

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING GAIL L. WARDEN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gail L. Warden, who will receive the Lifetime of Idealism award from City Year at City Year Detroit's annual Ripples of Hope Dinner on June 19, 2003.

The Lifetime of Idealism award is the highest award City Year bestows. Previous recipients of this coveted award include former President William Jefferson Clinton and Senator JOHN MCCAIN. This year, Gail Warden will be honored for fulfilling City Year's mission of "building democracy through national service" because of his long and distinguished career in the field of health care and his involvement in his community.

Gail Warden graduated from Dartmouth College and earned a master's degree in health care management from the University of Michigan. He received an honorary doctorate in public administration from Central Michigan University. Gail Warden has recently retired from the positions of president and chief executive officer of Henry Ford Health System, which serves approximately 70,000 patients each year.

Gail Warden's dedication to healthcare is exemplary. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and he has served on its Governing Council and on its Board of Health Care Services and its Committee on Quality Health Care in America.

Gail Warden chairs the National Forum on Health Care Quality Measurement and Reporting, the Healthcare Research and Development Institute, and the National Center for Healthcare Leadership. In 1995 Gail Warden chaired the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, and in 1997 President Clinton appointed him to the Federal Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.

It is important to note that this list, though long, represents only part of the service Gail Warden has rendered to others. Indeed all that he has achieved in the field of healthcare, including being named one of Modern Healthcare's "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" in 2002 or one of Modern Health Care Magazine's top 25 individuals in the industry over the past 25 years in 2001, show only part of his character.

True to his nature, upon learning that he might be named for the Lifetime of Idealism award, he insisted that others were far deserving. In the words of one of his colleague, Gail Warden "seeks no recognition and argues that what we consider to be his extraordinary contributions . . . are a privilege unworthy of comment." It is, however, precisely this attitude which entitles him to our admiration and our thanks.

I have been privileged to witness Gail Warden's good works on many occasions, each of

which has only increased my admiration for him. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a heartfelt tribute to Gail Warden for all his work on behalf of our community and citizens.

A CALL FOR ACTION: GEOGRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT OF PHYSICIAN WORK NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to announce that the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act, a bill that will address the significant differential in reimbursement levels to urban and rural skilled health care professionals, now has 72 bipartisan cosponsors.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services defines "physician work" is the amount of time, skill and intensity a physician puts into patients' visits. Rural physicians put in as much or even more time, skill, and intensity into a patient visit as do physicians in urban areas. Yet, rural physicians are paid less for their work. This is not only unfair, it is discriminatory.

Nebraska physicians and other health professionals are currently being shortchanged by about \$8.7 million annually in Medicare payments. If a Member represents a rural locality, their District's physicians and skilled health professionals are likely being short-changed as well. Physician work should be valued equally, irrespective of the geographic location of the physician.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to support the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act and asks for language to be included in any comprehensive Medicare reform bill that is considered on the House floor. The legislation would gradually phase-in a floor to adjust the reimbursement upward for rural physicians without lowering pay in other areas.

INTRODUCTION OF FAIRNESS TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Long Beach, CA, Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD to introduce the "Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act." This legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress an appropriate way to recognize and honor Vietnam veterans who died in service of our Nation, but whose names are not listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Our retired colleague, Steve

Horn, championed this legislation in the 107th Congress, and I am honored to carry on his good work.

I was moved when I learned the story of the 74 Navy men who died on the destroyer USS *Frank E. Evans* who are not listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

For those who are not familiar with this story, in the spring of 1969, the destroyer *Evans* sailed from the Port of Long Beach, CA to Vietnam. After experiencing fierce combat off the coast of Vietnam, the *Evans* was sent to a brief training exercise called "Operation Sea Spirit" with over 40 ships of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

On the morning of June 3, 1969, the crew of the *Evans* awoke to the sounds of its hull splitting in half. Inexplicably the Australian carrier, *Melbourne*, had rammed the American destroyer *Evans*. The forward half of the ship sank within 3 minutes, taking 74 sailors with it. Although they were in the South China Sea, these lost sailors have been excluded from the wall because their sunk vessel was just outside the designated combat zone that determines inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

Although these men did not die in direct combat, they were instrumental in forwarding American objectives in Vietnam and participated in conflict just days before the collision that claimed their lives. In reviewing the historical and personal records of the *Evans*, I see a story of valor and patriotism, and, for 74 sailors, the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Mr. Speaker, examining the important role these men played in the Vietnam conflict, I believe my colleagues will agree that those who died deserve the honor of being listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

Unfortunately, the case of the *Evans* does not just pertain to the families of the 74 soldiers who perished in June of 1969. Those who were stationed on the *Evans*, including eastern Connecticut's Bill Thilbeault of Norwich, are proud survivors of the accident and look forward to the day when their shipmates are finally given their recognition of service and sacrifice on the Wall.

My colleague Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD and I believe it is time for the Department of Defense to examine current policies for placement on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall. Our legislation asks for a complete study of the current standards and for an examination of those who died, such as the 74 sailors on the *Evans*, which seem appropriate for inclusion on the wall.

The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act has the support of the Frank E. Evans Association, as well as hundreds of family members across the country, hoping to see loved ones properly recognized. And Senator BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado champions companion legislation in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support and pass this bipartisan and long overdue piece of legislation.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO BRYANNE SALAZAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the accomplishments of Bryanne Salazar of Grand Junction, Colorado. Several years ago, Bryanne founded Mothers Inc. to assist other mothers in the difficult and important task of child rearing and to provide a forum in which mothers around the country could share their advice, experiences and support one another financially and socially.

Mothers Inc. provides many forms of assistance to mothers, including financial aid, job training, food, clothing and opportunities to meet and form bonds with other mothers. Mothers Inc. is a non-profit organization that raises money through bake sales, garage sales, and the sale of t-shirts and aprons. Her efforts truly embody the spirit and greatness of this nation. Through Mothers Inc., Bryanne has contributed greatly to the welfare of many women and children and served as an inspiration to those with whom she has come in contact.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a profound pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Bryanne Salazar, a remarkable woman who has worked to improve the lives of so many families. The children whom Bryanne has helped are the future of this nation and it is comforting to know they are in such good hands. Bryanne, thank you for your many contributions to the mothers and children of Colorado and for your persevering spirit that has inspired so many.

JUNETEENTH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today Texans and people across America celebrate Juneteenth.

On this day in 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended. Two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Texas slaves heard for the first time they were free.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other land on earth like America, but we've had our share of failings. And we've had no greater failing than allowing slavery to exist in the land of the free.

Here we are, 140 years later. And although we have made great progress, we still live in a color conscious society.

We should all remember and aspire to the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King . . . to live in a nation where our children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Juneteenth reminds us to live our lives toward that dream. To make a more perfect Union by making America more free.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies in Cleveland, Ohio.

For more than fifty years, the School of Ukrainian Studies has educated thousands of Americans regarding all facets of the Ukraine—its language, culture, history, customs, religion and art. The School fosters a sense of diversity and continuity between the old country and new and reflects a vital cultural component that defines our Cleveland community—a community that is home to countless Americans whose lifelines originate from points around the world—reaching across borders, time and distance.

The School of Ukrainian Studies ensures that the culture of the Ukraine remains a conscious and vibrant aspect of the fabric of our American community, handed down through the children of each new generation. For decades, Ukrainian immigrants have understood the significance of assimilation, yet they also share an equally strong focus on preserving the ideals and tradition of their beloved Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the administrators and students of the School of Ukrainian Studies of Cleveland, as they celebrate fifty years of Ukrainian education. Cultural diversity is the foundation and light of America—adding color, depth and life to our Cleveland community—bridging old world and new, connecting our past to today. As Americans, our shared commitment to celebrate and preserve our many lands of origin unites us.

RECOGNIZING OF MR. YASHVANT
PATEL AND MATRI, INC.**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Yashvant Patel, and the organization he created, Matri, Inc. Mr. Patel and Matri, Inc. have created a unique and important forum where Gujarati youth can uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner using more modern methods. This forum has been the starting ground for many happy couples, and has provided a much-needed service to America's young Gujarati people.

Mr. Patel founded Matri, Inc. in 1995 with a specific vision of a forum where Gujarati youths could uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner. The first Matri was hosted by Anand Pragati Mandal in Kearny, NJ, and it had less than 100 attendees. In the last nine years the event has grown drastically and become a professional non-profit organization, providing annual conventions with over 300 participants.

Matri serves an important role in the unique Gujarati youth culture. Although it is a mat-

rimonial forum, it does not force ideas of marriage but instead encourages networking and meeting with people who share similar ideas and principles, who may become lifelong friends or even marriage partners in the future. It is their belief that similarities in dharma, poshaak and khorak (religion, dress and food) are necessary to create a successful marriage. Matri allows Gujarati parents to fulfill their duty to pave the way for their children and give them a prosperous and happy life by honoring Gujarati traditions.

