

Finally, the bill allows recipients an extended period of time to meet their state and local match requirements.

TRIBUTE TO E. LARRY ST.
LAURENT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to E. Larry St. Laurent who is retiring after 15 years as Director of the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau. Although still suffering injuries suffered during the Korean War, Mr. St. Laurent has devoted countless hours to Ocean County's veteran population. Those injuries have given him a special insight into the problems of veterans who are trying to navigate through the bureaucratic maze and receive the benefits they have earned and to which they are entitled.

Larry was a leader in the effort to raise \$3 million to erect a memorial to the men and women from New Jersey who died during the Korean War. The New Jersey Korean War Memorial was dedicated in 2000, thanks in great part to his efforts.

A lifelong public servant, Larry has devoted his life to his fellow veterans, beginning in 1952 as Service Officer for Jackson VFW Post 4703. He has been an officer in several veterans organizations, including Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, as well as his current position as Director of the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau.

His understanding of the needs of our veterans has enabled him to provide veterans with the opportunity to improve their lives. I have enjoyed working with Mr. St. Laurent and his Veterans Service Bureau over the years, and I salute his commitment to Ocean County and its veterans, for whom he will continue to advocate even in retirement. His will be difficult shoes to fill.

TRIBUTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER
OF SWEDEN ANNA LINDH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver a short message both to the American people and to my good friends in Sweden and, indeed, to all the people of Sweden.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the foreign minister of Sweden was brazenly assassinated. I hope the people of Sweden will accept Congress' heartfelt sympathy for the passing of their Foreign Minister, Anna Lindh. I had the greatest respect for this very talented woman. I certainly agree with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's comment that "she represented everything that was wonderful about Sweden and about Europe."

Anna Lindh's devotion to all of the citizens of Sweden and to the betterment of our world was very laudable. That she was considered a possible future prime minister is not surprising.

Her reputation as one of Sweden's most popular government officials was recognition by you of her unimpeachable integrity and great vision. Anna Lindh saw all that was good about a nation already held in high regard around the world and strove to polish its image even more.

Everyone who considers government service a noble calling had an excellent role model in this wonderful woman. Far from putting an end to the goals she had set for herself and her people, her death will encourage others with similarly high ideals to continue and expand on her work, taking it to new heights. That would be the best way to honor her memory, and Sweden deserves nothing less.

We are all much poorer for this terrible tragedy. Sweden has lost a great leader, and the world has lost one of its finest citizens. After our period of grief, all of us, government leaders and common citizens alike, must rededicate ourselves to the work of making our nations and our world the kind of places Anna Lindh wanted for us. As we go forward, her spirit will be guiding us.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER
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HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine how much our world has changed in the past 2 years. New challenges have been met with great courage and the commitment of a strong Nation. Out of the ashes of the twin towers has emerged an America with a renewed sense of pride and appreciation for our country.

Americans love freedom. We cherish our way of life and the values that make us Americans. Our Founding Fathers stood with "the flame of freedom in their souls, and light of knowledge in their eyes", and created a country unlike that of any other. A country where people do not live in fear; a country where ideas, education and imagination are endless; a country where children can dream of things never before achieved, and grow up to actually do them.

It has been 2 years since the terrorist attacks, yet when I look around, I see an even greater America than had existed before. Our love of freedom and the American way of life cannot be shaken. We stand together—a United America—so that one day, others may know the joy of freedom.

CALLING FOR TAIWAN'S RETURN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly convenes this week, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of the Republic of China on Taiwan and call for its rightful return as a member of the U.N.

Taiwan has become a stable, democratic presence in Asia, a bulwark of support for

human rights and a world economic power. It is a thriving multi-party democracy, with free and fair elections held at all levels of government. Taiwan also has a thriving capitalist economy. It is now the United States' eighth largest trading partner and a major investor in East Asia.

The R.O.C. has long demonstrated its commitment to the well being of the international community. It has a history of heeding calls by the U.N. for emergency relief and assistance to countries that suffer disasters and wars. Its generosity and humanitarianism have included Kosovar refugees, Afghanistan reconstruction, Iraqi food supplies, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, and victims of natural and man-made disasters in El Salvador, Turkey, Nicaragua, and New York City in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Denying Taiwan U.N. membership is not in the best interests of the world community. The memberships of the now unified East Germany and West Germany and the divided Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are examples of parallel representations of divided nations in the U.N. The U.N.'s role in exchanges between East and West Germany assisted in the eventual unification of the country in 1990.

Taiwan's membership in the UN will have enormous benefits for the international community and it is imperative that this unfair and untenable situation be resolved.

CITRUS COUNTY INDUSTRY
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Citrus County Industry appreciation Week, A 21 year-old tradition that originated in my Fifth Congressional District to honor our industries and recognize their contributions to our communities.

Last Thursday, industry executives and employees, along with community activists and residents kicked off the week-long celebration. Upcoming events include a Thursday afternoon barbecue to wrap up the week and an awards luncheon, to take place today, to recognize outstanding local businesses and business professionals for outstanding public service, employee relations, and contributions to the community.

Awards being given at the event will go to Citrus County's Most Outstanding Small Business, Most Outstanding Employer or Corporate Citizen, and Person of the Year. I wish all those in the running for these awards well—and send this year's organizers my regards! I am surely missing a great event.

We all know that industry creates jobs—which no one will argue is a bad thing—and it broadens the tax base of an area, meaning cities and municipalities take in more revenue to spend on public works projects, on our schools, and on a whole host of other things vital to the community. Industries also regularly contribute charitably to citizen groups and organizations, volunteering time and resources to improve the area where they do business and where their employees live.

