

violent crimes. Authorities can use these funds to develop such activities as counseling for the youth; pre- and post-trial assistance for the youth and their family; educational services if the youth has to be removed from school; community and school based outreach initiatives; and protective services. The bill would authorize \$3 million for each fiscal year from 2001 to 2003. No new money will be used to fund this effort. Rather, funding would be derived from existing monies within the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this bill supports our Nation's young people who take a courageous stance against violent crime in their communities. It sends a message that Congress cares and is willing to provide the assistance young witnesses need. Forty-six members of the House, Democrats and Republicans, have acknowledged this by becoming original cosponsors of this legislation. It is my hope that the House will "do the right thing" and pass this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
LEONARD S. RASKIN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard S. Raskin, whose death on October 18 is an incalculable loss to his loving family and cherished friends, and to our community. Lenny loved life and was undaunted by its challenges. Even as cancer claimed more and more of him, he did " . . . not go gently into that good night . . . (but) . . . raged against the dying of the light . . ." His incredible strength and will to live emulate these words of courage written by Dylan Thomas to his dying father. Lenny adopted me into his life, and as my friend, reinforced in me the belief that anything was possible to accomplish if you just tried hard enough and were good enough. I knew even if I failed he'd still be there for me; so true was his love. Lenny loved his family and friends with a passion even death cannot diminish. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing my deepest sympathy to his devoted wife of 50 years, Sarah Raskin, his eldest son, Phillip E. Raskin, his only daughter and my dearest friend, Maryl D. Raskin, his youngest son and daughter-in-law Garry N. and Susan Raskin, and his beloved grandchildren, Kaley and Sydney Raskin. I ask unanimous consent that the following material be included with my statement. The poems, "Adios" by Naomi Shihab Nye, and "Reading Aloud to My Father" by Jane Kenyon; works Maryl shared with me which reflect upon life as we reflect upon this wonderful man's friendship and love. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adios, Lenny.

ADIOS

It is a good word, rolling off the tongue no matter what language you were born with.

Use it. Learn where it begins, the small alphabet of departure, how long it takes to think of it, then say it, then be heard.

Marry it. More than a golden ring, it shines, it shines.

Wear it on every finger till your hands dance, touching everything easily, letting everything, easily, go.

Strap it to your back like wings. Or a kite-tail. The stream of air behind a jet.

If you are known for anything, let it be the way you rise out of sight when your work is finished.

Think of things that linger; leaves, cartons and napkins, the damp smell of mold.

Think of things that disappear.

Think of what you love best, what brings tears into your eyes.

Something that said adios to you before you knew what it meant or how long it was for.

Explain little, the word explains itself. Later perhaps. Lessons following lessons, like silence following sound.

—Naomi Shihab Nye.

READING ALOUD TO MY FATHER

I chose the book haphazard from the shelf, but with Nabokov's first sentence I knew it wasn't the thing to read to a dying man:

The cradle rocks above the abyss, it began, and common sense tells us that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness.

The words disturbed both of us immediately, and I stopped. With music it was the same—

Chopin's Piano Concerto—he asked me to turn it off. He ceased eating, and drank little, while the tumors briskly appropriated what was left of him.

But to return to the cradle rocking. I think Nabokov had it wrong. This is the abyss.

That's why babies howl at birth, and why the dying so often reach for something only they can apprehend.

At the end they don't want their hands to be under the covers, and if you should put your hand on theirs in a tentative gesture of solidarity, they'll pull the hand free; and you must honor that desire, and let them pull it free.

—Jane Kenyon.

TRIBUTE TO MANA, A NATIONAL
LATINA ORGANIZATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the members of MANA, a national Latina organization whose members are in our Nation's Capital to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of this organization.

MANA, a national Latina organization, was founded in 1977 as a Mexican American Women's National Association. Its mission is to strengthen Latina community leaders; cultivate vital and prosperous Latino communities and advance public policy for an equal and just society. MANA is a membership-based organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has chapters across the country.

For over 25 years, MANA has been the voice for Latinas in the Nation's Capital and across the country—from the statehouse to

the White House. They have shared the national and international concerns of Hispanics with Presidents of the United States and Mexico and consulted with cabinet-level leaders on a range of domestic issues. Through its chapters, MANA has duplicated a strong advocacy role at the community level.