Matri is actually the Sanskrit term for friendship, which is a key element in any successful marriage. Since the participants are allowed to meet without the pressure of parents, the event gives them the opportunity to meet other people and develop relationships. Matri estimates that approximately 15 percent of all participants with success each year.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Patel and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past eight years. His organization is doing an enormously important service to an important group of our nation's citizens, and we thank him for it.

LIBERIA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after six years in power and over a decade as a regional warlord there are signs that Liberian President Charles Taylor, one of the worst violators of human rights in the world may be leaving power. On June 17, the Associated Press reported that the Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea committed Taylor to step down as part of a peace agreement with rebel groups fighting his government. Taylor's rule has been marked by human rights violations on a massive scale.

Currently Liberia is enmeshed in a vicious civil war. According to the Associated Press, "The past three years of rebellion have uprooted more than 1.3 million Liberians, sending hundreds of thousands of them fleeing into neighboring countries." His rule has not only brought death and destruction to Liberia but undermined stability throughout West Africa. He sponsored the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, a rebel group which conducted a gruesome campaign of murders, rapes and kidnappings. The RUF became known for chopping off the arms, lips and hands of their victims. Taylor has supported rebel groups in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso as well.

Last week a U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone indicted Taylor accusing him of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law" during Sierra Leone's civil war. As the brave men and women of our armed forces work to bring peace and stability to the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq it is important to point to other victims of human rights abuses in other parts of the world that do not receive as much media attention. The Bush administration has spoken about the importance of promoting human rights and democracy, but has done little to support the aspirations for

freedom on the part of the Liberians despite Liberia's deep historical ties to the United States. We can and should do all that we can to support the peaceful removal from power of Charles Taylor and ensure that he faces the charges brought against him by the U.N.-backed court.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE PARKISON OF UNION CITY, MICHIGAN, EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Union City, MI that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Dianne Parkison teaches history at Union City High School. She is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for the subject and for life itself. In one student's own words, "Not only has Mrs. Parkison taught me a better respect for the struggles that have been endured throughout the history of the United States, she has taught me a lot about life." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Mrs. Parkison's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Dianne Parkison's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teenage tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Dianne Parkison's impact on her students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mrs. Dianne Parkison as a master teacher. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

TRIBUTE TO AVRMC

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a hospital with a long history of service. The Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center in La Junta, Colorado is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and I am honored today to recognize this outstanding facility.

The hospital began as a treatment clinic for tuberculosis 99 years ago, before becoming a full-service hospital in 1928. Although the facility was much smaller and operated under a different name then, it still gave the best quality care possible, just as it does today.

Medicine has changed significantly in the 75 years since the hospital first opened its doors, with numerous innovations improving the manner in which we care for the ill. However, the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center has always kept up-to-date with the latest medical procedures. After 75 years, the Arkansas Valley complex now includes a health clinic, veteran's clinic, and doctor's offices in addition to the hospital itself.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center. Its outstanding care and commitment to the citizens of the Arkansas Valley deserves the praise and recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on 75 great years, and thank you for your service to the people of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO MISS LEONIE BARRETT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to recognize an outstanding young citizen in my district, Miss Leonie Barrett. A thirteen year-old student at the Oliver Street School in Newark, New Jersey, Leonie has certainly made a significant impact on our world community.

In February 2002, Leonie and her classmate Jennifer were introduced to Mr. Harry Ettlinger. A survivor of the Holocaust, Mr. Ettlinger is a participant in the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program, a program that pairs Holocaust survivors with young members of the community. Through this match, the first made in the program which is sponsored by the Holocaust Council of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest, Mr. Ettlinger shared his story with Leonie. To have your voice heard and to continue to remember is a very important aspect of Holocaust history. By continuing to tell their stories, survivors of the Holocaust remind us so that we will never forget, so that history will never repeat itself, and that the voices of those who lost their lives will not be forgotten. Leonie is now a part of this commitment, to tell Mr. Ettlinger's story so that it will not be forgotten.

She has committed to tell that story until 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

To say that Mr. Ettlinger and Leonie have significantly impacted each others lives would seem to not do justice to their relationship. In addition to committing to tell his story, Leonie has also helped to reconnect Mr. Ettlinger with his past and a dear friend, Hanne Hirsch, whom he had not seen or heard from since Nazi occupation of their small town of Karlsruhe, Germany. On a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, Leonie noticed that one of the identity cards that are issued to visitors, recounting the lives of individuals who were involved in the Holocaust, was from Mr. Ettlinger's hometown. The two had been separated for sixty-four years, not knowing the fate of the other. With the help of Leonie the two were reunited and have been able to share their stories with each other and with Leonie.

As a member of the International Relations Committee here in the U.S. House of Representatives and a former Social Studies teacher, I understand the significance of the

relationship between Mr. Ettlinger and Leonie as well as the commitment and dedication both have given to this important and significant personal history. I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives not only join me today in recognizing this tremendous friendship but also in commending Leonie for her own personal dedication to continuing the voice of Mr. Ettlinger and ensuring that the stories of Holocaust survivors are not lost to future generations.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE McDERMOTT SMITH OF SHARON, CT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Catherine McDermott Smith, of Sharon, Connecticut. Catherine was a dedicated citizen and leader in the Sharon community. Her untimely death is an enormous loss to her family and to our entire community.

Catherine Smith and her five-year-old youngest son John Forrester Smith died from injuries sustained in an automobile crash late last summer. They were en route to their home in Connecticut after dropping off her oldest son for freshman orientation at the University of Virginia. Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband Frank Smith, daughters Mary and Katherine and son Tony all of Sharon, Connecticut; her parents Mary and Anthony McDermott of Glen Cove, New York; six brothers, many nieces and nephews. In addition, she is survived by a multitude of friends and associates garnered through the years from her "people oriented love," politics.

A native of Oyster Bay, New York, Cathy graduated from Hofstra University and New York University. She became involved in politics as a child and eventually ran many campaigns and fundraising events. This prompted a move to the Washington area where she started an extremely effective direct mail solicitation company. Her appointments to various state boards and commissions have been numerous. She worked as speech writer, communications director, and chief of staff to numerous national office holders. Having long enjoyed Connecticut's lovely northwest corner as a family vacation spot, she and her family moved there just over 2 years ago. Already she was an active member of the community.

Catherine Smith was an outgoing, articulate, competitive person that demanded much more of herself than of others. She was most capable of analyzing a problem, finding the solution, and then doggedly pursuing the correction until conquered. While firm, she was compassionate and obliging; along with her trademark of a smile, twinkle and a laugh, she was able to unselfishly motivate the people she loved and befriended.

Mr. Speaker it is with sadness that we remember the life and memory of Catherine and her son, Jack. As family and friends mourn their passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Cathy lived. She will be missed.

RECOGNIZING MS. MINNIE LOPEZ-BAFFO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Minnie Lopez-Baffo, the first Latina appointed to serve on the California Contractors State Licensing Board, as she completes her last term on the Board.

As a member of the California Contractors State Licensing Board since 1995, Ms. Lopez-Baffo has worked on legislation and consumer education committees utilizing her knowledge and expertise to educate and protect California consumers. While she served as Board Chair from July 2001 through June 2002, Ms. Lopez-Baffo was known as a fair and impartial leader and a dedicated guardian of the rights of consumers.

Ms. Lopez-Baffo is an exemplarily leader whose diligent work and dedication to her community inspired others to work hard. I am honored to call her my friend and I commend her for her vision and dedication to advocate on behalf of California's consumers.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on July 27th of last year this body made a bipartisan commitment to American workers who lose their jobs on account of international competition.

Part of this commitment was that the government would provide for 65 percent of their healthcare costs.

Another part of this commitment was that an insurer could not deny them coverage on account of their age, pre-existing conditions or any other arbitrary reason.

The bill under consideration today undermines these protections and allow insurers to arbitrarily avoid covering them.

The consumer protections that are law ensure everyone eligible for the tax credit can actually claim it, regardless of their age or health status.

Many who will qualify for the TAA benefit are older workers and retirees who are more likely to have significant health care needs.

Today's bill is particularly awful because it strips healthcare coverage from those who need it most.

This is not the time to revisit TAA, when commitments to the current program share broad bipartisan support and the current law has yet to be fully implemented.

I urge you to oppose this bill and reaffirm your commitment to the American worker.

TO HONOR JUNETEENTH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth. The freedom to have a

family. The freedom to live anywhere. The freedom, simply, to have a last name. Those freedoms arrived June 19, 1865, to black slaves in Texas. While we celebrate Juneteenth in 2003, it is helpful to look back at our history to fully appreciate the great obstacles that many faced in their struggle to pursue life, liberty, and happiness.

While President Abraham Lincoln technically ended the right to own another human being in 1863, most slaves gained their freedom only when Union troops took control of Confederate territory and released them from forced bondage. It took two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation for the Union army to reach Texas. Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and announced to the State's 200,000 slaves that they were free. They immediately erupted into a jubilant celebration, much like the Fourth of July.

Although Juneteenth originated in Texas, it is being celebrated throughout our Nation. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future.

