Buenos Aires, Argentina on July 18, 1994, and to honor the victims of this heinous act.

The AMIA attack, which showed the same cowardice as the September 11, 2001, attack, tragically illustrates the intention of Islamic terrorists to bring their jihad against Western values to our own hemisphere.

Substantial evidence attributes the attack on July 18, 1994, to the terrorist group Hizballah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. Evidence indicates that the tri-border region where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the AMIA attack by terrorists linked with Iran.

Regrettably, the scheming of international terrorist organizations such as Hizballah and al-Qaeda are not confined to the tri-border region. Much of the Western Hemisphere is ideal for international terrorist groups to establish bases due to the ill equipped and poorly trained security agencies across the region.

Terrorism is their technique, but hatred is their ideology. The fight against terrorism must remain a top priority. Nowhere is this more true than in America's backyard.

While the case has been officially under investigation for over 9 years, the responsible parties have not yet been apprehended.

Massive judicial and investigative irregularities, destruction of evidence, and cover-ups have already distorted the long-delayed trial.

The biggest blow to the trial came last year when Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who had spent nine years probing the bombing, was removed from the case. It was revealed he paid $400,000 in State money to a witness in return for testimony needed to move the stalled case forward.

So now, the court is focusing on investigating the investigation rather than look into who was to blame.

Make no mistake about it, failure to duly punish the culprits of the AMIA attack serves to reward terrorists and help spread terrorism. Therefore, I strongly urge the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever it may lead, and to properly punish all those who are involved.

Argentina owes it to itself, its people and the human family to conduct an intense, fearless and comprehensive investigation that will lead to the identification and prosecution of the principal criminals.

HONORING SHAFER VINEYARDS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary event in my district. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Shafer Vineyards, a family run winery that produces some of the world's highest rated wines from the heart of California's Napa Valley.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John and Barbara Shafer for a long time. Their history in the Napa Valley and the philanthropic contributions they have made in enhancing thousands of lives of those who are less fortunate have truly been an inspiration to all who have met this remarkable family.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, if you do not know the Shafers, you should. John left a successful career in publishing in 1972 to pursue his dream of a second career in producing premium wine. He and his family moved to the Napa Valley and purchased a 210-acre estate in the Stags Leap District. The family began planting 50 acres of vineyards on the rocky hillside property. In 1978 their painstaking work paid off when John crushed their first harvest of cabernet sauvignon grapes marking the beginning of their winery.

Mr. Speaker, the rise of Shafer Vineyards is truly an American success story. In the 25 years since the Shafer family produced their first vintage consisting 1,000 cases of cabernet sauvignon, the winery has grown to produce 32,000 cases of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sangiovese and Syrah per year. Today Shafer wines can be found throughout the entire United States and in markets throughout Europe and Asia. The Shafer's have also set the bar for sustainable agriculture in the Napa Valley and throughout the world. By the end of 2004, their winery will convert to 100 percent solar power.

While the Shafer family's business has grown beyond their dreams, the values that they began with remain as strong and visible in our community as ever. Twenty-five years later John still serves as chairman of the board of the winery and his son Doug has taken over the day-to-day activities serving as president.

Not only do Shafer Vineyards and the Shafer family have an illustrious history of winemaking and responsible land stewardship, but they also have a long history of public service. For as many years as I can remember, the Shafer family has been a leader in ensuring the success of the annual Napa Valley Wine Auction, which has raised over $50 million for community non-profit organizations. John served as the chairman of the 1999 wine auction, that year the auction raised $5.5 million breaking all previous records. Recently John led the effort to build the Napa Valley Vintners Community Health Center which houses four healthcare organizations and will care for thousands of area residents for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I think it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate the Shafer family for their success in the wine business and their countless contributions to the betterment of the Napa Valley. I wish the Shafer family and Shafer Vineyards well as they enjoy and prosper during their next 25 years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO SUSPEND THE DUTY ON CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL TOYS AND DEVICES

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to suspend the duty on electronic educational toys for children. This duty is, in fact, an educational tax on the consumer.

At a time when we as policymakers are focusing on ways to enhance education for our children, it is important to aggressively promote tools that are valuable in teaching fundamental skills. Penalizing the consumer for buying educational toys is contrary to the country's educational goals.