Recently, following Citrus County's lead, the State of Florida has begun celebrating a state

wide Industry Appreciation Week as well, giving the entire Sunshine State the opportunity to realize just how much we all benefit from having the industries that we do.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to represent an area of Florida that started the trend, if you will, of honoring local businesses and recognizing their place in our communities. I ask that you and my colleagues in this body join me in congratulating Citrus County and wishing them well as they conclude their Industry Appreciation Week.

HONORING REVEREND FATHER
KEVORK ARAKELIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Reverend Father Kevork Arakelian on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Ordination and Consecration into the Sacred Priesthood of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. Father Kevork will be recognized at an event held in his honor on September 28th in Fresno, California.

Born in 1943, Father Kevork and his family moved from New York City to Pasadena, California, after World War II. He attended Pasadena City Schools and became very active in sports. Father Kevork played baseball, football, and handball both for school and outside local teams. After graduating from Pasadena High School, he attended San Antonio College and received his A.A. degree. He then earned his B.S. degree in Business Administration at California State Polytechnic University, and attended Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1971.

Father Kevork's religious activities have been as far-reaching as they have been significant. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1967 and to the Priesthood in 1973. Father Kevork served as Church School Associate Director in Pasadena for two years; Counselor and teacher at St. Nersess Summer Study Program; Chaplain at Susquehanna Valley home; and held many other positions of great value to churches and schools. He is currently the Parish Priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Fowler, California, where he serves on several different levels.

Father Kevork has served at St. Gregory's since 1980. St. Gregory the Illuminator is the fourth largest Armenian Church in the United States. He has been the Committee member for the 1700th Anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Armenia; Secretary to the first Alumni Association of St. Nersess Seminary; Chairman of the first Camp Board of Directors; and has taught various classes at retreats, camp programs, and workshops. St. Gregory's has grown considerably in people and extra-curricular activities since Father Kevork has presided there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Father Kevork Arakelian for his years of service and to thank him for his dedication to the congregation of St. Gregory and to the Armenian community of the Central Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in extending him best wishes for his future.

HONORING ORCHARD RIDGE REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orchard Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in my Fifth Congressional District. The staff at Orchard Ridge was recently awarded the American Healthcare Association's Quality Award, for excellence in service, performance, and of course quality to patients, customers and communities.

The American Healthcare Association is the trade association for the longterm care industry and, in that role it promotes nursing and rehabilitation centers across the country and recognizes outstanding achievement and quality in that sector.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have such a distinguished nursing and rehabilitation facility in my district and am happy to be able to honor Orchard Ridge before you and my colleagues today.

On October 15, in San Diego, CA, the rest of the industry will have the opportunity to honor Orchard Ridge for attaining this award when they convene for the AHCA's national convention.

I commend Orchard Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and my colleagues in this body to do the same. I am proud to be the representative of many of its patients and employees in Congress.

Congratulations to a hard-working team for a much-deserved award.

HONORING SIERRA TEL
COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sierra Tel Communications Group in honor of California Small and Rural Telecommunications Week. An event was held in Sierra Tel's honor on Sunday, September 14th in Oakhurst, California.

Small and rural telephone companies will be participating in National Small Telecommunications Week from September 15th through September 21st. Rural telephone companies will acknowledge and reflect on the great advancements made in their industry. For more than 100 years small, country telecommunications companies have provided high-quality services to rural America. These companies have long been known for their state-of-the-art technology and superior, cutting-edge services. Over 1,100 small rural companies are in existence serving areas the larger companies choose not to serve due to factors such as topography, population, and profitability.

Independent rural telephone companies, like Sierra Tel, play an important role in the telecommunications industry as well as their local communities. They ensure that large telecom interests do not override the needs of rural America, and they work on behalf of the peo-

ple to keep rates affordable. The local telecommunications company is vital to the economic development efforts of the community, often providing jobs and local leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sierra Tel Communications Group for its commitment and service to their community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Sierra Tel during California Small and Rural Telecommunications Week.

HONORING BOB HINTON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Bob Hinton. Bob bravely served this country in Korea. After his service left him disabled, he continued giving to his community by producing a video warning teen drivers of the dangers of drunk driving.

Bob Hinton is an honorable and caring, public servant. However, he is not a public servant in the traditional sense. Rather than seeking acclaim in public office, Bob follows a passion; his greatest pleasure is giving to others.

In August of 1948, Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force where he gallantly served his country and received several accolades in the process. After retiring with 100% disability, Bob moved to Florida. There, he joined the American Legion Post 139 where he volunteered his services, which won him the "Unsung Hero's Award" in 1984.

As an amateur videographer, Bob began covering news events in Hernando County and central Florida for several local and national TV programs including "Good Morning America."

Driven by his continuing zeal to help others, Bob transformed his new found skills into an instrument of service. He has voluntarily created training videos for the Highway Patrol, the Red Cross, and sheriffs' offices in Hernando and surrounding counties. Additionally, Bob has donated copies of his drunk driving videos to various schools hoping to save teenage lives.

Even though Bob has recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer and undergone several radiation treatments, he has continued to film throughout his tribulations and says if he can keep busy helping others he won't feel his pain. Bob is never happier than when he is helping someone. Thus, he is a shining example of what individuals should strive to become.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Bob Hinton a constituent and I ask you to join with me in thanking him for his continued service.

SAVE CANCER CARE

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of cancer patients in my district.

I would like the conferees working to craft a final Medicare prescription drug benefit to