalfe's Sentry Foods, started in 1983 as a modest customer appreciation luncheon and grew into the huge city wide charity event that it is today. Over this past Memorial Day weekend, an impressive \$26,252 was raised for charity. Since the founding in 1983, the Brat Fest has raised over \$220,000 for the local charities whose members volunteer at the stands each Memorial Day.

This year, Brat Fest reached two amazing milestones. The first was a new record high of 123,520 brats sold, setting a new world record. One of these brats was the millionth brat sold for charity since the birth of the festival.

Not only is the event to be recognized for its contributions to local charities, but also for its promotion of community spirit and vitality. This event brings people from all backgrounds in the community together in support of local organizations. Wisconsinites are given the chance to interact with "celebrity" cashiers. Every year as a cashier I truly enjoy gathering with my constituents at Brat Fest, serving up brats, and making sure no one leaves hungry.

This form of positive community building is commendable and deserves recognition. I look forward to future Memorial Day Brat Fests and the service that they provide for the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PETER RODINO ON HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor my predecessor and one of the most outstanding members ever to serve in this body, the Honorable Peter Rodino, as he celebrates his 94th birthday on June 7th.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from the 93rd through the 100th Congress, former Representative Rodino set a standard for excellence which earned him a national reputation. While he is best known for presiding over the Watergate hearings with fairness, decorum, and a respect for history, he also had many other legislative accomplishments during his 40 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. He managed the historic 1966 Civil Rights Bill on the floor of the House. He was the author of the 1982 Voting Rights Act Extension and a leader in the successful effort to make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.

Chairman Rodino has been honored with numerous international, national and local awards, including Pope John Paul II's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award; the Democratic Council on Ethnic Americans' Democratic Ethnic Heritage Award for Leadership, and the Rutgers University Award. He has received honorary degrees from more than 15 colleges and universities, including Seton Hall, Princeton, Rutgers and Fairleigh Dickinson. He joined the Seton Hall Law School faculty in 1988.

Along with many others, as a youngster growing up and as a college student, I was inspired by Peter Rodino to enter public service. Many of us followed his work in Congress with great pride and admiration for his integrity and willingness to stand up for what was right. I was proud that he served as Chairman of a reception held in my honor during my reelection campaign for county office in 1976 at my alma mater, Seton Hall University.

It has been a privilege for me to serve in the Congressional seat once held by Representative Rodino. I am always aware that I have big shoes to fill in replacing such a legendary public servant.

I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in sending best wishes for continued health and happiness to Chairman Rodino on his birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE CARLIN

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Joanne Carlin, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, who died on May 14 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Joanne's giving spirit was shaped by her experiences growing up in Cleveland's Tremont area. A product of St. Augustine Catholic School, she eventually moved to Garfield Heights, where she graduated from high school.

Joanne owned and operated a beauty salon on Cleveland's west side. Her former customers praised her as a loyal and generous person.

She later sold her business and moved to Medina County to become a full-time homemaker. An excellent cook, Joanne enriched the lives of her family and friends as the consummate hostess during family gatherings and holidays.

Our hearts go out to her husband and best friend, James; her four stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren; and legions of family and friends who recall the memories of these gatherings and the tremendous influence Joanne had in their lives.

HONORING THE GREECE LITTLE
LEAGUE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Greece Little League of Greece, New York, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Baseball has been America's pastime for over a century: a source of recreation and enjoyment for young and old alike.

Fifty years ago, the Greece Little League was created to serve young boys and girls in the Greece community. Today, the League serves 1,200 children and 1,000 families, and has extended its services to include softball and the Challenger Program, which allows physically and mentally challenged children to compete. The league provides a positive environment and a tremendous recreational opportunity for children of all ages and abilities.

Over the last half-century, America's pastime has been shared and enjoyed by many in the Town of Greece, thanks to the Greece Little League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting the Greece Little League as it marks its 50th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ERIE MAE BENDROSS:
THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Ms. Erie Mae Bendross, a compassionate, caring and tireless community activist who passed away last Saturday, May 31st.

