

Two sections of the conference bill clearly are aimed at these objectives. Section 932(d) establishes a new program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application for integrated clean power and energy research. Section 935 establishes a similar program for research on innovative coal-burning technologies and advanced combustion systems.

I have been told that a new oxygen fuel technology shows great promise with respect to these critical research goals. This new technology, as I understand it, uses oxygen instead of air to produce combustion of coal and other fossil fuels in electric utility and industrial boilers. This prevents entry of nitrogen from the air in the normal combustion process, which provides both fuel efficiency and emission reduction benefits. The reliance on oxygen, combined with more efficient use of fossil fuels, also takes a step in the direction of renewable energy sources. I understand that the new oxygen-fuel technology has already been employed successfully in large industrial furnaces and has proved effective in small scale boiler testing conducted under a CRADA agreement with the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory. If these results can be confirmed in boilers on a commercial production scale, the new technology offers substantial benefits for U.S. domestic and international energy and environmental policy.

Regarding the research provisions of the conference legislation, these provisions are intended to fund additional research for emerging, innovative fossil fuel technologies, such as the new oxygen-fuel technology. These provisions, with respect to technologies such as the oxygen fuel technology, will fund projects involving both new and existing (retrofitted) boilers on a commercial scale, where appropriate.

It is important to continue research in clean coal technologies. The continued use of coal, in an environmentally friendly way, will lead to a balanced energy policy for our Nation.

HONORING THE 106TH AIR RESCUE WING

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous efforts of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Air Rescue Wing during the recent CH-47 Chinook helicopter rescue operation in Iraq. These American heroes saved the lives of two soldiers whose helicopter was downed in a terrorist attack that took the lives of 16 of their brave comrades.

Located at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, Long Island, the 106th Air Rescue Wing's mission is to provide air rescue support. In December of 1994, they established the record for the longest over-water helicopter rescue mission, while saving a Ukrainian sailor in the North Atlantic. Their efforts in an attempted rescue in 1991 were memorialized in Sebastian Junger's book "The Perfect Storm," which was later made into a major motion picture.

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Colonel Mike Canders and his

entire Unit for their dedicated service to our country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the conference agreement of H.R. 1, the Medicare and Prescription Drug bill.

This conference agreement provides limited benefit to vulnerable low income senior citizens and people with disabilities. In fact, the plan prohibits Medicaid from filling in the gaps in the new Medicare drug benefit, as Medicaid does now for other benefits. Given the ongoing state budget crises, up to 6.4 million low-income seniors and people with disabilities could receive less help with their prescription drug costs than they do now.

The proposed plan bows to drug industry pressure and prevents Medicare from negotiating better prices. It also adopts a policy that will prevent access to lower-cost drugs available in other countries, allowing drug companies profits to skyrocket at the expense of patients. Millions of Medicare beneficiaries will be forced to pay more for Medicare if they don't give up their doctor and join an HMO. Although the bill's proponents claim it will be limited, as many as 7 million seniors could be forced to participate.

Finally, the conference agreement proposes the creation of Health Security Accounts, which are tax shelters for the wealthy. This creates an unprecedented tax loophole that would undermine existing employer coverage and add to the ever-growing number of uninsured. These funds should be used to prevent employers from dropping coverage or to improve the drug benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

CONGRATULATING THE LANCASTER FIREBIRD'S PEE WEE AA HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE EASTERN REGIONAL SILVER STICK CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to offer my most sincere congratulations to the Lancaster Firebird's Pee Wee AA hockey team in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the Firebirds won the Eastern Regional Silver Stick Championship tournament in Columbia, Maryland. More than 63,000 young hockey players play in these regional tournaments all across North America—from Huntsville, Alabama to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Champions of these regional tournaments, represent their region at the North American

Finals Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan in January. The Lancaster Pee Wee AA hockey team will now represent the entire East Coast Region. If the Pee Wee AA's win there, they will be crowned North American champions.

The Silver Stick tournament was formed to promote citizenship and international goodwill through hockey. In that sense, it continues the time-honored tradition of using sport to build understanding and friendship across national lines.

