that time he has exhibited all the qualities: in- 
tellect, wit and a certain style that make him 
truly the son of a Diplomat's Diplomat. In 
fact, Cormac was an inspiration to those who 
loved the game of golf, for there was never 
too dull an assignment or too onerous a task 
that Cormac did not shirk for the sake of eight- 
een holes. I am confident that in the care of 
two truly wonderful people, Pat and Pauline, 
Hennessy, Cormac will amount to something 
more than the self-proclaimed title of “King of 
all Interns.” Indeed I am certain that his unsur-
passed sarcasm, his indiscernible “South-
ern” dialect and his unique charm will cause 
him to rise to the highest levels of leadership 
and success. I wish him all the best in his fu-
ture endeavors and I thank him for all that he 
has done and meant to me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. ASA HUTCHINSON
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, 
July 30, 1999, Duke was inadvertently detained 
and did not vote on rollcall No. 354 or 355. 
Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” 
on both.

HONORING JAN DUKE
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today 
to honor Jan Duke for receiving the presti-
gious Milken Educator Award. Duke teaches 
fourth grade at John Adam's Elementary 
School in the Madera Unified School Dis-
trict.

Jan Duke was one of four teachers in Cali-
ifornia to receive this honor, and one of 160 to 
be honored nationwide. She is the first from 
Madera Unified School District to be given this 
award.

Beyond her role as an exemplary teacher, 
Jan is a skilled writer and presenter. Duke has 
written two books on teaching fourth-graders 
and co-authored, with her husband, a book on 
teaching individuals to read. She also advises 
national scholastic book clubs on what lit-
earature would be best for children. In addition, 
she conducts 5 to 20 seminars annually for 
fourth-grade teachers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke 
for her achievements and service to the com-
munity. I urge my colleagues to join me in 
wishing Jan many more years of continued 
success and happiness.

CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS OF 
VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO
HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to 
bring to the forefront a very important issue 
that has not been given the attention it de-
serves by this Congress. More than 9,000 
American citizens, living on the island of 
Vieques, live in fear. But, it isn’t a fear of drug 
trafficking. It isn’t a fear of violent gangs or ter-
rorism either. Our fellow citizens live in fear of 
our own military, and I would like to explain 
why.

For more than 50 years, the residents of 
Vieques, Puerto Rico, an island encompassing 
less than 52 square miles of which the Navy 
occupies 35 square miles, have had to endure 
live military ammunition and bombing exer-
cises. Vieques is the largest area in the Western 
hemisphere used for military exercises with 
live ammunition, and the only place where 
bombing still occurs near a substantial civilian 
population. For years, the residents of Vieques 
have expressed their concerns about the 
negative impact that the bombing and live am-
munition exercises are having on their health 
and safety. Unfortunately, their voices have 
not been heard and that concerns me.

On April 19, 1999, the people of Vieques 
raised their voices once again, this time in de-
spair. It was on that date, during routine mili-
tary practices conducted by two Navy F/A–18 
Hornet jets, that two bombs were accidentally 
dropped near an observation post manned by 
civilian security guards. As a result, a security 
guard was killed and four others were wound-
ed.

I believe that if the citizens of Puerto Rico 
had equal representation in Congress, legis-
lative concerns for their safety and health 
would have been better safeguarded.

Since that accident, the Navy has tempo-
rarily ceased military maneuvers while an 
investigation is carried out, and Puerto Rico's 
Governor, the Honorable Pedro Rossello, ap-
pointed a Commission that investigated the in-
cident and reported its findings to the Presi-
dent’s Special Panel on Military Operations on 
Vieques on July 9, 1999. The Governor's Commis-
sion unanimously concluded that it is not 
possible to protect the people of Vieques, 
or the environment, from the extreme danger 
posed by live ammunition testing. The Navy 
argues that Vieques is a unique site for train-
ing exercises with live ammunition, making it 
essential to our National security. I’ve always 
worked to protect our National security, how-
ever, it should never be achieved at the ex-
 pense of the personal rights or safety of our 
own citizens. The only solution may be to end 
permanently the military's live ammunition 
testing on Vieques.

No one in this House would tolerate what 
the military is doing on Vieques if it were tak-
 ing place in our Congressional district, and 
neither would our constituents. Imagine trying 
to explain to the voters why they should wel-
come the bombardment of their communities 
with live ammunition. Try convincing your con-
istituents to accept, and in return thank you, 
for having uranium-coated bombs dropped within 
a few miles of their homes, schools, hospitals, 
and public parks. Imagine asking your con-
istituents to accept having their children attend 
classrooms which reverberate during the 
school day as live shells explode nearby. No 
one in this chamber would permit the continu-
anation of a practice by our own military that 
dangers the lives of a very people we have 
have been elected to represent.

There’s a reality about Puerto Rico, one that 
is wonderful and abhorrent at the same time.

The people of Puerto Rico are truly American 
citizens, part of America’s great democracy, 
and that is wonderful. However, the people of 
Puerto Rico currently lack the single most im-
portant tool that our democracy provides, two 
Senators and a voting delegation in the House 
of Representatives, and that is abhorrent. It is 
precisely because the people of Puerto Rico 
don’t have equal representation in Congress 
that they need our help now. If they had real 
representation here, the military would have 
the proper incentive to solve the problem of 
live ammunition testing on Vieques. I trust that 
my colleagues in the House of Representa-
tives would agree with me. If this practice 
were occurring in any one of the fifty States, 
I know we would all stand together to oppose 
it. We owe our fellow American citizens in 
Puerto Rico the same level of respect. They 
nothing less. In fact, their safety and their 
 futures may depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my col-
leagues to take a hard look at this issue.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF 
LOMITA
HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today 
to recognize the City of Lomita, California. 
Lomita is celebrating its 35th year as an incor-
porated city. The City of Lomita is widely rec-
ognized for its rustic, small-town atmosphere 
amongst the larger cities of the South Bay.

Lomita was first established as a German 
farming community in 1907. The farming com-
munity continued to grow throughout the 
years, and in June of 1964, after several un-
successful attempts, Lomita was finally incor-
porated as a city.

While surrounding communities have experi-
enced tremendous growth, Lomita has re-
mained relatively unchanged since incorpo-
ration. Lomita’s small town attributes attract 
young families in search of a safe, close knit 
community. Lomita is a culturally diverse com-
munity and it also boasts one of the lowest 
crime rates in the South Bay region. It is an 
ideal place to raise a family and live the Amer-
ican Dream, and many of its residents are 
homeowners and small business entre-
preneurs.

The future looks bright for the city of Lomita. 
Preparations are currently underway for an 
ambitious revitalization of Lomita’s downtown 
area to ensure that Lomita maintains its small-
town atmosphere.

Lomita has thrived over the last 35 years, 
and as we enter the 21st century, Lomita will 
continue to stand out as a small, unique town 
of the South Bay. I congratulate the City 
of Lomita and its 20,000 residents on this mile-
stone.

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