Ms. Bendross was a native of Miami and long-time resident of the Liberty City and Wynwood neighborhoods. She attended Tuskegee University in Alabama and worked as a dietician in many area hospitals. She was also a devoted choir member at St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church. But it was in community action where her talents truly shown.

Erie Mae Bendross leaves behind a legacy of achievement and inspiration, for she is an example of what caring and commitment can accomplish. Only three years ago, Ms. Bendross joined the community-based organization LIFFT, Low Income Families Fighting Together, a grassroots organization of public housing residents, low-wage workers and welfare recipients. She quickly became a leader of the organization.

As a resident of the Liberty Square public housing development, she first became active in the fight to ensure affordable and decent housing opportunities for all people, regardless of their incomes.

Ms. Bendross firmly believed in the power of organization. In 2001, Bendross played a key role in saving Liberty Square Homes, or the Pork and Beans, from demolition and the displacement of hundreds of families. Her organization also exposed the county's public housing vacancies crisis as well as improved the living conditions of elderly public housing developments. Most importantly, she played a key role in developing other leaders in the community to build the organization and continue the struggle against racism and poverty.

Ms. Bendross dedicated herself to the fight against poverty and discrimination locally, nationally and internationally. Through her work in LIFFT and in association with several other organizations, including the Community Coalition to Fix HOPE VI, including the ACLU of Miami, NAACP, African American Council of Christian Clergy, Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board and other civil rights organizations. As a LIFFT leader, she supported the work of the Haitian Women of Miami, Miami for Peace Coalition, Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers, Brothers of the Same Mind, and countless other social justice movements in the county.

Nationally, Ms. Bendross worked with other low-income, community-based grassroots organizations and leaders in California and Washington, DC on issues of fair trade, jobs and income supports for low-wage workers, opposing the war, fighting budget cuts, and the unethical treatment of workers. Her work on low income housing was widely recognized. Internationally, in January, Ms. Bendross represented LIFFT as part of the United States delegation to World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Our community is better for the efforts of Erie Mae Bendross. She is survived by her mother, Martha Bendross, her brother, Willie

Bendross, and her son and daughter-in-law Eric and Angela Bendross. They have our deepest sympathy, and our hearts go out to them for their loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR.
VICTOR J. CONNORS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Dr. Victor J. Connors from Middleton, WI. On June 21, 2003, in San Diego, CA, optometrists from around the Nation will elect my constituent, Dr. Connors, as the 82nd president of the American Optometric Association. Dr. Connors' enthusiasm and contributions to his profession have earned him this prominent recognition.

Dr. Connors has an impressive record in his profession at the local, State and national level demonstrating his leadership in the field of optometry. He served as president of the Wisconsin Optometric Association in 1987 and was recognized as our State's Optometrist of the Year in 1990. Dr. Connors has also served as the president of the North Central States Optometric Council and was elected to the American Optometric Association's board of trustees in 1997.

In addition to his extraordinary leadership in his profession, Dr. Connors has been an energetic leader in many civic organizations. He has served as president of the Middleton Optimist Club, chairman of the Middleton Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission, chairman of the Middleton Police Commission, president of the Middleton Area Development Corporation, president of the Middleton Chamber of Commerce, president of the Middleton Good Neighbor Festival and president of the church council at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Middleton.

Dr. Victor J. Connors' vast achievements and commitment to public service have led him to develop a distinguished record of leadership in his profession and his community. It is evident that his dedication and motivation will allow him to have a successful term as president of the American Optometric Association. I join his many friends, colleagues and his wife, Becky, and children, Sara, Colleen and Colin in congratulating him and wishing well as the new president of the American Optometric Association.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2286, THE
WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT
ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tout "No Child Left Behind" when in actuality they deliberately choose to leave millions of children behind. Last week, President Bush signed a new law

that would provide tax cuts of \$93,500 to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million. Fifty three percent of all taxpayers would get less than \$100 under the GOP law. Here is another example of the Administration choosing the wealthiest over America's working families.

