physics and mathematics professor at Iowa State University. Known as the Atanasoff-Berry Computer, the invention was Atanasoff's solution to finding a better, more efficient way for his students to learn. It was the principles of his invention that changed the face of technology forever.

The university is organizing the International Symposium on Modern Computing, October 30–November 1 in celebration of his life's accomplishments. Leaders in the computing field, internationally renowned academic researchers, and college and university students from across the Nation will come together to discuss the newest technologies and research that have the potential to change the world as dramatically as did the principles that Dr. Atanasoff's invention established. Dr. Atanasoff is a recipient of the Nation's highest award for innovation, the National Medal of Technology, which was presented to him by President George Bush in 1990. Dr. Atanasoff died in 1995.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for my absence during votes yesterday evening.

During yesterday's votes, I was traveling back to Washington from a Congressional Delegation trip to Iraq. I appreciate the opportunity to visit our troops serving overseas and to witness firsthand the situation in Iraq. Our delegation arrived into the Washington area after votes had concluded.

FREEDOM FOR DR. MARCELO CANO RODRÍGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Dr. Marcelo Cano Rodríguez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Cano Rodriguez is a Medical Doctor. As a physician, he has chosen to devote his life and his abilities to healing the sick, mending the lame, and easing the suffering of his patients. However, as Dr. Cano Rodríguez quickly learned, easing the suffering of the Cuban people is not a goal of Castro's dictatorship.

The longer Dr. Cano Rodríguez worked within the totalitarian healthcare system, the more he noticed medical resources being taken from the Cuban people and redirected towards tourists who could pay with hard foreign currency. Dr. Cano Rodríguez, no longer able to work within a system that abandons citizens in favor of tourists, became the National Coordinator for the Cuban Independent Medical Association.

The Cuban Independent Medical Association is comprised of physicians who joined forces to set up independent clinics where equipment and drugs prescribed by doctors are distributed without charge. As Dr. Cano Rodríguez searched for ways to make his group more effective, he approached the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation for guidance. After learning of the Commission's professed goal of basic human rights, he became an important member of that group.

Unfortunately for Dr. Cano Rodríguez, his being associated with two groups who profess to work to provide the Cuban people with their basic rights and their basic medicine proved to be too much for Castro and his machinery of repression. On March 25, 2003, Dr. Cano Rodríguez was arrested in Las Tunas. The ''illegal'' activities cited by Castro's puppet prosecutor in the sham trial were that he visited prisoners as part of his work with the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation and that he maintained ties to Doctors Without Borders. Dr. Cano Rodríguez was sentenced to 18 years in Castro's dungeons.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that, Dr. Cano Rodríguez was sentenced to 18 years in Castro's gulag for visiting prisoners and maintaining ties to Doctors Without Borders.

My colleagues, every one of us should be totally appalled that a physician who attempts to aid the oppressed and heal the sick is languishing in a dungeon for his merciful actions. My colleagues, we must demand immediate freedom for Dr. Marcelo Cano Rodríguez.

HONORING ALEX SPANOS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my friend, Alex Spanos, as he will soon receive the STARBRIGHT Foundation's Heart of Gold Award for his selfless efforts on behalf of children with serious illnesses and their families, and for his extensive contributions to all children and youth.

Alexander Gus Spanos was born to loving parents in 1923 in Stockton, California. In 1942, he rendered service to his country by joining the Air Army. Six years later, he wed his life-long sweetheart, Faye Papfaklis.

In 1951, Alex quit his job at the family bakery, secured an $800 loan and bought a panel truck to start his own company, the A.G. Spanos Agricultural Catering. Soon, this new venture became the largest catering business of farm laborers in the United States. Alex began investing in real estate and, by 1956, he had become a millionaire. This allowed him to semi-retire and take on golf, in which he became a pro amateur within six years.

When changing farm labor regulations signaled the end of his catering business, Alex launched A.G. Spanos Construction. After building his first apartment complex in Stockton, California, in 1960, Alex expanded the company into neighboring states and across the southwestern and southern states. By 1977, his firm was the number one builder of apartments in the nation.

His family of businesses now includes: A.G: Spanos Construction, A.G. Spanos Development, Inc., A.G. Spanos Management, Inc., A.G. Spanos Enterprises, Inc., The Spanos Corporation, AGS Financial Corporation, A.G. Spanos Realty, Inc., A.G. Spanos Securities, and A. G. Spanos Ventures. He also owns the Spanos Jet Center and the National Football League's San Diego Chargers.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Alex Spanos a successful businessman, but he is also a successful human being. His family has always taken center stage in his life. He and Faye enjoy the time they share with their four children and 15 grandchildren. It is telling that his companies continue to be family owned and operated, as he has shared management responsibilities with his sons, Dean and Michael.

A noted philanthropist, he has reached out to those in need and given of his resources to help whenever and wherever he could. Over the years, he has contributed to his own community and to causes around the world by donating millions of dollars to charities, churches, hospitals, educational institutions, and civic and athletic organizations.

It is fair to say that Alex G. Spanos' outlook on life is best reflected in the title of his new book, Sharing the Wealth. The communities and individuals he has touched throughout his life would attest to that.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend this distinguished citizen for his countless acts of service to his community, California, and the country.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 291 to offer my gratitude, for myself and on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District, to the soldiers who fell and who served our country in ''Operation Restore Hope.''

''Operation Restore Hope'' was a 1993 United Nations peacekeeping venture to restore order in the East African country of Somalia, characterized by its nomadic society. The Operation was launched with guarded optimism but went tragically awry on Oct. 3, 1993 when 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in a firefight with Somali gunmen. A decade later, the Bush Administration now contemplates taking military action against alleged terrorist groups in Somalia who might have been responsible for the tragedy.

Man-made famine prompted the massive foreign intervention in Somalia. This famine was caused by a drought made murderous by a civil war that sent gunmen across the country's most fertile agricultural areas. At the famine's peak, more than 300 people starved to death each day in hard-hit towns like Baidoa and Baardheere because militia fighters first disrupted the lives of herdsmen and farmers, then stole the food aid sent to relieve their suffering. Throughout the worst of the crisis, gun-toting young militiamen looted most of the relief food as spoils of war or blocked its entry into the country through port cities by demanding extortionate amounts from aid ships waiting to dock. In order to break the famine in Somalia, we had to break the stranglehold of the gunmen and allow aid to flow unimpeded.