

Mr. Speaker, the continued support of the brave men and women serving this country is extremely important to me. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the National Association of Broadcasters and the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund for their assistance to our troops.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. Bishop Hilliard is a man of conviction and dedication, as well as an inspiration to his community. This year, the Cathedral International Church is celebrating twenty years of excellence under the leadership of Bishop Donald Hilliard.

Bishop Hilliard is someone who places a high value on education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern University in St. David's, Pennsylvania. He later earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and was awarded a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton Ohio. Yet, Dr. Hilliard's accomplishments extend far beyond academia. His list of achievements range from economic and community developer to spiritual leader.

Bishop Hilliard always approaches life with a positive attitude, as revealed in his trademark "Say Yes" services at the Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. At the age of 26, Bishop Hilliard became the Church's Senior Pastor. Since then, the church has grown from 125 members in 1983 to over 7,000 members today. What started out as one church has grown to three located in urban settings throughout New Jersey. Dr. Hilliard's faith and inspirational words draws people from out the tri-state area of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The Cathedral is recognized as a growing and influential church and as been cited by American Baptist churches, USA as a model church for growth.

In 1995, Bishop Hilliard was consecrated a bishop and is currently the presiding Bishop and founder of the Ecumenical Fellowship and Cathedral assemblies, Inc. In this role, Bishop Hilliard serves as the spiritual advisor and mentor for several pastors and churches across America and West Africa. The Bishop has also established the Clergy Leadership Institute where innovative leaders from different denominational backgrounds gather to confront and minister to various issues faced by the clergy daily, as well as to expand their theological and social horizons.

Bishop Hilliard and his church have been cited numerous times by the city of Perth Amboy and the State of New Jersey for their contributions to community development. Today, I rise to ask this national body to recognize the accomplishments of this esteemed gentleman. Mr. Speaker, a man such as Bishop Hilliard should be an inspiration to us all. He has given so much of his life to serving others in need. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr.

CONGRATULATING THE
HOMENETMEN SCOUTS FRESNO
SASSOON CHAPTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoon Chapter on their 30th Anniversary. There will be a banquet held in their honor on Saturday, November 15 in Fresno, CA.

In its 30th year, the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoon Chapter strives to encourage Fresno's Armenian youth to be involved in competitive sports and Armenian Boy Scouts activities, while forming an efficient organization that preserves the grace of Armenian language and culture. Since its establishment in 1973, the organization's main purpose has been twofold: to provide the Armenian youth with a moral and physical education outside of the school environment; and teaching them the richness of Armenian culture while accepting and participating in the culture that surrounds them. Comprised of disciplinary and athletic divisions, the Fresno Chapter boasts ten basketball teams spanning a variety of ages, and a strong Troop 12 Armenian Boy Scouts group. The Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoon Chapter is part of the world-wide organization with over 25,000 members on five continents.

The Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts known as Homenetmen, is a nonprofit organization which was founded 85 years ago in Constantinople by Shavarsh Krisian, Hovhannes Hintlian, and Krikor Hagopian. The organization promotes a sense of fraternity and humanitarianism, which extends far beyond mere camaraderie and benevolence. Homenetmen's motto, "Elevate yourself and others with you," is a poignant reminder of the fundamental objective to strive for individual and collective excellence. In the United States, the first Homenetmen Olympic Games took place in Brooklyn, NY, in 1922, though the organization was not officially established in America until 1932 with chapters in New York, New Jersey, and Boston. From that point on, Homenetmen organized chapters in the communities wherever there was a large concentration of Armenians.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoon Chapter on its 30th anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many years of continued success.

HONORING HARRIS D. ARLINSKY
(RET.), USA GREEN BERETS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LTC Harris David Arlinsky (retired) for 50 years of service to our country.

This past June marks the 50th anniversary of when he volunteered for the Army National Guard at 17 years old. He did so proudly.