I am honored to congratulate the Lancaster Firebird's Pee Wee AA coaches Dave Bauer, Larry Collins and Jim Popp. And the Team Manager, Andy Lee.

But most of all, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the players themselves: #3 Bob Lee, #4 Jacob Friedman, #5 Kyle Boyd, #7 John McCracken, #10 Travis Gold, #11 Jeffrey Branson, #12 Nico Delgiorno, #13 Danny Keich, #16 Kyle Troup, #22 Logan Gleason, #24 Ben Bauer, #25 Josh Lewis, #29 Talon Lewis, #31 Ryan Popp, #44 Alec Collins, and #97 Christian Grim.

They have made us all very proud. I know that they will represent us well in Michigan. I look forward to continued success from their team and, hopefully, welcoming them home as North American Silver Stick champions.

H.R. 3659, RESERVISTS BURIAL EQUITY ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 8659, the Reservists Burial Equity Act of 2003. I am pleased to have join me as sponsors of the bill Mr. LANE EVANS, the Ranking Democrat of the Veterans' Affairs Committee; Mr. HENRY BROWN and Mr. MICHAEL MICHAUD, the Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Subcommittee on Benefits; as well as Mr. JEFF MILLER; Ms. JULIA CARSON; Ms. BERKLEY; Mr. SHERRON BROWN; and Mr. JOHN SHIMKUS. This legislation would update the eligibility rules for burial of reservists at Arlington National Cemetery. Similar legislation passed the House in the 107th Congress.

Current Army rules provide in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery to veterans who died on active duty, received one of the military services' highest awards for gallantry, were held as a prisoner of war, or retired from active duty military service. In addition, veterans who do not meet the current eligibility criteria but who served in a high Federal office are also eligible, as are the immediate family members of all veterans buried there.

It is wholly inequitable that a reservist who serves our Nation for a minimum of 20 years is ineligible for in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery because he or she had the misfortune to die prior to age 60. The most glaring example of this policy was brought to light following the death of Captain Charles Burlingame III, the pilot of the American Airlines jet that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Although he had retired from the Naval Reserves, he was only 51 years old at the time of his death. As such, he was not automatically eligible for burial at Arlington. Subsequently, the Secretary of the

Army granted a waiver and Capt. Burlingame was interred at Arlington in December 2001.

Similarly, I see no reason why a reservist's eligibility for burial at Arlington should be based on whether that person was or was not in training status when he or she died in the line of duty. In today's military, there is often no practical difference.

This bill would revise existing law by eliminating the requirement that retired reservists be in receipt of their retirement pay to be eligible for in-ground burial at Arlington. Reservists must be 60 years old to receive retirement pay; reservist retirees who fall into this category are often referred to as being in the "grey zone." The bill would also make eligible for in-ground burial reservists who die in the line of duty during active or inactive training.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, reservists have been increasingly called upon to participate on active duty for extended periods to support the national defense. As the recent actions in Afghanistan and Iraq clearly demonstrate, reservists play a major role in the modern total force concept—we are unable to go to war without mobilizing reservists right from the start. Let's pass this bill and truly honor those men and women who put their civilian lives on hold to serve in our Armed Forces on behalf of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DENNIS
ADOMATIS

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Dennis P. Adomatis upon his retirement from the United States Army after more than 21 years of outstanding service to our country. After his effective retirement at the end of 2003, Major Adomatis will reside in my Congressional district.

Major Dennis P. Adomatis has distinguished himself throughout his military service in challenging and diverse assignments. Throughout his remarkable career, he has received many medals and awards for his ability to lead by example, encourage excellence from his peers and subordinates, effectively manage the Army's resources, and consistently produce outstanding results. I commend Major Adomatis for his ability to energize a diverse staff toward a common purpose, setting high standards and inspiring his staff to achieve them.

Major Adomatis has been assigned to several key military positions throughout his career, which culminated as the Assistant Product Manager for Fielding and Integration for Air and Missile Defense Command and Control Systems Product Office in Madison, AL., a position he has held since 2001. It is in this role that Major Adomatis will leave an enduring mark on the future of our Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Major Adomatis for his 21 years of service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY PRUSSIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Dynamic social activist, tireless volunteer, caring mother, innovative supporter, teacher—Shirley Prussin has filled many shoes during her time in the Monterey Peninsula. Today, however, I rise to recognize Shirley in another role, as a close and dear friend. Sadly, after a rich three decades on the Central Coast of California, Shirley has decided to move to Florida. I cannot overstate her importance in my life. Her departure marks a tremendous loss for our community.