What is even more egregious is that the Administration chose not to provide or increase the child tax credit to working families making between \$10,500 to \$26,625 per year. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the Senate dropped a provision, added by Senator LINCOLN, that would have helped nearly 12 million children and their families get a tax credit. Out of that 12 million, a staggering 8 million receive no child tax credit under the GOP law.

Mr. Speaker, their plan in no way, shape or form protects the children that need it the most. Instead, their plan deliberately excludes these children. In actuality, the Republican plan should be called the "Plan to Leave Children Behind."

This is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2286, the Rangel-Davis-DeLauro bill. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill. This is a great start to repairing the damage inflicted by the Administration's reckless and negligent tax package. H.R. 2286 would restore the child tax credit to families making minimum wage by providing greater tax relief to working families. Nineteen million children and their families will benefit from this bill. In fact, over 2 million children in my home state of Texas would benefit under Rangel plan.

In addition to the child tax credit, H.R. 2286 would create more jobs. The provisions in this bill are key elements of the House Jobs and Economic Growth package and will create more than 1 million jobs without adding one penny to the deficit. Lastly, this bill has key elements that would ensure our brave men and women in uniform are not denied tax relief just because they are on active duty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2286—this tax plan is fair—it helps: America's economy, America's men and women in uniform and America's working families. Most importantly, this child tax credit helps America's children by leaving no child behind.

THE INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today I am reintroducing the Inclusive Home Design Act. I want to thank my colleagues BARBARA LEE and LOUISE SLAUGHTER for joining me today as original cosponsors of this legislation. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us. I also want to thank my friend Marca Bristow of Access Living for her dedication and outstanding leadership. Finally, I want to offer my gratitude to all of the architects and community leaders who worked with me to craft this legislation. The Inclusive Home Design Act will greatly increase the number of homes that are accessible to people with dis-

abilities. It is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and countless other national and local disabilities rights organizations.

The Inclusive Home Design Act requires all newly-built single family homes receiving federal funds to meet three specific standards: an accessible route, or "zero step," into the home, "32" clearance doorways on the main level, and one wheel chair accessible bathroom. These nationally mandated standards for homes built with federal dollars will close a major loophole in our current housing laws.

Under current law, 95 percent of federally supported homes do not have to meet any accessibility standard. This creates unnecessary barriers for disabled veterans and other people with mobility impairments. It defies logic to build new homes that block people out when it's so easy and cheap to build new homes that let people in. Many states and localities have already incorporated visitability standards. This list includes Naperville, Bollingbrook, and Champagne, Illinois, Atlanta, Vermont, Texas, Kansas, Arizona and others. Also the United Kingdom passed a law in March 1998 mandating that every new home become accessible. A federal law will build on the momentum that has already been created here and abroad.

The proposed legislation is based on the concept of Visitability, an affordable, sustainable and inclusive design approach for integrating basic accessibility features into all newly built homes and housing. Architects and builders will have latitude in how they comply with the act. For example, the zero step entrance can be placed at the front, side, or back of the home. The accessible route can even go through an attached garage.

When homes are accessible, it benefits not only today's disability community, but also all of us who are friends and family members of people with disabilities. Often, the prohibitive cost of making an existing home accessible deprives seniors of their independence and pushes them into nursing homes. It generally costs thousands of dollars for a homeowner to retrofit their home. However, on average experts estimate that it only costs \$300 to \$400 to add visitability features into a new home. In addition, the zero step entrance requirements can be waived if the terrain makes compliance impractical.

By making new homes accessible, we guarantee that many seniors can age at home instead of moving into expensive assisted living facilities. This will save taxpayer money and it will help improve the quality of life of our senior citizens. As the population becomes older, this will become more important. Fifty-eight percent of people over eighty years old suffer from physical impairments. In 2000, there were 30.5 million people between 65–84 years old. This number will grow to 47 million by 2020. Today, over 4.3 million individuals are over 85. By 2020, this number is projected to grow to 6.8 million. There is no question that the Inclusive Home Design Act will enable many of our seniors to remain at home.

