

Participants typically spend one to two weeks each year on campus at the George Meany Center and work independently the rest of the time, completing reading assignments, writing research papers and communicating with instructors by phone, mail and e-mail.

Alex Bell, 78, a former Maryland state delegate, is the oldest graduate. An active member of the Plumbers Local 5 in the District, Mr. Bell is on the executive board and financial board of his union and also serves as a business agent.

"That college is the greatest place in the world," he said.

Yesterday's graduates, ranging in age from 29 to 78, represented 25 states and 33 unions. Most of them are the first in their families to earn a degree.

About 400 union members and leaders from throughout the country are participating in the college degree program, which has recently expanded to offer a master's degree.

Kevin P. O'Sullivan, yesterday's student speaker, plans to earn his master's degree in public administration through the college. For Mr. O'Sullivan, the labor movement is integral to his family's history.

"My father, an Irish immigrant, worked seven days a week as an electrician, providing a better life for his family," said Mr. O'Sullivan.

"His example of solidarity while supporting a Teamsters strike for three months despite the pressures of providing for his wife and seven children will be with me longer than my disdain for oatmeal that I gained during the strike."

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DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF  
NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-  
MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOP-  
LE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am reluctantly voting today to affirm the Administration's renewal of Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with the People's Republic of China (PRC) for the coming year. At the same time, I also want to reaffirm my current opposition to the extension of permanent NTR status to China. I strongly believe the United States should preserve the annual option of suspending NTR open as a potential instrument of policy, and trust China is aware that it continues to edge ever closer to a suspension of its NTR status with the United States.

I hold grave reservations over current U.S.-China relations. Among other things, the PRC's theft of U.S. nuclear and computer technology secrets, its continued opposition to U.S. policies abroad, and its long-term history of human rights violations all raise serious concerns. I have already taken public steps this session to toughen U.S. policy on the PRC by speaking out against religious persecution in China on the House floor, voting to limit satellite exports to China, voting to prohibit military-to-military exchanges with the People's Liberation Army, and implementing the recommendations of the Cox Report.

Nevertheless, as someone who represents a state where the agricultural sector is vitally

important to both our culture and our economy, I believe the expansion of markets within China for agricultural products is crucial. Our farmers face a crisis today. Commodity prices are at extraordinarily low levels as demand continues to lag behind supply worldwide. At the same time, Congress is encouraging our farmers to rely more and more on market forces, and less and less on old-style bureaucratic programs. A huge part of these market forces is dependent upon growth in our farm exports. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that 37 percent of the growth in our nation's farm exports could go to China by 2003. In other words, to restrict trade by suspending China's NTR status would take a key market away from our struggling farmers at an unfortunate time, likely driving agriculture prices even lower.

In recent months, the U.S. Trade Representative has negotiated conditional agreements with China that would, among other things, dramatically reduce Chinese tariffs on U.S. cheese and ice cream exports. If NTR fails, these agreements are finished—giving Wisconsin farmers bad news at a time when bad news seems to be the order of the day.

This has been a tough decision, one I have weighed for some time. There are valid and persuasive arguments on both sides of the NTR debate, and I can truly say this has been one of the most difficult issues I have faced since taking office. In the end, however, the issue's potential impact on agriculture tipped the scales in favor of renewing China's NTR status for another year.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID VITTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2000. This legislation reaffirms Congress' commitment to a strong national defense and takes a positive step toward restoring our hollowed-out military. This legislation provides funding for key defense projects such as the LPD-17 and the Navy Information Technology Center.

By providing full funding for the LPD-17, the United States Navy receives a highly reliable, warfare capable ship and the most survivable amphibious ship ever put to sea. The LPD-17 design incorporates state-of-the-art self-defense capabilities, C4I, and reduced signature technologies advances that will prove priceless over its 40-year service life. LPD-17 also incorporates the latest quality of life standards for our Sailors and Marines.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the Chairman for his foresight in placing additional funding above the President's request into the

DIMHRS account for the Navy Information Technology Center in New Orleans. Funding for the Navy Information Technology Center will ensure continued development of the information software needed to handle personnel and pay management files for the Navy and other armed services. By investing in these improvements now, the Office of Management and Budget estimates the Navy will be able to save billions of dollars in the future. These savings will result in additional funding to rebuild our national defense.

The legislation also includes the first significant increase in defense spending in 14 years, and will also boost pay for the nation's 1.4 million active-duty service men and women by 4.8 percent.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chairman for crafting an excellent bill, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and his staff.

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IN HONOR OF CHIEF PAUL J.  
HANAK ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE UNION CITY, NEW  
JERSEY, POLICE FORCE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Paul J. Hanak on twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of Union City, New Jersey, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the force.

In August 1970, Mr. Hanak joined the Union City Police Force as a Patrol Officer where his hard work and dedication was quickly recognized and rewarded. By 1974, Mr. Hanak started his rise through the ranks when he was promoted to Sergeant. In the following years, he rose to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1983, Deputy Chief in 1987, and finally Chief of the Union City Police Force in 1997.

Through the years, Chief Hanak was revered by his fellow officers as being responsive to their needs and compassionate about their daily stresses. He always set time aside to give advice and counsel. In fact, it was his mission statement which set the stage for the entire force: "Compassion, Proficiency and Respect." It is this type of work ethic, of motivation, that epitomized Chief Hanak's career.

Always committed to his sense of civic responsibility, Chief Hanak continued to flourish and grow in the criminal justice field outside the bounds of the police force. Receiving a Law Degree from Seton Hall University, Chief Hanak passed the New Jersey State Bar in 1971. In addition, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Jersey City State College, teaching courses on the Criminal Justice System.

I am happy to congratulate Chief Paul Hanak for his long and distinguished career; for his dedication and service to the Union City Police Force; and for his compassion for and understanding of his fellow officers and all the people of Union City. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing this exceptional man a happy and healthy retirement.