Currently, computers and toys enter the United States duty free. But electronic educational toys have a duty. This duty is inevitably passed on to the consumer. We do not want to create a situation where a consumer may be less inclined to buy an educational toy versus a regular toy, which has not had to absorb the cost of the duty.

The company leading the fight to eliminate the tax on electronic educational toys is a California company, LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc. LeapFrog is an innovative company and a leading developer of educational products, currently employing 1,000 people in my state.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to end an unwise tax on education.

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the commitment of the Republic of Cyprus to democracy, human rights, free markets, and equal justice under law.

Regrettably, this July 20th marked the thirtieth anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish military forces. This illegal military occupation of more than one-third of Cyprus' territory is a violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

To this day, Turkey maintains a force of 30,000 heavily armed troops in Cyprus. 1,500 Greek Cypriots and 4 Americans of Cypriot descent remain missing since 1974, when the Turkish military forces commenced a policy of ethnic cleansing, forcibly evicting 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes.

In 1983, displaying blatant disregard for international law and the sovereign independence of the Republic of Cyprus, Turkey encouraged the secession and declaration of independence of the occupied areas.

The "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" has been recognized by no nation except for Turkey, and the U.N. General Assembly has made numerous calls for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Cyprus.

Cyprus' accession to the European Union in May of 2004 has given Cypriots new resolve to overcome the division of their nation and citizens. It will be a difficult path towards a united Cyprus that is founded on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. But it is a path paved with the hope of a determined people.

Currently, the Republic of Cyprus is seeking a bizonal and bicommunal federation, reunifying society and economy, while granting each community the right to retain its own identity and culture, without military occupation.

Although a reunification plan was set forth by the United Nations, in April of this year 76 percent of Greek Cypriot voters stood in opposition to the plan due to issues of vital concern, such as security, property restitution,

and dissatisfaction with the structure of the proposed central government.

Despite the rejection of the plan, 90 percent of the Greek Cypriot community turned out to vote on the UN plan, displaying a deep interest and concern in the future of the reunification of their nation and the changes this would bring.

We must learn from the message sent by those who could not support the proposed Plan. The lesson is Cyprus' reunification is too important an issue to rush into a Plan that does not address the serious concerns of all Cypriots.

H.R. 3874

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure to co-sponsor Representative BONO's bill, H.R. 3874, which will enable the Palm Springs area to benefit from the conveyance of 44 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to Father Joe's Villages for the creation of a homeless shelter, a training center, and affordable housing for this area of Riverside County.

I have had the privilege of knowing Father Joe Carroll for many years in San Diego, where he has worked tirelessly to develop an extensive program of services for the homeless of all ages through the St. Vincent De Paul Village.

Often identified by the community for its Kitchen, which serves 4,000 meals a day, the center goes way beyond providing the homeless with food to offering dental, vision, and other health services. It also provides high school equivalency and computer training.

Helping the homeless find jobs not only includes coaching in job hunting skills and providing interview attire but begins with coordinating on-site psychiatric services to address some of the underlying needs of village members through volunteer professionals from the University of California San Diego.

The Center also provides for the 24-hour care of some 200 orphaned children, which includes meeting not only their food, clothing, housing, and health needs but also houses their public schooling.

The village offers courses in parenting, anger management, and counseling for unmarried couples with children as well as prenatal care. In sum, it invests in offering needy people full-life services both intensively and for an extended time to help them turn their lives around.

I know that with the decades of Father Joe Carroll's successful experience in San Diego, this opportunity to create a new service base in Palm Springs will be beneficial for the community.

TAXES AND THE ECONOMY, CUT ONE, GROW THE OTHER

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, high tax rates and complex tax codes stifle job growth. A fair and simple tax code should only provide enough revenue for the federal government to carry out its necessary tasks. It should not restrict the innovative and entrepreneurial opportunities that made America such a great nation.

The last thing the federal government should be doing is taking more money away from hard-working Americans. The key to growing our economy is allowing Americans to keep more of their own money to spend, save, and invest. Jobs is my favorite four letter word—and the tax cuts we've passed have been responsible for creating millions of new jobs across the nation.

In the House, we have worked hard to cut taxes. We have passed legislation to permanently eliminate the marriage penalty tax, extend Alternative Minimum Tax reforms, permanently expand the 10 percent bracket to lower taxes for hard working, low income families, and keep the child tax credit at the $1,000. That's real tax relief.