Homes that meet visitability standards are essential for people with disabilities and sensible because 3 out of 10 people will face a disability before they are 67, practical, and cost effective. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation, the Inclusive Home Design Act, into law.

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE ANN
VEILLETTE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Connie Veillette for her 20 years of dedicated public service in my Washington, D.C. office and to the people of Ohio's 16th Congressional district.

Connie began her career in my office just after completion of her college degree from Ohio University in 1982. Over the next 20 years, she became a vital member of my office staff, handling policy issues as diverse as foreign affairs and transportation. Connie also served as a key staff person handling Appropriations Subcommittee work in my office. Over the past 10 years, Connie has served as my Chief of Staff. In this role she managed the Washington office and oversaw the District offices, she acted as my principal policy advisor and continued to advise me on foreign policy matters, she served as my press secretary and coordinated all Ohio Delegation matters. During her tenure in my office I have valued her excellent management skills and relied on her good judgment with regard to policy and political matters.

During her tenure in my office, Connie also served as the Congressional manager of the Congress-Bundestag exchange, a 20 year program that promotes greater understanding of the U.S. legislative process and the German parliamentary system. This vital exchange program has allowed hundreds of Congressional staffers to visit Germany and hundreds of German Parliamentary staff to visit the U.S. The program has allowed participants to gain insights into our different political systems and to develop personal and professional relationships that benefit both nations.

Throughout her service in my office, Connie pursued her higher education goals, completing both a Master's Degree and most recently completing course work toward her Ph.D. in Political Science from the George Washington University. We were very proud when she completed her doctoral exams with distinction. These experiences have enabled Connie to develop an expertise in Latin American affairs which she will use in her new position as Analyst for Latin America with the Congressional Research Service.

We are glad that she has not traveled far and that we will still be able to call on her excellent research and analytical skills as will all Members and staff in Congress. We wish her much success in her new endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RALPH
NURNBERGER, RECIPIENT OF
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S EX-
CELLENCE IN TEACHING FAC-
ULTY AWARD

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of

Representatives join me in congratulating a highly respected and accomplished professor, Dr. Ralph Nurnberger, on being selected as the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award at Georgetown University. Dr. Nurnberger received this outstanding honor at the University's 2003 commencement ceremonies.

For over 2 decades, Dr. Nurnberger has taught courses in the Liberal Studies Degree Program focusing on an array of issues including American foreign policy, congressional relations, and international affairs. Most recently, he has been teaching a course on the aftermath of September 11, considering the domestic and international ramifications for the United States. His teaching has been marked with extensive experience in domestic and international affairs. Dr. Nurnberger has held positions with former Senator James Pearson, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the U.S. Department of Commerce. He currently holds the position of Counsel with the law firm Preston Gates Ellis and Rouvelas Meeds.

Following the signing of the Oslo Accords, Dr. Nurnberger was appointed to the position of Executive Director of the organization "Builders for Peace" to assist the Arab-Israeli peace process. Also an accomplished writer, his articles have appeared in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun and numerous journals.

Dr. Nurnberger is popular with students because of his reputation as an insightful educator who promotes lively and thought-provoking discussions encouraging the expression of all points of view.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we here in the U.S. House of Representatives join Georgetown University in commending Dr. Ralph Nurnberger for his excellence in teaching and congratulate him on receiving such a prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE PARKER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of my friend and eastern Kentucky native Charlie Parker, president and CEO of Buckhorn Children's Foundation. Charlie is retiring after 21 years of service to the children and families of Kentucky. It is only fitting to take this opportunity to recognize all that he has accomplished.

Buckhorn Children's Foundation's mission is to alleviate the suffering of children and families and bring hope to otherwise hopeless lives in Appalachia. Through a variety of programs, Buckhorn has helped thousands learn about themselves, feel pride in who they are, and become successes in life. Although they actively seek out the most troubled of our youth, Buckhorn can boast of an over 70 percent success rate, which is far above the national average.