Part of that assessment means looking at where we stand today. Americans, including African-Americans, face ever growing challenges. We face economic crisis and a lack of access to healthcare for millions of Americans. We must work together to make sure that workers make a living wage and that children get the healthcare they need.

As we look ahead, I challenge all of you to take this opportunity, while we honor the rich history of this celebration of freedom, to rededicate ourselves to the value of equal opportunity for all Americans. That is at the heart of Juneteenth and the American ideal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
STRENGTHEN AMERICORPS PROGRAM ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act of 2003, to strengthen the Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps program. This bill will not only address the Corporation's recent accounting problems, but more importantly, it will protect and expand volunteer service opportunities in my State of Maryland and across our Nation. It is identical to S. 1276, which the Senate passed yesterday. S. 1276 was introduced by Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri and my colleague from Maryland, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and I appreciate their leadership. We must act now to save this important program.

The President has asked every American to volunteer in their communities and has made the AmeriCorps program a central vehicle in meeting volunteer needs. The AmeriCorps program can play an important and effective role in improving the lives of many Americans and communities it serves.

But I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned about the potential cuts to the AmeriCorps program. If we fail to

act, next year's Maryland program will be slashed from 452 AmeriCorps members to 52 members. Nationwide the number of AmeriCorps members will be radically cut as well.

Maryland's 8th District, which I am proud to represent, has a highly successful AmeriCorps program, Project CHANGE. Project CHANGE was developed in conjunction with the President of Montgomery College, Charlene Nunley, the Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County, Jerry Weast, and leaders from the County's non-profit, immigrant and business communities. If we don't act, it is likely that Montgomery County will lose Project CHANGE together with the great work that its 20 AmeriCorps members are performing on behalf of our neediest students and families.

TRIBUTE TO TINA ROBLES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Tina Robles of Grand Junction, Colorado just celebrated her 87th birthday, and as her family and friends mark the occasion, I would like to honor Tina here today.

Tina and her family embody the American dream. As Mexican-Americans, Sarah and her late husband Antonia raised their family to believe in the undying spirit of our great nation. They are proud of their dual heritage and have taught their kids that in order to succeed in America you need dedication, patience, and perseverance. At the same time, the family has maintained pride in their culture as Mexican-Americans, enriching this country while celebrating their diverse heritage. Today, Tina is the matriarch of a sizable extended family. With 14 children, 52 grandkids, 60 great-grandchildren, and even 5 great-great-grandkids, there is plenty of love to go around. However, even with so many relatives, Tina holds a special place in each of their hearts—I know they each join me in celebrating her 87 years.

Mr. Speaker, Tina Robles's ability to raise a large, loving, and successful family exemplifies the characteristics that helped build this great country. I am truly honored to recognize her here today. I congratulate Tina for her success, wish her a happy birthday, and thank her for being such an outstanding role model for today's families. So what happened? The reason is simple—last year, the Corporation over-enrolled the AmeriCorps program by more than 20,000 and the Bush Administration took money from the National Service Education Trust, which is used to pay the education stipends of AmeriCorps members following their service. The OMB and GAO have declared that this money must be paid back using the coming year's appropriated funds.

The GAO has identified several factors that led to the Corporation's incorrect accounting practice. The factors included inappropriate obligation practices, little or no communication among key Corporation executives, too much flexibility given to grantees regarding enrollments, unreliable data on the number of AmeriCorps participants, and not following the law in recording its legal liabilities.

This legislation will help address the AmeriCorps problem, at least in the short term. It creates a budgeting mechanism that ensures the Corporation has the funds needed to pay educational awards. Under this bill, the Corporation would be able to enroll about 50,000 AmeriCorps members, without the need for additional funds.

We now know that recording obligations based on the approved level of AmeriCorps members in the program does not reflect the true performance of the program. Not all AmeriCorps volunteers successfully complete service, and not all AmeriCorps members who do complete service use their educational award benefit. Accordingly, this bill allows the Corporation to fund AmeriCorps grants based on estimates of the number of members who will likely complete and use their education award. Further, the bill requires an annual actuarial audit of the National Service Trust to ensure that the Federal Government is able to meet its liabilities. The bill also requires the chief executive officer to certify that the Corporation has properly recorded and tracked its obligations.

We should pass this legislation as quickly as possible. Without it, uncertainty and disagreement will delay and limit the enrollment of AmeriCorps volunteers. Considering the demand and the need for this program, we cannot afford to wait.

But I need to emphasize that this is not a permanent solution. We must restore the proper level of funding to allow AmeriCorps to operate at full strength. We must restore funding for both the National Service Education Trust and the AmeriCorps program. America's communities need AmeriCorps today more than ever, and the talented and dedicated AmeriCorps members need to receive their education stipends following their service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE J.
CAMPBELL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator and dear friend, Dr. Rose J. Campbell. An exceptional constituent and a dedicated member of the education community, Dr. Campbell is a true shining star.

Receiving her Bachelors Degree from Florida A&M University, her Masters in Education from William Patterson College, and her Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Campbell has succeeded in every facet of education. From 1968 to the present, Dr. Campbell has been an active member of the Newark Public School System. Beginning her career as a classroom teacher and moving through the ranks to her current position within the Administration as Assistant Executive Superintendent with a specialty in supervision and curriculum, Dr. Campbell has dedicated her life to education.

In addition to her dedication within the classroom, Dr. Campbell has also involved herself with giving back to the community in many other ways. Dr. Campbell is President of the Florida A&M University Alumni Association New Jersey Chapter, President of the New

Jersey Unit of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc., President of the Board of Directors for Day Nurseries Inc. as well as a member of Trinity/St. Phillips Cathedral Church. In each of her civic and community endeavors, Dr. Campbell makes a difference by her devoted and committed participation.

As a member of the Education & the Workforce Committee here in the U.S. House of Representatives I am extremely aware of the growing need for quality educators in our public school systems. Dr. Campbell sets a shining example for our younger generations of the success they can achieve and of the way in which they too can one day aspire to give back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in saluting Dr. Rose J. Campbell for her many years of dedicated service as an educator and in wishing her the very best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KIM SPALSBURY
OF GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN,
EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Grand Ledge, Michigan that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Mr. Kim Spalsbury teaches government and American literature at Grand Ledge High School. He is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for the subject and for life itself. In one student's own words, "Mr. Spalsbury is dynamic, knowledgeable and puts forth a lot of extra effort." The respect and gratitude of his students speaks well of Mr. Spalsbury's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Kim Spalsbury's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teen-age tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Kim Spalsbury's impact on his students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mr. Kim Spalsbury as a master teacher. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

INTRODUCING THE EMERGENCY
WARNING ACT OF 2003

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation, the Emergency Warning Act of 2003, which would require the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce to ensure that comprehensive, easily understood emergency warnings reach every American who may be at risk in any type of disaster. The bill instructs Commerce and DHS to work with the government agencies that currently issue warnings, with first responders, with private industry, and with the media to ensure that our emergency warning system informs the public when a disaster occurs.

We don't always know when a disaster will occur. However, we do know that we are all at risk for a natural disaster like a hurricane, or a man-made disaster like a terrorist attack. With the advances in technology, we can no longer rely on our televisions or radios to inform us if we need to evacuate our homes or businesses. It's time to utilize the available technology to ensure that all forms of communication are used to inform the public about emergency warnings.

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, we are once again debating a tax bill that hopefully will never see the light of day in the other body. Here in the House, we have repeatedly cut taxes for the wealthiest few, while our deficit has exploded and we have ignored the countless priorities that our nation currently faces.

That's what this debate is really about. It's about priorities. Their priority is to help the wealthiest few. I am proud to say that I do not share the Majority's priorities.

My priorities include our disabled veterans. If we didn't pass this bill, we could possibly pass the concurrent receipt legislation.

My priorities include a fair Child Tax Credit to help the working poor who make between \$10,000 and \$27,000.

My priorities include providing decent housing and a quality education for our military families.

My priorities include a fiscally sound economic growth plan that creates more jobs by building more roads, bridges and updating our crumbling schools.

Unfortunately, by passing H.R. 8, we cannot begin to address the nation's real priorities.

Mr. Speaker, while I support reducing the tax burden on working families whenever possible, I believe H.R. 8 badly misses the mark. As written, H.R. 8 would add \$80 billion per year to the ever-growing federal deficit. While we are permanently eliminating the tax paid on the largest 2 percent of estates, we are

contributing yet again to the exploding national debt—a debt our children and grandchildren must pay. In essence, H.R. 8 is a stealth tax on future generations.

The federal estate tax should be reformed, not repealed. I support the plan offered by Mr. POMEROY of North Dakota that would have provided immediate estate tax relief in a responsible manner. I support Mr. POMEROY's attempt to exempt estates up to \$3 million (and \$6 million for couples) from all federal estate taxes. This plan would exempt 99.6 percent of all estates in the country. In fact, only 400 estates nationwide would pay the estate tax under the Pomeroy plan. Not only is this plan fairer, it would be fully paid for by eliminating unnecessary corporate tax shelters.

