

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical evaluation on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, I was absent for rollcall votes 311–315. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 311—"Yes";
Rollcall No. 312—"No";
Rollcall No. 313—"No";
Rollcall No. 314—"No";
Rollcall No. 315—"No".

THOMAS MAKAR OF CLEVELAND,
OHIO ATTAINS EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Makar of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored August 21, 1999 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor in which a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. Additionally, each Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project that benefits the community in which he must plan, finance, and execute. Furthermore, an Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he learns important life skills. Thomas has accomplished this and more.

Thomas has proved himself as an exceptional young man who lives by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Promise; and Scout Motto. Thomas is also the first second-generation Eagle Scout in his troop history, and this is a tribute to the entire Makar family.

I ask you to please join me in recognizing and congratulating Thomas for his achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. RODOLFO
DIAZ-PONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Rodolfo Diaz-Pons, who is retiring after 22 years of military service and 4 years at Central Michigan University as a professor and chair of the military science department.

I would like to commend Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons for his service to his country and congratulate him on his retirement on August 31. Since beginning his career in 1977 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, he has served several leadership positions in the United States and in Germany.

While at Fort Carson, CO, Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons held positions as commander of an "A Team" and served as group plans officer in the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne. Following his completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he served as rifle and headquarters company commander in the 4th Battalion 8th Infantry. During his time in Germany, he served as the battalion operations officer to the 1st Battalion 39th Infantry.

Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons entered into service because he wanted to develop his leadership abilities. He has achieved this goal. As he begins his retirement, he continues to advance his leadership skills and volunteer in his community. He will serve as full-time pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church in St. Louis, MI, where he was previously serving as volunteer pastor.

On behalf of the residents of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons today and wish him the best as he begins his new journey. His school, community and nation are grateful to him.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Goodling amendment.

India is one of our most valuable allies. The oldest democracy and the largest democracy share many things in common. India is moving forward with free-market reforms that offer tremendous opportunities for American trade and investment.

U.S. assistance to India, and elsewhere, serves our national interests and is provided because it promotes our policy priorities, not as a reward for voting with us.

We should not cut assistance to countries based solely on their voting practices in the United Nations General Assembly. We should consider more than just a voting record. For example, we agree on a host of other UN activities. India has sent significant troop contingents to various peace-keeping missions around the world, serving as a partner to further our mutual interests.

But even if you consider their voting record, in votes identified by the State Department as "important," India voted with the U.S. 75% of the time. This amendment will do nothing but damage our relations with a valuable ally by identifying India as an opponent of U.S. policies, when, in fact, we have a great deal in common.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this amendment.

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1995) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to empower teachers, improve student achievement through high-quality professional development for teachers, reauthorize the Reading Excellence Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, the problems with H.R. 1995 are abundant in nature, however, one of its greatest flaws deals with the lack of language about the school counselors of this country. H.R. 1995 eliminates over one million personnel from eligibility for professional development under Title II of ESEA. Without the assistance of other school personnel, undue burdens and demands will be placed on teachers. TEA will actually increase, not decrease, the workload and responsibilities of teachers. H.R. 1995 decreases local flexibility to train and hire needed school personnel—America's schools need school counselors, the recent school shootings remind us that students have needs that must be served by qualified counseling professionals. H.R. 1995 eliminates pupil services from eligibility for professional development by completely rewriting title II of ESEA. H.R. 1995 limits students with disabilities access to education—by eliminating professional development for pupil services, school staff will be unprepared to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. These are just a few of the shortcomings with H.R. 1995, if we are in this for the children, how can we simply sit back passively and allow such grossly inadequate legislation which blatantly ignores those who fight so hard for the welfare of our children—school counselors.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1477, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1999, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This provision, which passed the House of Representatives in the 105th Congress by an overwhelming margin, would ensure that we hold the International Atomic Energy Agency accountable for its programs in Iran, and would reinforce our commitment to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Despite its plentiful oil and gas resources, Iran has sought for years to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on its Persian Gulf coast. Iran is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism, and as such its plans to utilize nuclear energy should not go unchecked