Coming on board in 1982, Charlie took over Buckhorn's one residential campus with a budget of \$650,000. Under his vision and leadership, that one residential campus has grown to three with a budget of \$18 million. Its reach has extended beyond the hills of Eastern Kentucky into more urban areas. Without question, this would never have been accomplished were it not for the tireless efforts of Charlie.

While we have taken much time recently to recognize our heroes that have defended our freedom abroad, we must also recognize our heroes at home. I know that the many young people that Charlie has positively affected consider him a hero, as do I. Thank you, Charlie, for giving young people one of the greatest gifts of all—a future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I could not be present today, Thursday, June 5, 2003, to vote on Roll Call Vote Numbers 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, and 248 due to a family medical emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

NO on Roll Call Vote Number 243 on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 256, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1474) to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes;

NO on Roll Call Vote Number 244 on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 258, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 222) to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (S. 273) to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Wyoming within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes;

NO on Roll Call Vote Number 245 on H. Res. 258, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 222) to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (S. 273) to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Wyoming within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes;

AYE on Roll Call Vote Number 246 on H. R. 1474, Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act;

AYE on Roll Call Vote Number 247 on S. 222, Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2003; and

AYE on Roll Call Vote Number 248 on S. 273—Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act.

TRIBUTE TO IMMANUEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the designation of Immanuel United Methodist Church in Roseville, Michigan as a Michigan Historical Site. The site will be dedicated on Sunday, June 8, 2003, when the Michigan Historical Marker is officially unveiled at the church.

The criteria for becoming a Michigan Historical Site are strict. A site must possess integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, a property's historical significance must reflect the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The Immanuel United Methodist congregation has continuously ministered to this community for over 153 years. The congregation was established in November 1849 and moved to its present location in 1933. This Neo-Gothic sandstone church was designed by Merritt and Cole of Detroit and was dedicated on November 5, 1933.

Many changes and improvement have been made to the church over the years. A thirteen room educational unit was added in 1956, and the existing rooms were refurbished to create a beautiful new church parlor. The church was also renovated in 1997 to include facilities for the physically handicapped. The new structure addition was named Peace Memorial Lobby in honor of the merger of Peace United Methodist Church with Immanuel in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and the entire congregation at Immanuel United Methodist Church, as they celebrate this important designation as a Michigan Historical Site.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS
AGAINST AUNG SAN SUU

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I condemn the attacks by Burma's brutal military regime against 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi (Chee) and her party, the National League for Democracy.

The NLD and its members are the rightfully elected leaders of Burma. For 13 years the military rulers of Burma have suppressed their people and ignored the results of the 1990 elections.

Burma's military regime must not be permitted to attack, murder, imprison, and torture its people with impunity.

Now is the time for the United States to increase pressure against this regime. Now is the time for Congress and the administration to ban imports from Burma and freeze their assets.

I am disappointed in the silence of the Asia Bureau at the U.S. State Department over the past month.

While human rights groups have sought to bring to their attention the need to increase

pressure on this regime, the Bureau has done nothing.

Now Miss Kyi (Chee) is once again being illegally detained against her will, "for her own protection," as the military has termed it. The Asia Bureau sticks to its indefensible position of doing nothing.

Now is the time for Congress to act.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND
SUPPORTED OPERATION ENDUR-
ING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN
AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, with the passage of H. Con. Res. 177, the House paid tribute to the unwavering dedication of the men and women who serve America as members of the armed forces. In addition to the professional soldiers, sailors and Marines who are risking their lives throughout the world, thousands of reservists have interrupted their lives to answer their nation's call. In my district alone, nearly 650 members of the 1st Battalion 293rd Infantry Division of the Indiana National Guard are currently serving in Iraq.

Whether active or reserve, at home or abroad, members of America's Armed Forces accept their difficult mission and carry out their duty with unparalleled skill, courage and dedication. We owe them our gratitude.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, American forces displayed their incomparable skills and adaptability across the rugged terrain of Afghanistan, where they confronted and defeated forces that had threatened the security of the free world. More recently, when called to free the Iraqi people from the rule of an evil despot, the United States Armed Forces performed among the most daring, well-executed military missions in the history of warfare. In both instances, when detractors claimed that the United States would become mired in untenable situations, our military devised strategies to obtain the stated objectives with minimal casualties or collateral damage and then proceeded to unleash the focused force of America's soldiers to carry out decisively the task of victory.