Throughout its rich history, MANA has established a number of programs which have been replicated at the local level through their chapters. From the outset, MANA viewed leadership development as the key to achieve a dream of "full empowerment of Latinas." To that end, the organization holds annual training conferences on public policy issues and the legislative process. MANA also provides scholarships specifically targeting Latinas. Concerned with the high dropout rate, MANA developed its youth stay-in-school program, Las herMANITAS. This program has been duplicated at the chapter level. Through role models, success stories, personal triumphs, encouragement and leadership training, MANA has developed, inspired, motivated and mobilized self-reliant, determined and courageous women to become community leaders.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention the women who led the organization the last 25 years. Through their efforts they demonstrated how a totally volunteer organization of more than 1,000 women across the country can make a difference in creating a better future for Hispanic women, their families and their communities. Past National Presidents include: Blandina (Bambi) Cárdenas, Founder, 1974; Bettie Baca, Organizing Chair 1974-75; Evangeline (Vangie) Elizondo, President 1975-76; Gloria López Hernández, President 1976-77; Elisa Sánchez, President 1977-79 and 1995-1999; Wilma Espinoza, President 1979-81; Raydean Acavedo, President 1981-83; Veronica (Ronni) Collazo, President 1983-85; Gloria Barajas, President 1985-86; María Rita Jaramillo, President 1986-88; Irma Maldonado, President 1988-90; Judy Canales, President 1990-92 and Elvira Valenzuela Crocker, President 1992-94.

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we applaud you for your contributions, and we thank you for your leadership on behalf of Latinas and Latinos throughout the country. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

JACOB'S HOPE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the tenth anniversary of a tragic event in my home state of Minnesota. On October 22, 1989, an eleven-year-old boy named Jacob Wetterling was stolen from his family in the small community of St. Joseph, Minnesota. Since then, no one has heard from Jacob or the masked gunman who stole him that day.

This tragedy shook the community, our state and the nation. If a child could be taken from a closely-knit, small community like St. Joseph, Minnesota, what child in America was truly safe?

Jacob's parents, Jerry and Patty Wetterling, have made it their crusade to make America a safer place for our children. They turned an unthinkable horror in their own lives into an opportunity to bring hope to other families. Over the last 10 years, they have kept the hope of Jacob's return alive, and, at the same time, created the Jacob Wetterling Foundation to promote child safety.

Today, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation is an invaluable, nationally recognized resource for families with missing children and the law enforcement officials searching for them. The Foundation has helped 1,500 families with missing or exploited children and processed 1,000 leads on missing children.

Patty Wetterling has been a tireless crusader, traveling around the country to educate children and families about preventing child abduction and abuse.

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation has reached 160,000 people at 500 events and has distributed more than 1.2 million safety brochures across the nation.

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation has been instrumental in shaping our nation's laws to protect children. Working with Patty Wetterling, I introduced legislation to protect communities from the criminals who prey on children. This landmark legislation—the Jacob Wetterling Act—became the law of the land in 1994. Because of it, released criminals who are convicted of crimes against children must register with law enforcement, and communities are notified when dangerous offenders move into the neighborhood.

Several events are taking place in Minnesota and across the country this weekend to mark the tragic anniversary of Jacob's abduction and make America award of the need for child protection. At 6:00 p.m. tomorrow in St. Joseph, Minnesota, there will be a balloon launch from Kennedy Elementary School. Also tomorrow on television, "Dateline NBC" will carry a report on the Wetterling case.

On Saturday, a safety fair for children and parents will be held at the Rainbow Foods store in St. Cloud, Minnesota. There will also be a local broadcast on KARE-TV at 10:00 a.m. with a behind-the-scenes look at a public service announcement by Jacob's friends and classmates.

On Sunday, a "Hope Service" will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. In addition, the November issue of "Reader's Digest" currently on newsstands carries a cover story about Jacob.

Mr. Speaker, there are few people who have touched my own life like Jacob Wetterling, a boy I have never met. Because of Jacob, America's children are better protected from those who would steal their childhood. Because of Jacob, more and more children will have the opportunity to grow up safe and secure.