Our American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, provides tax relief to domestic manufacturers and U.S. employers to make them more competitive both at home and abroad.

We must also strengthen the economy by reforming our tax code. The overly complex U.S. tax code is more than a burden to working families; it's a drain on our economic efficiency and productivity. American taxpayers spend over three billion hours each year complying with a confusing U.S. tax code. The cost to our economy by complying with the tax code is a staggering $85 billion a year. That's unacceptable.

This week we passed legislation to relieve families and small businesses of onerous and complicated tax compliance. I will continue to vote for tax relief and tax reform. Tax cuts and tax reforms are a powerful economic stimulus creating new jobs; reducing the cost of doing business; and providing a framework for long-term economic growth.

CORRECTING THE RECORD REGARDING UNFOUNDED ATTACKS ON FDA GENERAL COUNSEL

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 13, 2004, on the floor of this House, Representative HINCHEY of New York made several statements about Daniel E. Troy, Chief Counsel of the FDA.

Allegations were leveled against Mr. Troy that he took unprecedented action regarding the FDA's involvement in the submission of briefs in product liability cases. His actions were neither unprecedented nor unusual. In a letter dated July 15, 2004, to Chairman BONILLA, five former FDA chief counsels—two of them Democrats—state, Mr. Troy's actions in this regard are neither "radical" nor "even novel."

The FDA must have the ability to carry out the responsibilities Congress has given the Agency. His interest in those cases is to vindicate FDA's authority over medical product risk communication and to safeguard the agency's primary jurisdiction. As Chief Counsel for the FDA, Mr. Troy appears to have acted completely within the scope of his duties and obligations. In order to address the allegation that Mr. Troy acted inappropriately, I would like to submit a copy of that letter for the RECORD.

JULY 15, 2004.

Re Hinchey amendment to cut $500,000 from the appropriations for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel.

Hon. HENRY BONILLA,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The undersigned comprise all of the former Chief Counsel to the Food and Drug Administration (in both Republican and Democratic Administrations), except for one who is currently an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services. We are writing to recommend reconsideration of the amendment to the FDA appropriations bill by Representative Hinchey of New York on the floor of the House of Representatives, which would reduce the appropriation for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel by $500,000 and would increase the appropriation for the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications in the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research by a corresponding amount. We support additional funds for the Division of Drug Marketing, but we believe that the reduction of the appropriation for the Office of Chief Counsel and Representative Hinchey's reasons for penalizing that Office cannot be supported.

FDA's Office of Chief Counsel performs critical functions in the administration and enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other laws administered by FDA. The substantial reduction in the funding of that Office, therefore, would materially impair its ability to meet the needs of its client, FDA. Such impairment would be contrary to the public interest.

Representative Hinchey's reasons for penalizing the Office of Chief Counsel and criticizing FDA Chief Counsel Daniel E. Troy are set forth in the House Debate on the FDA appropriations legislation as reported in 150 Cong. Rec. H5598–TI5599 (July 13, 2004). Representative Hinchey states that Mr. Troy "has taken the agency in a radical new direction" by submitting amicus curiae briefs in cases in which courts have been asked to require labeling for pharmaceutical products that conflicts with FDA decisions about appropriate labeling for those products. Representative Hinchey characterizes this activity as a "pattern of collusion between the FDA and the drug companies and medical device companies" in a way that has "never happened before."

These characterizations are inaccurate.

In Weinberger v. Bentex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 412 U.S. 645 (1973), the Supreme Court agreed with the briefs filed by the Department of Justice on behalf of FDA that the agency has primary jurisdiction over new drug issues. In Jones v. Rath Packing Co., 425 U.S. 933 (1977), the FDA took the position in an amicus curiae brief submitted by the Department of Justice that federal food labeling requirements preempt inconsistent state requirements, and the Supreme Court agreed. In subsequent private tort litigation, FDA has taken the position, through amicus curiae briefs filed by the Department of Justice, that FDA decisions regarding drug product labeling and related issues preempt inconsistent state court determinations, and the courts have agreed. E.g., Bernhardt v. Pfizer, Inc., 2000 U.S. Dist. Lexis 16963 (November 16, 2000); Eli Lilly. v. Marshall, 850 S.W. 2d 164 (Texas 1993). All of this was to