Tragically, as the war on terrorism carries American forces throughout the world to continue the battle for liberty, many of our young men and women will not return. Among them, Lance Corporal David K. Fribley of the United States Marine Corps, originally from Atwood, Indiana, in my district, was killed in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom in an ambush near An Nasiriyah, Iraq. At that time, I rose in the House to pay tribute to this courageous young man, and I would like to express once again the nation's eternal thanks to those like Lance Corporal Fribley who make the greatest of sacrifices for our nation and our freedom.

FULLY FUND THE NO CHILD LEFT
BEHIND ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to right a terrible wrong that has been perpetrated on our schools and our children in this country.

Last Congress, we passed and the President signed into law, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). I voted for that bill because the Administration promised historic new investments to facilitate education reforms and dramatically improve educational performance in this country.

Unfortunately, that promise has been broken. The Administration has refused to fund its own program and is cutting billions from NCLB. In this year's budget request alone, the Administration is proposing to shortchange NCLB by \$9.7 billion. Over the first three years of the new law, the Administration cuts \$20 billion from the funds that are needed to make NCLB work.

Without the promised federal funds, states and mostly localities will be forced to bear the brunt of these tough new requirements. In North Carolina and across the country, the state budget and those in our counties, towns and cities are in fiscal crisis. The administration's education cuts to NCLB will cruelly punish our children by withholding funds needed to achieve these tough new requirements. And without the promised funding NCLB will become a massive unfunded mandate on our local governments that could lead to higher property taxes, cuts in vital services like police, fire and rescue and roads. Or both.

Mr. Speaker, a promise is a promise and a deal is a deal. Because the Administration has demonstrated its unwillingness to live up to its side of the bargain and provide necessary funding, Congress should rescind its authority to implement the reforms until those funds are forthcoming.

Today, I am introducing legislation that I have been working on for several months to accomplish just that. My bill, the Fully Fund the Leave No Child Behind Act requires the federal government to fully fund NCLB or the requirements in the statute are suspended for the year in which full funds are not provided. My bill specifies Title I and Title II of NCLB, which deal with school assessments and teacher training requirements respectively. My bill does not apply to sections of NCLB on Limited English Proficient Education, 21st Century Schools, public school choice, Impact Aid and other important provisions.

Let me state that I continue to support the goals of NCLB. As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I have led the fight for standards based education reform in the state that is widely recognized as the national leader in that effort. I want to make sure NCLB works so that every school in this country is a quality learning environment for our children. This legislation is an effort to hold the Administration's feet to the fire to make sure that its record matches its rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must ensure that the federal government honor its commitments to our nation's children. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this vital legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. GARY E.
JONES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gary E. Jones of the School City of Hammond on his retirement. Dr. Jones has made many distinguished contributions to the City of Hammond and all of Northwest Indiana during his 41 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in education at Youngstown State University, and then went on to earn his master's degree and Doctorate in education from Indiana University, Bloomington. He began his career in education in 1962 as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in the Geneva Area School System in Ohio. He has been involved as a principal in the Hammond School System from 1976 through 1986. He was the first person to ever be awarded the Outstanding Principal award for his notable achievements. He has served as the Assistant Superintendent for Hammond Schools since 1986. His history of service to the education of our youth is apparent in all facets of his prestigious career.

Of the many outstanding accomplishments made by Dr. Jones, one of his proudest contributions has been the amazing vision of a robotics program that brought about the design of Team Hammond. Team Hammond has competed competitively at the US FIRST National Competition for the past several years. US FIRST is an organization dedicated to motivating America's youth about science, technology, and engineering through hands-on methods. The program involves a unique blend of problem solving and competition that prepares students for real world situations. Through his sincere and honorable service to the students of Hammond, Dr. Jones has been a guiding light to the Northwest Indiana community.