Although supporters of H.R. 8 use family farmers and small business owners as the rationale for the bill, this claim is just a myth. There already are special provisions in the tax code to ease the burden on small businesses and family farms. In 1998, only 1.4 percent of all returns that paid the estate tax had farm assets that were taxed. Even with the changes made to the estate tax during the 107th Congress, the Congressional Research Service has estimated that less than one percent of small businesses and farms would be forced to liquidate assets to pay the tax. Our plan would have helped these families. Sadly, H.R. 8 will not.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Pomeroy substitute and no on final passage.

MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newly crowned NCAA Division II Men's Golf Champions, the Francis Marion University Patriots. On May 23, at the Crosswater Golf Club course in Sunriver, Oregon, the Patriots claimed victory in a four-day tournament over 18 of the best golf teams in the country. But, Mr. Speaker, they did not just win. In what can only be described as a true team effort, Francis Marion ran away with the title, ending the tournament with a 3 under par 1,149, which defeated second-place Rollins College by an amazing 14 strokes!

In golf, more so than in other sports, an outstanding team starts with outstanding individuals; and Francis Marion's squad was most definitely a collection of outstanding individuals. The team was led by coach Jonathan Burnett, a native of Florence, South Carolina who just finished his sixth season with the team. The players were anchored by Junior Fredrik Ohlsson from Goteborg, Sweden and Senior Dylan Keylock from Johannesburg, South Africa, who finished fifth and sixth respectively in the individual standings at the National Championship. Also playing key roles on the team were Senior Matt Dura from Sumter, South Carolina, Senior Juan Pablo Bossi from Alta Gracia, Argentina, and Junior Per Hallberg from Ytterby, Sweden, who finished an impressive 14th, 24th, and 44th respectively at the National Championship. Junior Luke Wilcox and Freshmen Adam Hart, Luke Hart, and Battle Hartman also contributed to the team's successes this season.

For their efforts, Ohlsson was chosen to as a first team All American, Dura and Keylock were selected as third team All Americans, and Bossi and Hallberg gained honorable mention recognition. Keylock and Ohlsson also earned Peach Belt Conference All-Conference honors for the second time, and Dura earned Peach Belt Conference All-Tournament Team honors for the second time in three years.

Though these gentlemen excelled on the links, perhaps more impressive was the fact that they simultaneously excelled in the classroom. In addition to their athletic accolades, Ohlsson, Dura, Keylock, and Bossi also earned 2003 academic All-America honors in marketing, management, finance, and business economics respectively. Only two other student athletes from Francis Marion have ever earned both athletic and academic All-America honors in the same year. I am encouraged to know that long after their collegiate golf careers are over, these young men will still be striving as economic leaders in our country. That is truly something worthy of the title "All American".

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to speak to you about these extraordinary young men and their extraordinary achievements. It is truly a privilege to represent a state that turns out such talented students.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CINCINNATI TENNIS CLUB

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cincinnati Tennis Club, which is celebrating its 120th anniversary. The Club was founded in 1880, just 5 years after tennis was introduced in the United States. It has a rich history.

The Cincinnati Tennis Club played a central role in making the sport of tennis a success in our Nation, and has operated from its East Walnut Hills location for over 100 years. It was one of our nation's first venues for tennis, and, because of its historic impact on the game, was listed in 1983 in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior for its leadership in the development and advancement of the sport of tennis in Cincinnati and the Ohio Valley Area.

Over the years, the Club has been the place where several nationally and internationally recognized tennis players, including legendary greats such as Tony Trabert and Bill Talbert, developed their games. The Club also has been the home club for numerous leaders of the sport and leaders of our country, including William Howard Taft, 27th President of the United States and later Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Potter Stewart, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; and Neil McElroy, Secretary of Defense in the Eisenhower administration.

The Club has hosted a number of tournaments and events for the Cincinnati area. For 28 years, it has served as the venue for the National Father and Son Clay Court Championships and also served as the original home of what became the ATP Masters

Tournament, one of the top professional men's tennis events in the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Cincinnati Tennis Club has had a significant, positive impact on the sport of tennis and the Cincinnati area. We are proud to have had such a distinguished club in our area for the past 120 years and look forward to many more years. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing its unique and invaluable contributions to the game and Cincinnati community.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY DENIRO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize an outstanding educator from my district. Dr. Kathy DeNiro of Pueblo, Colorado is my state's recipient of the 2003 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals Middle Level Principal of the Year Award. Kathy's peers selected her for the award based on her leadership, ability to solve problems, developmental skills, and community service.

Kathy has worked as a teacher and administrator in her school district since 1975 and has served as principal of Corwin Middle School in Pueblo since 1999. In addition, Kathy doubles as Director of Middle Schools in her district. Her dedication to her profession, her students, and her community is extraordinary. A visionary leader, Kathy's innovations at Corwin Middle School include a math and reading program, an academic and recreational-based after-school program, a discipline program, and an academic center for at-risk students with reading problems.

Mr. Speaker, the students at Corwin Middle School include many impoverished, minority youth. Kathy DeNiro's innovation and hard work has greatly improved their chance of success in the classroom and in life. Kathy has made Pueblo and the state of Colorado proud, and I am truly honored to recognize her here today. Congratulations, Kathy, and good luck with your future endeavors.

COMMITMENT TO WORLD PEACE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my commitment to world peace and to stress the importance of establishing dialogue and understanding among all people. It is in recognition of this need that on Tuesday, June 24th, at 6:30 p.m. in Rayburn room B3338-340, the American Leadership Initiative will hold a special awards ceremony to honor great Americans from all 50 states who have demonstrated a commitment to peace.

Many of my prestigious colleagues will join with me and co-chair Congressman KURT WELDON in giving tribute to some of the outstanding Americans from our districts. Members of the clergy, legislators, educators, and business and community leaders will be

among those honored with the "Ambassadors for Peace Award—Excellence in Leadership" award. These committed citizens have been working to renew and strengthen our families and marriages, restore our communities, and rebuild our nation and world. We are grateful to the founders of the Ambassadors for Peace, the Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, for promoting the vision of world peace and we commend them for their work.

These Ambassadors for Peace have become increasingly effective and relevant in their communities since the tragedy of 9/11. They have been working together to promote understanding among all faiths, particularly with Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders. With the realization that many of the tensions currently facing the world cannot be addressed without consideration of the religious implications involved, the Ambassadors for Peace have formed an American Interreligious Council. This council seeks to support and advise our Nation's leaders concerning the issues and challenges of seeking lasting peace. The American Interreligious Council is also a part of the effort to create an international council of religious leaders. The members of this council will support the leaders of the United Nations as they work to resolve conflicts throughout the world. This body will provide a direct link between international leaders and the various religious peoples in their constituencies. This will help to ensure that peace agreements are embraced by the diverse communities these leaders represent.

Today, though crisis is at our doorstep, we must maintain an unwavering hope for peace. It has become clear that the establishment of a lasting peace throughout the world will only come to full fruition through the ongoing dialogue and cooperation of religious and political leaders. The Ambassadors for Peace are working tirelessly to bring about international cooperation and are to be commended for their leadership in this great effort.

INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF JUNIOR ANTHONY FRANCIS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private bill to make Junior Anthony Francis a permanent resident of the United States to put an end to deportation proceedings that are pending against him by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE).

Junior has lived in the United States for 40 years and has six American-born children. He has been working and supporting his family and living as normal a life as anyone else. He is being considered for deportation not because of any crime that may be part of his past, but because after many years it was discovered that his immigration papers are not in order. But Junior had taken steps, in good faith, to make sure his papers were in order. He may have received bad legal advice that brought him to this point, but he certainly should not be deported because of it.

It is absolutely wrong to deport Junior and break up his family, who are the real victims

in this matter. That is why I am fighting for him. Junior's employer has recruited a new legal team with whom I have been working to keep Junior and his family together in the United States.

We should pass this bill to prevent this injustice from breaking up Junior's family. At the very least, I hope introducing this private bill will help convince federal authorities to be lenient in this case because it is the right thing to do.

TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTY OF MARQUETTE ON RECEIVING THE ALL-AMERICAN CITY AWARD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, perhaps you know of my fondness for spending as much time as possible in my First Congressional District of Michigan, which I can, without any bias whatsoever, say is the most beautiful in the nation.

I rise today to give special recognition to one community in my district, Marquette, which lies on the southern shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On June 14, 2003, Marquette County was selected as one of ten communities in the United States to receive an All-America City designation from the National Civic League at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The National Civic League has been recognizing civic excellence for 53 years and evaluates how well a community exemplifies grass roots citizen involvement and cross-sector problem solving requiring collaboration among citizens, government, business and nonprofit organizations.

Marquette County was one of thirty candidates who sent hundreds of delegates to Washington to compete in hearings before ten All-America City judges. Forty of those delegates represented Marquette.

While Marquette County is not technically a city, its civic programs and civic efforts are not limited by city-county boundaries. The collaboration that was so important to Marquette's success in the All-America City competition is county wide.