After serving in the regular Army for a few years, Colonel Arlinsky attended college at the University of Arizona. He set his sights on being an Air Force pilot; unfortunately, his blurry vision made this impossible. Upon graduation and accepting a commission in the U.S. Army, then-Second Lieutenant Arlinsky attended training for the newly created U.S. Special Forces. The Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, are the best of the best and have been instrumental in countless conflicts. Colonel Arlinsky knew he belonged with the elite forces and passed their extremely difficult tests to gain the coveted Green Beret.

As a Green Beret, he commanded a "B" Team for the Fifth Special Forces Group in Pleiku, Vietnam. He served two tours and was involved in pushing back Vietcong forces during the Tet Offensive. After the Vietnam War, Colonel Arlinsky continued to serve our nation through various Special Forces projects. Eventually, he left active duty to serve the civilian intelligence services, maintaining reserve status.

During the Reagan administration, Harris Arlinsky worked directly for Vice President George Bush as the Special Intelligence Advisor for the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System for the southwest U.S. border region. While in the region, he also commanded a U.S. Special Forces "B" team with five "A" teams in Texas and New Mexico. Upon completion of the assignment, he returned to Virginia to assist with other national intelligence agencies.

Today he is enjoying his retirement as a college professor, spending time with his wife, Kathleen; his children Beth, Abra, and Michael; and his grandson, Elias.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend COL Harris Arlinsky for his service to our Nation. He nobly has dedicated his life to the safety and well being of the United States of America. As COL Harris Arlinsky continues to celebrate his 50th anniversary of his first month of service to us, let us thank him and all our soldiers for their sacrifices. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting COL Harris Arlinsky.

TRIBUTE TO M. DEAN HAINES

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to M. Dean Haines on the occasion of his retirement as clerk of Ocean County.

As one of the County's Constitutional Officers, he has been responsible for the administration of a wide range of services offered by the Office of the County Clerk for two decades.

Serving the community is the main focus of the Clerk's Office, including assisting residents in real estate transfers, obtaining passports, courtesy photo identification and Alcoholic Beverage Control Cards, and supervision of elections in the county. Dean's office has been recognized as the most technologically advanced County Clerk's Office in our State, thanks to his leadership and innovation.

Dean Haines' involvement in many community service organizations such as his membership on the Southern Ocean County Hospital Board of Trustees, the Southern Ocean

County Rotary, Jersey Shore Council Boy Scouts of America, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean County, Barnegat Historical Society, and both Barnegat Fire Company Number One and the New Jersey State Fireman's Association is a demonstration of his commitment to the people of Ocean County.

I have always valued his friendship and support through the years. I hope Dean and his wife, Christine, will accept my congratulations and best wishes for a retirement filled with health, happiness, and dreams come true.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have mixed emotions as I consider the fiscal year 2004 defense authorization conference report.

I would like to thank my chairman, Mr. HUNTER, and Ranking Member SKELTON for working with me on several items that will benefit the people in my district, Travis Air Force Base, and our military airlift capabilities overall.

Indeed, the language in the bill expediting the transfer of land from the Navy to the Housing Authority of the City of Dixon will improve the living and work conditions of migrant workers who contribute to the local economy.

The language preventing the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring C-5A aircraft until one has been modernized and tested is a crucial measure that not only sustains a critical investment in upgrading one of the United States' most reliable transport planes, but it also ensures that Travis Air Force Base will continue to be an important provider of strategic lift in the near future.

The bill also contains a number of important provisions for our men and women in uniform such as an increase in base pay; a reduction in housing expenses; an increase in family separation allowance; and an increase in the rate of special pay for our brave troops who serve in hostile situations and imminent danger.

Despite these important positive elements, the bill contains several reckless provisions that undermine the security of the United States and needlessly jeopardize civilian employees and the environment.

This bill puts the United States back in the business of making nuclear weapons, adds unnecessary regulations that hamstring the DOD's nonproliferation programs, takes away the protections of civilian personnel, and gratuitously endangers the environment.

By lifting the ban on research and development of low yield nuclear weapons, Congress is abetting the administration's efforts to build a new generation of nuclear weapons; is inviting an arms race with rogue states, terrorists and allies; and is making a nuclear conflict more likely in the long run by undoing decades of American leadership in controlling the spread of the most deadly weapons known to man.