Dr. Jones has not only served his community through his educational accomplishments, but he has also positively contributed in other ways by being a dedicated member of various community service organizations such as the Woodmar Kiwanis Club, the Hammond Board of Health, the Public Improvements Task Force, and Lake Area United Way to name just a few. He is also a ten-year member of the PTA Executive Committee and has received the PTA National Life Membership Award, which was presented to him by the Hammond Council of PTA's. He has received

many awards that exemplify his dedication and leadership to the Hammond community. He is a member of the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, as well as a recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jones has contributed graciously to not only the youth of Hammond, but also to the entire Northwest Indiana community. His dedication and devotion to the youth of our nation is a goal we should all strive to achieve. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Jones on his retirement. His valiant effort to educate the youth of Northwest Indiana is most commendable, and will be truly remembered.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL J.
HANDY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week New York City suffered a blow with the untimely death of Mike Handy. He leaves behind his wife, Edna Wells-Handy, and four daughters. He was 55.

Mike served as Director of Veterans Affairs for New York City, a position he held under Mayors Ed Koch, David Dinkins, Rudy Giuliani and Mike Bloomberg. Professionally he had earned a great deal of respect, but it was his personal dealings with veterans, colleagues and friends that had earned him so much love. He will be very much missed.

A veteran of Vietnam, he served as a "Quick Reaction Team" leader (with a rank of E-5) and was a .50 Caliber Machine Gun Instructor at Phu Cat.

He was active in veterans affairs for nearly 30 years, acquiring more than 50 honors and awards from city, State and Federal levels. He was a member of the American Legion, the Catholic War Veterans, the Navy League, an honorary member of the New York Society of Military & Naval Officers, and a member of the Veteran Corps of Artillery.

Mike led New York City's fight to save the Times Square Recruiting Station and then chaired a City/Army Corps of Engineers Task Force to facilitate its renovation.

In 1991, he was appointed to the Operation Welcome Home Commission, which organized what was at the time the largest Ticker Tape Parade in the city's history. In 1995, he was the Mayor's representative for the "Nation's Parade" NYC tribute to the 50th anniversary of World War II. He was the Mayor's representative for seven of thirteen "Fleet Week" celebrations in New York City.

Without fanfare, Mike helped thousands of veterans. He did this not for credit but to help his comrades-in-arms who were in need. His is a loss not only for New York, but for the Nation as well. He will be missed.

ALL AMERICAN CITY AWARD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Palm Bay, Florida. Since 1949 the National Civic League has recognized great American cities from across the Nation. Palm Bay is among the 30 finalists that will compete for the title of "All American City."

An All American City is a city that has addressed community issues through the strong collaborative efforts of its citizens. It is no surprise to me that Palm Bay, my hometown for many years, has been selected as a finalist for this honor.

During the 1980s, Palm Bay's population more than tripled from just 18,560 to 62,540. Then in the early '90s the General Development Corporation declared bankruptcy. Although this could have had a stagnating effect on city development, Palm Bay's grassroots rose to the occasion. Deteriorating infrastructure and poorly groomed public areas have been replaced by better roads, new parks and recreation areas, a community pool, the renewal of the U.S. 1 corridor and the continued efforts of "Keep Brevard Beautiful" and the Marine Resources Council.

The All American City competition specifically seeks cities in which key civic projects are community and citizen driven. Palm Bay certainly has an abundance of community driven projects and organizations. These include the Volunteer Citizen Observer Program started in 1995 and the more than 100 Palm Bay Citizens who dedicate their time who assist the Palm Bay police force as volunteers.

Next week nearly 100 residents of Florida's 15th district will travel here to Washington, DC to compete for the 54th Annual "All American City" Award. City employees, elected officials, activists, pastors, school children and other Palm Bay citizens will have an opportunity to share just a small piece of Palm Bay with the National Civic League. I commend the city and its citizens for all of the hard work that has made Palm Bay the wonderful place that it is today. I wish these delegates the best as they represent all of the great Floridians living in Palm Bay.