In addition to a well organized substantive presentation, the Marquette delegation also included the Lake Superior Theatre Association which presented dramatic vignettes of cultural life in current day Marquette and Marquette history. The delegation also serenaded the judges, impressing them with enthusiasm and harmony, literally and as a demonstration of the harmonious civic cooperation that was recognized in their selection.

The judges noted that Marquette County's presentation contained more substance than hype, according to Marquette Mining Journal managing editor David Edwards. They cited programs such as the Marquette Medical Care Access Coalition and juvenile restorative justice efforts in announcing their decision.

Marquette's efforts were spear-headed by the Lake Superior Community Partnership, whose chairman, Monsignor Louis Cappelletti accepted the award in front of a cheering crowd.

Mr. Speaker, this award shows how strong Marquette County's civic spirit is. The true

measure of community is not necessarily coffee bars, good restaurants and well lit streets, although Marquette has all of those. Nor is it natural beauty and a close connection between people and their environment, although Marquette has that in huge measure.

Rather, the best example of true community is shown by Marquette County's programs that help people live happy, productive and engaged lives, supported by and supporting their neighbors. Marquette County's richness in these efforts made it possible for this small, thinly populated piece of God's Country to be named an All-America City in its very first attempt.

I have co-sponsored a House Concurrent Resolution congratulating Marquette County and all ten of the All-America cities for their efforts and successes. It is a small token of recognition for a very large effort. All of Marquette County should be proud.

I certainly am. I ask that my House colleagues join me in extending congratulations to Marquette County, a 2003 All-America City.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. AL BEST

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to salute Al Best as he is being honored at the "Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet" on June 22, 2003. He is being recognized for his tireless activism and community service on behalf of San Diego's Gay and Lesbian community.

Al was born and raised in Colorado, was hired at the age of 18 by United Airlines, and in 1960 became United's Regional Convention Representative. During this time, he received his BS degree at the University of Colorado. In 1963, Al joined Frontier Air Lines as Southwest Regional Manager, based in Albuquerque, and two years later, he was named to the New Mexico State Aviation Board. He received his Masters' Degree from the University of New Mexico and his Ph.D from New Mexico State University.

When Al first arrived in San Diego in 1975, he immediately became active in the community by volunteering and raising money for outstanding organizations such as The Center and the Metropolitan Community Church. He was one of the founders of Stepping Stone, a non-profit alcohol and drug recovery agency. In 1979, he made history by being the first openly gay person to run for the San Diego City, Council. Even though he was largely outspent and out raised by his opponents, he finished 5th out of 11 in the campaign.

In 1985, Al became the first president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. In 1989, he was the first openly gay person appointed to San Diego's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He was also a member of Mayor Maureen O'Connor's Violent Crime Task Force. In 1990, he was the first openly gay person sworn into the San Diego Civil Service Commission and became its first openly gay president in 1992. In 1993, he was a co-chair for the Human Rights Campaign milestone March on Washington. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of Something Special Food Pantry, a volunteer organization that distributes food to men, women, children and families who have HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Al Best has set an outstanding precedent for gay and lesbians in San Diego and has paved the way for future generations to come. He is truly one of the best in San Diego. I offer my congratulations to him on being honored at the "Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet."

TRIBUTE TO STEVE MOORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Steve Moore, a police officer from Grand Junction, Colorado whose optimism and courage have rightfully garnered him the Optimist Officer of the Year Award. Steve has spent most of his adult life serving his community, working with determination to protect his fellow citizens in Grand Junction.

Steve has been involved in law enforcement for 17 years, and has spent the last five with the Grand Junction Police Force. Steve loves working as a member of the Motor Department because he enjoys being around people and spending his time outdoors. Fellow officer Sergeant David Krouse, who describes Steve as an excellent officer, coach, co-worker, friend, and father, nominated him for the Optimist Officer of the Year.

When not protecting the streets of Grand Junction, Steve volunteers his time to make a difference in the community. He is currently developing a safe-driving program for local high schools in hopes of educating teens as they take the wheel. In an effort to improve community safety, Steve instructs traffic violators in a program called Traffic School. When not teaching Traffic School, Steve spends much of his time with teenagers, and relishes the positive impact he makes on their lives. With a role model like Steve, teens become confident in their ability to make the right choice the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Steve Moore. His hard work and determination in the Grand Junction community have helped create safer streets and smarter students. Steve certainly deserves the respect and admiration of this body and it is clear he is deserving of the Optimist Officer of the Year Award. Thank you Steve, for your outstanding service to the community.

IN HONOR OF MR. LLOYD
MONSERRATT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SOLIS, and myself, rise today with emotions mixed with fond memories and profound sadness to pay tribute to a dear friend and people's champion, Mr. Lloyd Monserratt. Six months ago, on January 9, 2003, Lloyd unexpectedly passed away. His loss was a sudden and tragic one for all of

us—we lost an inspirational leader. This upcoming Sunday, June 22, 2003, we will have an opportunity to remember Lloyd and honor his life when the community gathers to break ground for The Lloyd Monserratt Pleasant House, a transitional living program designed to prevent foster youth from becoming homeless by providing them with a stable and secure environment; a fitting tribute to a great man.

After 36 short but accomplished years of life, Lloyd Monserratt is survived by his mother, Olga Monserratt; his brother, Ernie Monserratt; his grandmother Consuelo Recalde; and his fiancée, Michele Ramos. Lloyd was predeceased by his father, Carlos Monserratt.

Those of us who are fortunate to have called Lloyd friend remember him as a man who had passion for life, as a gentle man, and as someone who was always there for you with an enormous smile and a warm embrace. He devoted his life to helping others in the greater Los Angeles area and across the country. By using politics as a vehicle for change, Lloyd labored tirelessly to empower poor and underrepresented individuals to work together and make a difference in their own communities. Lloyd treated everyone with respect and made it his personal mission to provide opportunities, training and jobs for youth. Through his work and boundless love, Lloyd gave life to countless people. The lessons Lloyd shared and example he set will continue to live on—through the many family members, friends, young people, community activists and elected officials whose lives Lloyd touched—long after he has left us.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all who loved and respected him, we respectfully submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following tribute to Lloyd Monserratt, shared by his family at his funeral on January 18, 2003 at All Souls Church in Alhambra, CA.

Los Angeles has lost an angel—Lloyd Monserratt, altar boy, eagle scout, soccer coach, umpire, community organizer, chief of staff, and young political leader.

Lloyd Monserratt, the child of Carlos and Olga Monserratt, was born on December 3, 1966 at California Hospital in Los Angeles, California. A love and respect for the community was instilled in Lloyd early in life. As a 9-year old, Lloyd attended his first protest alongside his father in his hometown of Alhambra.

Lloyd was born to lead; he ran his first political campaign while in the seventh grade where he was successful in getting himself elected to be All Souls Elementary School Student Body President. As a boy scout, he reached the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop #203, and while in college Lloyd became one of the few Latino USAC Presidents at UCLA. An active member of the University of California Student Association, he organized students across the state.

Lloyd was a role model. He was an altar boy at All Souls Church. He was a member of several of All Souls' sports teams. He played T-ball, little league, and West Valley AYSO soccer. Lloyd was the assistant coach of his brother Ernie's soccer team. He later became a little league umpire for several years for West Alhambra Little League. As an All Souls Panther, Lloyd earned MVP honors for "B" basketball and took his team to the city championship.

Lloyd attended Saint Francis High School where he was an honor student. As a senior in high school, Lloyd applied to only one college—UCLA. Lloyd was proud to be a Bruin.

He was a leader in the student movement, as a student commissioner and later student President, and as a MEChA leader and co-founder of MEChA class.

Lloyd was the community. He created the Parents Institute while working for Los Angeles School Board Member Vicki Castro, and designed the National Association for Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) national program for newly elected and appointed officials. Widely respected and admired by all who met him, Lloyd gave people the tools to change their lives. He made a difference in the lives of youth, seniors, and residents across the state. A community organizer and political veteran, he managed and directed political campaigns from San Diego to San Francisco and beyond. As a Latino Campaign Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he led all six of his congressional candidates to victory simultaneously. As a chief of staff to Los Angeles City Councilman Nick Pacheco, he impacted countless people across the eastside and northeast Los Angeles. Lloyd can be remembered as a motivator, a peace keeper, a visionary, and a gentle man. Lloyd was the heart of the district, and the heart of Councilman Pacheco's office. He was the visionary, the mover, the motivator and the implementer.

Lloyd made a lasting impact on everyone he met. Lloyd accomplished more in 36 years than many others accomplish in three lifetimes. Lloyd was a leader of his generation. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, the voice of family always speaks with conviction and from the heart. The sentiments expressed by Lloyd's family are also ours. We, too, know them to be true. We wish to thank Father Richard Estrada of Jovenes, Inc., for our newly named The Lloyd Monserratt Pleasant House. June 22 offers us another chance to commemorate the life of our friend Lloyd Monserratt.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that all of our colleagues join with us today to salute Mr. Lloyd Monserratt and honor his life. He will forever remain in our thoughts.

TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE FIELDS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 14, 2003, at the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner in Cleveland, OH, Camille Fields, the daughter of Helen and Darryl Fields and the granddaughter of Mary and George Forbes, President of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP, delivered the following address:

"Imagine 250 years ago: you must get up at 5:00 a.m. to go to the fields and farm. After farming, you go home at about 7 or 8:00 p.m. Can't imagine it? Well this was the normal life of an African-American slave during the antebellum period. Day in and day out, African-Americans worked harder than anyone of us will probably ever know. Enslaved in the slave trade, black slaves brought to the Americas spent their days working, picking cotton, farming and cooking for their white masters. Despite their everlasting work and the building of America, African-Americans were never paid the dues that they were owed. Payments or reparations should be given to African-American slave descendants for that painful period in history that some people want to forget, but should always remember.

"Reparations are payments to repair or right the wrongs of past injustices. African-Americans are owed reparations because of the work and pain that they had to endure during and after slavery. Reparations have been around since emancipation. A form of reparations was the idea of 40 acres and a mule. This was the idea that all slaves would receive 40 acres and mule after slavery to get them started for their own lives. Slavery and its benefactor, the white masters hurt black Americans. To this day, black Americans are living the legacy of slavery. In slavery, if blacks were to refuse to work or proceed to run away, they were punished. The form of punishment was almost always beatings or being whipped. Slavery was a horrible time for the black race, there were 250 years of pain and labor with no compensation for it and that is not fair. Slavery was, 'America's Black Holocaust.' Because of the effect slavery has brought on to African-Americans, blacks deserve to be compensated. After all, everyone else has.

"In 1987, people began to hear the word reparations a lot, but the discussion was not directed towards benefiting African-Americans. Instead, the United States government passed a law to conduct a national apology to Japanese-Americans and to pay them \$20,000 apiece for their internment during World War II. The Japanese-Americans are not the only ones who received reparations. Last year, European insurance companies were allowing Holocaust survivors to apply for reparations; \$275 million are being split up into accounts. Of this, 100 million will be for expenses and other 175 million will be available for Holocaust survivors and charities. This agreement will be fully enforced at the end of next year. Seven-thousand, eight-hundred forty-four people have made claims for Holocaust reparations in Germany and 18,200 people have made claims in other European countries. Israel Singer, the chairman of the World Jewish Congress stated, 'this is a great victory for justice. This is part of a massive effort at restitution that is very late, but fortunately not too late for hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors still alive, many of whom are in great need.' Jewish and Japanese people have been compensated for the past injustices done against their religion and race, so many African-Americans are raising the question, 'Why haven't I been compensated for slavery?' So as a result many African-Americans go to court.

"Reparations Activist Deadria Farmer-Paellman has been the spokesperson for African-Americans who are suing various corporations for their part in slavery. She files lawsuits against companies and as Paellman states, 'These are corporations that benefited from stealing people, from stealing labor, from forced breeding, from torture, from committing numerous horrendous acts and there's no reason why they should be able to hold onto assets they acquired through such horrendous acts.'

"In one lawsuit, Aetna Insurance Company is being held accountable for the act of insuring white masters, if their slaves ran away. They have apologized for insuring masters with money for their slaves. In 1998, Imari Obadele and two other people filed a claim that slavery was worse than Japanese internment and blacks should be paid. Their claim was turned down. The judge ruled against them, Chief Judge Lawrence Baskir of the

U.S. Court of Federal Claims wrote 'make no mistake, the plaintiffs have made a powerful case for redress that could form the basis of future legislation providing for reparations for slavery.' In the late 1990s, President Clinton played with the idea of reparations and an apology, but he rejected it.

"Every year, the government does nothing to help out and further the idea of reparations, but one city is making a change toward the better. Last year on October 2, 2002, history was made in Chicago. The Chicago Council passed a law called the Slavery Era Insurance Disclosure. This law was the first one of its kind for a well known city. With the law, before they do business with the city, companies will have to disclose their ties with slavery. This law could affect anyone's company who can trace their ties back to slavery. Here in Cleveland, NAACP president George Forbes wants to have that same law passed here. His proposal wasn't asking for money, but as he states, 'We're not advocating reparations, we just want to discuss it. We want to take it out of the emotional context and show how slavery goes into all corners of Cleveland life.' Many people are advocating and pushing the need for reparations, because so many people need them.

"Some people might raise the question, 'is black poverty the legacy of slavery?' Well it is. After slavery, African-Americans had to start their lives from scratch and they were poor and uneducated. So the cycle continues from one generation to another. The poverty rate is higher for African-Americans than for other minorities. The rate has stayed the same since the last census. Twenty-two point seven percent of African-Americans are living in poverty. While the poverty rate for whites is 7.8 percent. Black people still suffer from economic, political and social falls from slavery. Martin J. Katz, author of *The Economics of Discrimination* says, 'Whites will be allowed to retain an advantage, which they did not earn and blacks will continue to lag behind as a result of acts which, although they may not be amenable to documentation, no one denies were performed in contempt of individuality. Racism has made race relevant to productivity. Treating race as if it were irrelevant will not help to make it any less relevant.' Slavery's everlasting mark is black poverty, so therefore, because of slavery and its dent on society, African-Americans deserve reparations.

"The saying 'let bygones be bygones' is often referred to the subject of reparations and slavery. The excuses include 'it ended 140 years ago before any of us were born,' or 'There's nothing I can do about it; my family never owned slaves.' But did people say that in 1987 when the government had to pay Japanese Americans? Would anyone say, 'I was never really there when the Japanese were interned, so why should I have to pay them.' I believe the answer would be no. And no one has actually taken the heat for slavery. No one has even acknowledged the aftermath, even today. Some people just don't know how to go about giving reparations. Some ideas were to setup a trust fund that would be used for economic and educational resources. Whites benefited from slavery while at the same time, blacks didn't. In a recent poll conducted by blackvoices.com, 75.4 percent believed that reparations should be given to African-Americans.

"Reparations are a growing movement in today's society. The government should pay Af-

rican-Americans the money that they are owed. Even though millions of dollars will not make up for the past injustices of America, reparations is a start toward the better. African-Americans went through hell 250 years ago. America needs to understand that. Reparations should be an obligation to America, not a privilege for African-Americans."

Camille is a student at Hawken school. She prepared this presentation for her chapel talk.

JAMES G. MILLS' RETIREMENT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize James G. Mills' retirement as Chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). My colleagues may recall when I recognized my constituent Mr. Mills when he first became Chairman of NAFCU in June of 2000. With more than 37 years' experience in the credit union community, there is no doubt in my mind that our good friends at NAFCU will feel a great void once Mr. Mills steps down.

As a long time resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mr. Mills has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Three Rivers Federal Credit Union since 1985. For the past three years, Mr. Mills has been balancing his time as NAFCU Chair in addition to his leadership at Three Rivers FCU. However, one element has remained constant—he has always given selflessly of his time to promote and enhance the lives of credit union members in the great State of Indiana, as well as across the nation. Mr. Mills facilitated financial literacy education for the underserved in the Fort Wayne area and across Indiana's 3rd District. He has always championed efforts to provide financial services to all communities.

As Chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mr. Mills worked tirelessly to enhance the federal credit union charter by working with Congress for regulatory relief legislation for credit unions. He has also helped maintain NAFCU's status as a leading credit union trade association.

I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Mills on all of his fine work throughout his tenure as Chairman of NAFCU. I have worked with Mr. Mills on issues that are important to the credit union community in the past and I am committed to continuing to do so. Congratulations to Jim Mills on his retirement from the NAFCU Board. Please join me in thanking Jim for his many years of dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a business that has given more than 50 years of service to the community of Mesa County, Colorado.

Colorado Federal Credit Union is a non-profit organization that provides the citizens of Mesa County with essential banking services. Colorado recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary and I am happy to recognize its service to the Mesa Community today.

Colorado first opened its doors in 1953 and was built to serve employees of the Colorado Raw Materials Office. The company then grew to accommodate all federal employees and eventually opened its doors to all Mesa County residents in 2002. Since then, the company has continued to grow and recently opened a new state of the art building.

The Credit Union operates with a unique ownership system: when customers open an account, they pay a fee that makes them a part owner. This allows Colorado to better serve its customers because of its non-profit, customer-owned status. The company stands by its mission statement, which is "to build lifelong member relationships based on quality service, integrity, solid financial management and education." With hard work and dedication, Colorado has become an exemplary member of the Colorado business community.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to recognize the Colorado Federal Credit Union. Its customer owned philosophy has provided the people of Mesa County with excellent service for many years. Congratulations on 50 years of service.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR
H.R. 2518, THE VETERANS AFFAIRS
REORGANIZATION ACT
OF 2003

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2518, the "Veterans Affairs Reorganization Act of 2003". This bill would make organizational changes in several programs for veterans in order to improve the delivery of vital benefits and services to America's former servicemen and women.

