

the gratitude and high regard of their fellow citizens. This is certainly true in the case of these three public officials who were recently awarded recognition by their peers and colleagues in the Commissioners' Court of Nacogdoches County.

County citizens are fortunate to have working on their behalf individuals such as Mr. Robert Spencer, who as the first African-American Justice of the Peace in Nacogdoches County, has played an integral role in educating the community's children on the dangers of drug use and school truancy. Prior to his election to this post, Mr. Spencer also served as a Deputy Sheriff in Nacogdoches County. His colleagues in the community have duly recognized his valuable work to establish and facilitate improved communication between the court system and law enforcement centers in the area.

Nacogdoches County organizations and boards truly have a friend in Dorothy Tigner, who was elected last year to serve as Justice of the Peace. As such she is the first woman to serve in this post. Prior to this, Ms. Tigner served for 5 years as the Administrative Court Assistant for the 145th Judicial District Court. In what must be limited free time, Dorothy Tigner plays an active role in the community, serving in several public service organizations including the Nacogdoches County Child Welfare Board and the Nacogdoches County Community Justice Counsel.

A graduate of the East Texas Police Academy, Mr. Eddie Upshaw plays an integral role in the daily law enforcement activities of Nacogdoches County. Following 9 years spent with the Nacogdoches Police Department, Mr. Upshaw went on to work for the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Department. In 1992, voters made evident their support of his efforts by electing Eddie Upshaw to the post of County Constable. He is the first African-American to serve in this post and continues in his important work to reduce truancy in County schools. In addition, Mr. Upshaw's numerous articles regarding the civil aspect of law enforcement have been published in local newspapers.

I'm sure my Texas colleagues join me in paying tribute to these three individuals. Their past experience and continuing accomplishments in the public service realm are a credit to the community in which they serve, and we wish them well in the journey and challenges which surely lie on the path ahead.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, twenty-two years ago, the U.S. Congress voted to enact the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Since that time, the provisions of CRA have provided unparalleled economic opportunity in the poorest of our country's communities. In the inner-city neighborhoods of Cleveland, families are realizing the dream of homeownership, real estate markets are rising and small businesses are breathing new life into

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

areas once redlined and hopeless. With the investments sparked by CRA, Cleveland has leveraged a higher quality of life in these neighborhoods and established a solid infrastructure to support economic growth throughout the area. It is estimated that CRA has resulted in investment commitments of \$3.1 billion for community development efforts in Cleveland. Nationally, CRA has spurred investments totaling more than one trillion dollars in cities and rural areas across the country. Today, I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to growth and stability in the underserved communities of America by protecting and strengthening CRA through the financial modernization legislation. In this time of great economic prosperity, it is our sacred trust to guarantee that hope and opportunity are extended to all Americans, in every community and in every neighborhood.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1568, a bill to establish an office of Veterans Business Development within the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, our nation again finds itself in a position of being unable to meet the recruiting goals of its armed services. To make matters worse, the military departments are also finding it difficult to retain service members in sufficient numbers to meet authorized manpower requirements to preserve our national defense.

The causes of these personnel shortages are many, but they fall into the general category of low pay, long hours, and too much time away from home. Many service members who do stay in the service long enough to be eligible for veterans benefits find it difficult to obtain meaningful employment when they get out of the service.

This bill will provide some help in this area. The legislation will direct the SBA and VA to work together to establish a program to assist veterans, including service-disabled veterans, through small business development centers. These centers would provide training and counseling to veterans concerning the formation, management, financing, marketing and operation of small business concerns, provide assistance and information regarding procurement opportunities with federal, state and local agencies, and compile a list of small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans which provide goods or services which could be procured by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent bill which addresses an immediate need, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

KINROSS TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES
ITS CENTENNIAL AND ITS ECONOMIC
RECOVERY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to residents of the Charter Township of Kinross, who are celebrating their centennial with a spirit of optimism. The celebration and the optimism of this northern Michigan community is especially inspiring, Mr. Speaker, because Kinross Township continues to struggle economically to recover from the Air Force decision to turn out the lights and turn the key on Kincheloe Air Force Base in September 1977. This military departure, which occurred far before the formal base closure program of the early 1990s, left a shell of an economy, a ghost of a community, and infrastructure and pollution problems that still must be dealt with today.

Kinross Township is working hard on its own recovery. The Centennial Ceremonies are an affirmation of that effort and a rededication to its fulfillment. The Centennial lets many township residents look back to their roots in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where their ancestors settled as lumbermen and farmers after the railroad opened up the territory.

Quilting has knit the community together for generations, and a special community quilt and a community blanket highlighting the area's history are among the Centennial activities.

The proximity of the Soo Locks guaranteed a U.S. military presence somewhere near Sault Ste. Marie to guard this vital facility. The locks were an essential link between the Great Lakes of Superior and Huron in bringing Great Plains wheat and iron ore from Minnesota and northern Michigan to lower Midwest ports and steel mills. The airport at Kinross was designated in June 1941, eventually growing to become a Strategic Air Command base and serving as home to B-52H bombers and KC-135 tankers. The base was named Kincheloe for Air Force Capt. Ivan C. Kincheloe Jr., a Michigan native, Korean War ace, and test pilot killed in an accident over the Mojave Desert in 1956.

An impact study prepared by the Air Force at the time of the closing noted Kincheloe was a \$55 million per year operation, with a significant portion of that funding spent in the local area. The impact of the loss of this income on the businesses and permanent residents of this largely rural area can only be imagined.

I have worked closely with community officials in Kinross, Mr. Speaker. Unlike our most recent base closing, which have included environmental cleanup of military sites before their turnover to civilian ownership and operation, and which have included large infusions of economic aid, the recovery of Kinross has been to a large extent a bootstrap effort. We have had some joint successes, such as the designation of the former base as the nation's first rural site to be designated a "brownfield," and we have worked to obtain funding for the former airport, now Chippewa County International Airport.