I ask my colleagues and fellow Americans to remember Jacob and his wonderful family. We owe Patty and Jerry Wetterling and the Jacob Wetterling Foundation a great debt of gratitude for their ten years of work protecting America's most precious gift—our children.

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN
WEEKEND

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize an effort sponsored by the Illinois Drug Education Alliance and others to raise awareness of and unite people against the dangers of illegal drug use. This effort, known as Pray for the Children, is a grassroots movement to keep children drug-free and safe through faith and community involvement.

The second annual "Pray for the Children Weekend" is this weekend, October 22, 23, and 24. This is a time for people all across the world to take a moment to reflect and pray for children to avoid the pitfalls of illegal drug use. It is also a time for families, religious institutions and political leaders to come together to keep children drug free and safe.

We are all aware of the devastating impact illicit drug use has on our society, particularly on young people. Illicit drug use is something we all understand must be addressed and overcome. While saying a prayer is not the sole answer to the drug problem, it is part of a larger solution that demands community involvement and responsibility for one's own actions.

I encourage those listening to participate in this effort and urge my colleagues to wear the red "Pray for the Children" ribbons that have been sent to their offices. The Ribbons and this campaign symbolize what members of this body and those around the world should be promoting—a zero tolerance for illegal drug use and a commitment to a drug-free lifestyle.

IN HONOR OF THE STATEWIDE
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE OF NEW JERSEY ON ITS
"DECADE OF SUCCESS"

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey on a "Decade of Success" in the State of New Jersey on this occasion, its 9th Annual Convention and Expo.

Starting out with just a handful of volunteers in 1989, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has become the flagship organization for New Jersey's small business community. Today, the SHCC is an organization committed to serving the needs of the Hispanic business community, while working closely with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to provide leadership and to promote the continued growth and development of New Jersey's economy.

Championing the needs of Hispanic businesses in the State of New Jersey, the SHCC is a voluntary network of individuals, businesses, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, and regional professional associations. The network is responsible for expanding business

opportunities, forging a mutually beneficial relationship between the public and private sectors, advocating businesses in the political arena, and promoting trade between New Jersey businesses and their national and international counterparts.

The SHCC encourages growth through technical assistance and regional conferences for area businesses, professional associations, and entrepreneurs. Also, the SHCC provides strong leadership for New Jersey in the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as well as in programs such as Education NOW for future business leaders.

Nationwide, Hispanic businesses are thriving. With 30,000 Hispanic-owned businesses supporting 128,000 jobs and generating \$7.5 billion in sales nationwide, the Hispanic market is the fastest growing sector in the United States. In the State of New Jersey alone, this booming market has experienced an 87% increase in less than ten years. The efforts of groups such as the SHCC have been instrumental in fostering this growth.

For its commitment to the survival and prosperity of Hispanic-owned businesses, as well as its unwavering leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL NEEDS A
BOOST

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to submit an article by my colleague, the distinguished Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. Lane Evans. This article, about needed changes in the Montgomery GI Bill, appeared in the November 1999 issue of the Association of the United States Army's AUSA News.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL NEEDS A BOOST

We are enjoying a balanced budget for the first time in a generation. Now is the prudent time to make badly-needed changes in the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB).

Army and other service recruiters and the commanders of the Armed Services' Recruiting Commands see the MGIB as the most important recruiting incentive for the Armed Services. Yet congressional leaders have refused to fund an upgrade, despite a recruiting crisis today that will be tomorrow's manpower crisis.

The House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits held hearings this year on the Montgomery GI Bill Improvements Act of 1999, H.R. 1071, which I introduced, and the Servicemembers Educational Opportunity Act of 1999, H.R. 1182, introduced by Chairman BOB STUMP. Both bills would appreciably increase benefits provided by the Montgomery GI Bill. The testimony we received during those hearings was far-reaching, and it confirmed two things:

1. GI Bill enhancements are sorely needed, and
2. My H.R. 1071 is a significantly stronger bill.

Commanders and recruiters from all of the Armed Services told the Benefits Subcommittee that they face brutal recruiting