The first two sections of this legislation provide for the consolidation and improvement of programs to assist homeless veterans. Specifically, Section 2 of the bill would create a new office in the Department of Veterans Affairs to manage a number of assistance programs for homeless veterans. Section 3 of the bill would transfer the functions of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program from the Department of Labor to Department of Veterans Affairs and include this program in the responsibilities of the newly created office.

There are at least a quarter-million homeless veterans on the streets of America every night. With the passage of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, Public Law 107-95, Congress established a goal to end chronic homelessness among veterans within 10 years. More than 2 years have passed since the President signed our legislation into law, but in this Committee's oversight activities we find that the Department of Veterans Affairs is making insufficient progress to achieve this ambitious goal.

Today, VA provides a range of services for homeless veterans including outreach, case

management, clinical care, residential treatment and rehabilitation, managed residential placement, care for serious mental illnesses and substance-use disorders and supported housing. However, the delivery of these services has been hindered by a lack of focus and direction within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and frankly, a lack of will to commit the necessary funding to accomplish this mission.

The legislation I am introducing today would create a new Office of Homeless Veterans Assistance Programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Director of this office would be given authority to consolidate and coordinate all homeless assistance services to help homeless veterans get back on their feet with a hand up, not a hand-out. The new Office of Homeless Veterans Assistance would be enhanced by transferring the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, a program now embedded in the Department of Labor, into VA. This transfer of responsibility for program administration would enable VA to better coordinate health care, financial benefits and employment services for homeless veterans. By moving all programs specifically designed for homeless veterans into VA and consolidating them, we expect to deliver better services in a more timely and cost-efficient manner.

Finally, Section 4 of this legislation would transfer the operational responsibility for the Military Personnel Records facility of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Approximately 80 million military records are on file at NPRC, located in the federal records repository in St. Louis, Missouri. For the last 25 years, each service branch has been producing microfilm of each record and more recently has been keeping records on microfiche. The NPRC has been a source of major frustration for the Veterans Benefits Administration which has a daily need to search these records to help veterans establish claims for disability and other benefits.

While the NPRC has made good faith efforts to be responsive to VA, it continues to fall short of providing VA with timely and reliable records retrieval. As a consequence, VA's claims process has been delayed, and disabled veterans wait months, sometimes years, for service medical records or other information before their records are found. For the week ending June 6, 2003, VA had 3,051 requests pending for more than 30 days and 3,432 requests pending for more than 90 days. This is simply unacceptable.

My legislation would transfer responsibility for managing the NPRC to VA. The National Archives, which currently has final responsibility for maintenance of vital federal records, would be required to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assume the day-to-day management of the NPRC. Once this transfer of management responsibility is completed, VA will be in a better position to control its own fate in processing veterans' disability claims, and in turn, Congress will be able to hold one executive agency accountable for responsiveness to these disabled veterans who have waited far too long for the resolution of their claims.

Mr. Speaker, I believe these changes will improve the delivery of benefits and services to our nation's veterans. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will carefully

study this legislation and join with me in this effort.

HONORING TALMAGE V. BURKE
FOR OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF ALHAMBRA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Talmage Burke. In the year that marks the City of Alhambra's 100th anniversary, Mayor Talmage Burke is setting a record of his own. On May 27, the 85-year old Talmage Burke took the oath of office as the Mayor of Alhambra for the 15th time. This achievement affords him the longest record of publicly elected service of any official in the State of California and certainly one of the longest records of public servitude in the Nation.

Talmage Burke was born in November 1917 and graduated from Alhambra High School in 1935. He went on to USC, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued his studies at USC Law School, graduating with Juris Doctor and Masters of Laws degrees. Prior to being elected to the Alhambra City Council in 1952, he served as the city's first prosecutor and deputy city attorney.

The Burke family has served the City of Alhambra for over 70 of its nearly 100 years. Talmage Burke, a life-long resident of Alhambra, lives with his wife, of 45 years Lisa, in the same house that his father, Montivel A. Burke, built in 1927.

One of the most outstanding and well-known civic accomplishments of Talmage Burke was his involvement in the lowering of the railroad tracks in Alhambra during the mid-1970s. Along with the improved system of tracks, the nearby Alhambra Municipal Golf Course gained an addition of nine holes from the excavated soil from the lowered tracks.

As a member of the Rotary Club, he has a record of perfect attendance for the past 52 years! He has served as President of the San Gabriel Valley Bar Association and is the Founding Director of the Legal Aid and Public Defender Program of the San Gabriel Valley. He was also a Trustee of the University of Redlands for 18 years.

Talmage Burke and his wife have two children: a son, Montivel A. Burke II, an attorney, and a daughter, Karen M. Brown, R.N. The Burkes also have six grandchildren.

It is with great pleasure that I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Honorable Talmage V. Burke for his truly remarkable and lifelong dedication to the City of Alhambra.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOTCHKISS ELKS
LADIES AUXILIARY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the Hotchkiss

Elks Ladies Auxiliary, who have served their community in Colorado for over 50 years. The women of the Hotchkiss Elks Ladies Auxiliary have worked hard to create a friendly, positive atmosphere in their community and I am proud to pay tribute to them here today.

Through many years of distinguished service, the Ladies Auxiliary have contributed to all aspects of their community, raising and contributing money to Laradon Hall, the Sunshine School, various clothing drives, the March of Dimes, a cancer fund, a polio fund, the AIDS project, and the Hotchkiss High School Band. They also put on several community parties, allowing citizens the opportunity to relax and have some fun over the holidays.

The ladies have done more for their community than raise money; they have provided the town of Hotchkiss with the opportunity to have fun. Their hard work and dedication produces events that entertain the community, helping to bring joy into the lives of its residents. They are famous for their Christmas and Halloween parties. They have Easter egg hunts, Chili cookouts, and a Charity Ball.

Mr. Speaker, the Hotchkiss Elks Ladies Auxiliary has provided my district with over 50 years of selfless service. Their distinguished efforts in the Hotchkiss community are certainly deserving of praise before this body and this nation. I am honored to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hotchkiss Elks Ladies Auxiliary and congratulate them on 50 years of outstanding contribution.

RESULTS OF THE ATTACK ON IRAQ: WHAT HAVE WE DISCOVERED?

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, (1) After more than two months of searching, no Weapons of Mass Destruction have been discovered in Iraq. While it is not impossible that something may be discovered, the fact that no WMD were used during the war and none have yet been discovered afterward indicates that Iraq did not pose a threat to the United States.

(2) Assuming that no WMD are discovered in Iraq, it appears that Iraq may have actually been following the various UN resolutions that demanded the destruction of this weapons material.

(3) Before the attack on Iraq, it was claimed that Iraq would destroy its oil wells. Though some explosives may have been found at some sites, it is clear that there was no co-ordinated Iraqi effort to demolish its oil facilities.

(4) Before the attack, it was claimed that the Iraqi government would blow up dams to slow down invading troops. It did not do so.

(5) Despite claims before the attack, there is no evidence of sustained, high-level contacts between the Iraqi government and the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

(6) US troops and defense planners were shocked that the Iraqi army simply melted away as the US attack pressed toward Baghdad. An army that cannot even defend its own territory is hardly a threat to its neighbors—or to the United States 6,000 miles away.

(7) Considering the apparent lack of WMD and the total failure of the Iraqi army, claims

that Iraq was a threat to United States national security appear to have been inaccurate. I publicly doubted such claims before the attack.

(8) Ending Saddam Hussein's rule over Iraq hasn't solved much. Even with Saddam removed from power, we are told that that "regime change" as such is not enough: there must be a "process" of regime change where the end-goal is to remake Iraq and Iraqi society in our own image. This is otherwise known as "nation-building."

(9) Chaos and lawlessness prevails across Iraq. There is no functioning police force other than American troops. Anger toward the United States occupying force continues to increase.

(10) There is little chance of anything resembling democracy emerging in Iraq any time soon. Any real "democracy" that emerges will likely have a fundamentalist Islamic flavor and will be hostile to other religious and ethnic groups in Iraq.

(11) American soldiers are still getting killed on a regular basis. More organized forces seeking to kill American troops appear to be springing up across Iraq. Frustration with the American occupation of Iraq seems to be adding to the ranks of these organized anti-occupation forces, multiplying the threat to American troops.

(12) There are more US troops being sent to Iraq now that major hostilities have ended. Troops that were supposed to be coming home have been told they must remain in Iraq because of the continued chaos and danger to American forces.

(13) Though it was claimed before the US attack that proceeds from the sale of Iraqi oil would be sufficient to rebuild the country, it is now obvious that this will not be the case. The brunt of the burden of Iraqi reconstruction will therefore fall on the American taxpayer. Much of the damage is the result of our own bombing of that country.

(14) At a time when the US economy continues to falter, costs of occupation and reconstruction of Iraq have skyrocketed. Money spent rebuilding Iraq is money not available to help the US economy recover.

(15) The credibility of the United States overseas is at an all time low.