Shirley's life and accomplishments on the Central Coast have helped hundreds, if not thousands of people in the area. Shirley has had a leadership role in countless organizations that affect the citizenry of the Monterey Peninsula profoundly: the ACLU, the Democratic Woman's Club, the Reproductive Rights Coalition, the YWCA, Planned Parenthood—it's impossible to name all the groups that she has lent her leadership and support.

As an advocate for human rights and political activism, Shirley's commitment to grassroots politics is truly an inspiration. Shirley's political resume dates back to 1947; while in Southern California, she worked for Tome Rees' race for State Assembly. Since then, here dedication to social justice and a better world has led her to work on, and in many cases lead, numberless community-based organizations.

Shirley's kindness, compassion and empathy for her fellow community members remains unparalleled. It's difficult to express how deeply her loss will affect me, but I would like to wish her well with the rest of her life's journeys. Somewhere in Florida, there's an extremely lucky community that is about to receive an amazing person, and I am sad to see her go.

RECOGNIZING ILLINOIS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF THE YEAR DR.
JAMES ROSBORG, SUPER-
INTENDENT OF BELLEVILLE, IL-
LINOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. James Rosborg, Superintendent of Belleville Public School District No. 118 and his being named the State of Illinois School Superintendent of the Year.

In his tenth year as superintendent, James Rosborg has achieved success by consistently building a climate of collaboration with teachers, students, the school board, parents, and community leaders to benefit all students in his district. These efforts have resulted in some of the highest school district test scores in the State of Illinois. In addition, Belleville District No. 118 schools have received Golden Spike Awards, State and National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards, the national AFT-Saturn/UAW Collaboration Award, and most recently,

the Northern Illinois University's Spotlight Awards for their academic achievement.

Dr. Rosborg is no stranger to awards and commendations. He is a past recipient of the Illinois Master Teacher Award, the Illinois State Board of Education "Those Who Excel" Award, the Illinois State Board of Education "Break the Mold" Award, and the Boy Scouts of America's Russell C. Hill Award for outstanding contribution to character education. This year he was selected as the 2004 Illinois School Superintendent of the Year and will join representatives of all 50 States and U.S. overseas schools in the National Superintendent of the Year award competition in February 2004.

The key to Jim's success is his capacity to help every student achieve, regardless of ability. He takes the opportunity to meet with children, read to them, and listen to what they have to say. Jim operates under the principle that each of his actions as superintendent should be based on "what's best for the kids." He also draws on his vast experience in education serving as a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, principal, and assistant superintendent before assuming the position as superintendent. The Illinois Association of School Administrators has recognized his strong leadership skills by selecting him as Illinois' Superintendent of the Year.

His service extends beyond District No. 118 boundaries. Dr. Rosborg has served as an adjunct college professor to both St. Louis University and Lindenwood University. He is the Illinois Association of School Administrators' representative on the State Test Task Force concerning the No Child Left Behind Act and serves on the Illinois Association of School Administrators Board of Directors. Further, Dr. Rosborg leads an educational team in District No. 118 that has been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Belleville News-Democrat for high state test scores and quality instructional programs. In addition, he collaborated on a textbook, "What Every Superintendent and Principal Needs to Know", which was co-authored with Dr. Max McGee and Mr. Jim Burgett.

Under his guidance and direction, the district has completed five new buildings and provided computers in every classroom and computer labs in every school. In addition, all 12 facilities in the district are air-conditioned, when just 5 years ago, only two of the facilities had air-conditioning.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rosborg has the uncanny ability to communicate effectively and always encourages others to take ownership of the educational process. He is a great advocate for children, families and what is right. He leads by example and puts his own family and faith in everything he does. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and the achievements of Dr. Jim Rosborg and wish him and his family the best in the future.

HONORING ROY PARKE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy Parke, Jr., a friend, constituent,