The Defense Bill, rather than increasing the budget for the DOD's valuable cooperative

threat reduction programs that dismantle and destroy weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union, adds unnecessary funding restrictions that in the end will only hurt the security of the American people.

The broad environmental exemptions provided for in the bill will undermine efforts to protect our environment by, among other things, making it harder to wall-off parts of military facilities as protected areas for wildlife.

Proponents use spin to claim this is necessary for military readiness, but it's hard to see how a blanket environmental exemption for everything on military installations from golf courses to swimming pools are pressing matters of national defense.

Moreover, the Pentagon can already get waivers from the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act when national security is at stake. But in the three decades since these laws have been in effect, not a single waiver has been sought.

The bill also abolishes DOD's long-standing labor relations system and replaces it with one in which civilian employees have only minimal consultation with unions and Congress.

The bill allows DOD to remove basic due process rights that employees currently enjoy by waiving their right to a written response, their right to be represented by an attorney, and their right to a written decision explaining the action.

I am deeply disturbed that the Republican Party has hijacked an important bill for our troops and attached to it a radical slash-and-burn ideology that is sure to undermine civilian morale at the Pentagon, needlessly endanger the environment and most alarmingly, endanger the American people with an irresponsible nuclear agenda.

I am voting for this bill because I do not believe, especially in a time of war, we should punish our active troops by withholding funds and measures that would benefit them because of some of the administration's imprudent and over-reaching provisions in the bill.

HONORING SPC. JAMES "JIMMY"
ANDERSON CHANCE, III

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening before the House to pay tribute to Specialist James "Jimmy" Chance of Kokomo, Mississippi. Specialist Chance was a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard serving in C Company of the 890th Battalion attached to the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq.

Tragically, Specialist Chance was killed on Thursday, November 6, 2003, when his vehicle struck a landmine near the Syrian border. He was the first of our own Mississippi National Guardsmen to lose his life while bravely serving in the Iraq War.

Specialist Chance is a true American hero who has paid the ultimate price to protect our country from terrorists and defend the liberties of the citizens of the United States of America. Furthermore, he has unselfishly given his life to win freedom for the people of Iraq who suffered under the unbearable rule of an evil dictator. These are people he did not know, but

yet, he has helped give millions of Iraqi men, women, and children, the chance to live lives of freedom and independence like we know at home in the United States.

Even though I know his family is enduring great suffering as a result of their loss, I hope they will find peace in knowing that Specialist Chance bravely served his country and his countrymen and defended the values and principles that Americans hold so dear. Specialist Chance was a defender of peace and a lion of liberty.

Specialist James Anderson Chance, III, represents the best of Mississippi and our Nation. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in honoring his courageous service, and ask that you pray that his family will find peace during this trying time.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF MOSUL

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as the leader of the first all women's United States Congressional Delegation to Iraq, it is my pleasure on behalf of Representatives JENNIFER DUNN, SUE KELLY, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, MARSHA BLACKBURN, KATHERINE HARRIS, DARLENE HOOLEY and CAROLYN MCCARTHY, to commend the excellent work being done at the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul. Today, with great honor and privilege, I would like to recognize the major milestones the organization has achieved.

The Women's Social and Cultural Society, comprised of more than 200 members, represents a variety of ethnic, religious and professional affiliations. These women are truly creating a new ideal within their country as they promote social, political and educational equality for all Iraqis. For too long, Iraqi women have suffered without equal or even adequate access to education, justice within the legal system, employment opportunities, and representation within the government. The members of the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul must be applauded for their commitment to end decades of oppression against women by fighting to give them a voice and a respected role of leadership within their communities. The challenge is immense, but their determination is steadfast and unwavering.

We commend and praise the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul today and urge our colleagues to wish them continued success as they pave the way for future generations of Iraqi citizens.

IN HONOR OF HILARY KITASEI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Riverdale is a fortunate community in that not only do the people who live here care for it, but newcomers after they arrive also do their best to make it even better.