(16) The US intelligence community is being increasingly questioned over the quality of intelligence provided, while others suspect that the intelligence provided had been manipulated somewhere in the process to support a pre-determined policy.

(17) Hatred toward the United States is on the increase in the Arab world, making terrorism more likely against us than before the attack—as the CIA predicted.

(18) Nation-building—from creating a health-care system to organizing trash pick-up to running the Iraqi media—has become our number one goal in Iraq.

(19) Yet, supporters of this war are already planning for the next war—possibly against Iran, Syria, North Korea, Cuba . . . or who knows where . . .

(20) In Washington, a foreign policy of non-interventionism, as advanced by the Founders and supported by the Constitution, is not considered a reasonable option, though millions of Americans would welcome it.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT CONGRESS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. Con. Res. 43, expressing the sense that Congress should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for working Americans.

As we recognize National Home Ownership Month this June, I believe that the "Congress Building America" program will go a long way toward improving the lives of our constituents. In the spirit of President Carter's Habitat for Humanity, this legislation inspires volunteerism. When people see their public servants living up to that title and building houses side by side with the people who will be living in them, they will want to help others provide decent housing for those in need.

My wife, Amy, and I look forward to leading by example and showing our children how working together can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our fellow Americans. Expanding the "Congress Building America" program beyond Washington to each of our districts is an important goal toward helping Americans find decent shelter and owning their own homes.

My district is home to thousands of historic bungalows, many of which, sadly, are in disrepair. I am working with public and private agencies to provide bungalow owners with both financial and technical assistance to restore their homes. These bungalows are not only a national treasure, but also one of few affordable choices for thousands of homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of S. Con. Res. 43 and continue supporting improved access to affordable housing in America.

TRIBUTE TO MILLIE HARMON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Millie Harmon of Lake City, Colorado. Millie will soon retire from the National Weather Service, where she has been a distinguished volunteer for the past 30 years. As she nears her retirement, I would like to recognize her many years of service to her community.

Millie began her career with the National Weather Service at the same time that her husband Hal was embarking on his position as the Superintendent of Santa Maria Reservoir. At the Weather Service, Millie was responsible for measuring and reporting several important weather statistics, including precipitation amounts and snow depth. Millie then began to measure the depth, runoff, and water speed of the Lake Fork River. Millie always worked her hardest to provide the Weather

Service with accurate information. She was known to snowshoe into the mountains to get her readings, a difficult task at well over 9,000 feet. For her dedication and many years of hard work, she was recently honored with a certificate of achievement from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to recognize the accomplishments of Millie Harmon. Her hard work and dedication provided the Weather Service with important, accurate information. Volunteering is a noble calling, and Millie's 30 years with the Weather Service is truly a very impressive accomplishment. Thank you, Millie, for the service you have provided our community.

JUNETEENTH, 2003

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the United States Army rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order 3, informing the state of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Thus, more than two months after the surrender at Appomattox, the last slaves in the Confederacy were granted their freedom. The Civil War was over, America was one nation again, and Lincoln's rebirth of freedom was realized.

Every year since, Americans of all races have celebrated the events of that date, a holiday that has come to be known as Juneteenth.

Though more than 200 cities across the nation commemorate Juneteenth, the largest celebration is in Galveston, where festivities have been going on all week.

Texas is the only state in the Union that recognizes Juneteenth as an official holiday, so our citizens and students are better informed about its history and legacy.

But that legacy warrants greater appreciation because of its relevance today.

For despite generations of progress, the dark scourges of oppression, hatred, and human cruelty survive . . . but they will not win.

Juneteenth teaches us one thing above all else: mankind will live in freedom.

The people of the United States—of all races, religions, and ethnicities—have sacrificed too much and won too many victories to turn our backs now on the universal hopes of man: peace, justice, and freedom.

Just as the oppressed now are powerless and voiceless, so too were one in eight Americans not so long ago.

Yet now African Americans thrive. They contribute daily to the American experiment, and to the cause of freedom around the world, fulfilling the promise of Paul Laurence Dunbar, one of the first prominent African American poets:

Never again shall the manacles galling you
Never again shall the whip stroke defame!
Nobles and Freemen, your destinies call you
Onward to honor, to glory and fame.

That is the legacy of Juneteenth: a universal commitment to human freedom.

It's a legacy Americans should honor all year around, and I offer my best wishes to

those in Galveston—and across the country—celebrating that legacy today.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OFFICER TONY ZEPPELELLA OF THE OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to remember the life and service of Officer Tony Zeppetella of the Oceanside Police Department. Tony was killed in the line of duty this past Friday, June 13, just two days before he would have celebrated his first Father's Day with his six-month-old son. My heart goes out to Tony's wife, Jamie, and his young son, Jakob, who will never have the opportunity to play catch or go fishing, or learn to ride a bike with his father. Jakob will only know of his father as a hero, who died in service to his community and his country. This is a tragedy.

It is unfair that such a good young man like Tony should have his life taken by a violent gang member with a long history of criminal behavior. Tony was a well-respected and promising young member of the Oceanside police force. Friends and relatives of Tony say that he was a terrific father, a man deeply committed to raising his son well, and looking forward to his first Father's Day.

After graduating from high school, Tony enlisted in the Navy for six years, serving as a Fire Controlman 2nd class. Tony also attended college while serving in the Navy, and then graduated from the Police Academy in October, 2002. Tony's friends describe him as a man deeply committed to community service, with a strong passion for police service. Capt. David Heering of the Oceanside Police Department said of Tony: "[He] had said it was his lifelong dream to become an officer—it's unfortunate his dream was cut short and ended so tragically."

This murder has not only split apart a family—it has terrorized a community. Tony Zeppetella was the first police officer to be killed in the line of duty in Oceanside since 1916. This Friday, June 20, Tony's friends and family, the Oceanside Police Department, and the community of Oceanside, will come together for a memorial service to honor the life of Tony Zeppetella. I join with them in remembering this fine young man. Tony's murder has hurt all of us. He gave the ultimate sacrifice as a public servant and protector of our freedoms.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPACT IMPACT RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reduce, release, or waive amounts owed by the Government of Guam to the United States Government to offset unreimbursed Compact

impact expenses. This bill is cosponsored by my colleagues, Mr. GALLEGLY, the Republican Co-Chairman of the newly established House Caucus on Insular and International Affairs, Mr. RAHALL, the Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Resources, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, the Ranking Democratic Member of the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the Democratic Co-Chairman of the House Caucus on Insular and International Affairs, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. CASE. I am also pleased to have the support of the Governor of Guam, The Honorable Felix P. Camacho, for this legislation.

Guam is the closest neighbor to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau, two former trust territories of the United States, who as a result of the Compacts of Free Association with the United States established independence and became sovereign states.

One of the major concerns for Guam is the reimbursement of costs incurred by Guam due to the Compacts, which were entered into force in 1986. In enacting the Compact of Free Association Act (Public Law 99-239), Congress authorized unrestricted migration from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the United States, including its territories. This law states that if any adverse consequences to Guam resulted from implementation of the Compacts of Free Association, the Congress would act sympathetically and expeditiously to redress those adverse consequences.

The Government of Guam has incurred significant costs over the past 17 years due to this migration and the Government of Guam has been inadequately reimbursed by the United States Government. The General Accounting Office has reported that such migration permitted under the Compacts of Free Association has had a significant impact on Guam. But placing demands on local government for health, educational, and other social services, migration under the Compacts of Free Association has adversely affected the budgetary resources of the Government of Guam. The Government of Guam has provided health, educational, and other social services to the citizens of these Freely Associated States in good faith with the expectation that such incurred costs would be reimbursed by the United States Government.

Guam has experienced a severe economic crisis in recent years which has been exacerbated by Compact impact expenses. During this time, the Government of Guam has accrued significant obligations to the United States Government, including \$9 million to the Department of the Navy for water consumption, \$3 million to the Department of Education for the construction of a student housing facility at the Guam Community College, \$40 million in local matching funds to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster assistance in the aftermath of Typhoon Chata'an and Supertyphoon Pongsona, and \$105 million to the Department of Agriculture for telephone infrastructure improvements. These are some of the few obligations that the Government of Guam has been unable to meet in part because of budgetary commitments it has fulfilled in providing health, educational, and other social services to citizens of the Freely Associated States.

The Compact Impact Reconciliation Act would grant the Secretary of the Interior some flexibility to address the unreimbursed Compact impact expenses of Guam. The legislation would allow the Secretary of the Interior to forgive Guam of some of its debt owed to the United States Government in exchange for the United States Government reimbursing Guam for expenses incurred as a result of the Com-

act's immigration provisions. Reconciliation of amounts owed by the Government of Guam with the Compact impact expenses is in the national interest and would promote good will in the future renewal of the Compacts of Free Association and the economic recovery of Guam, which hosts some of our Nation's most strategically important military bases.

I am hopeful that as Congress reauthorizes the Compacts of Free Association this year that this legislation will be merited serious consideration. I look forward to working with Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL of the House Committee on Resources to secure a hearing for this bill and to move this legislation to eventual passage.