

federal customs officials in a crossfire between their mandate to speed the movement of goods and their mandate to reduce the flow of illegal substances.

At the state level, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts has released a report titled *Bordering the Future*, recommending among other items that U.S. customs inspection facilities at major international border crossings stay open around the clock. At the federal level, the U.S. General Accounting Office is conducting a similar study of border commerce and NAFTA issues, and the U.S. Customs Service is working with a private trade entity to review and analyze the relationship between its inspector numbers and its inspection workload.

Efficiency in the flow of NAFTA commerce requires two federal customs-related funding commitments: (1) improved infrastructure, including additional customs inspection lanes; and (2) a concurrent expansion in customs personnel and customs operating hours.

Section 119 of the Federal Transportation Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), creating the Coordinated Border infrastructure program, serves as a funding source for border area infrastructure improvements and regulatory enhancements.

Domestic profits and income increases in tandem with the exports and imports, generating federal revenue, some portion of which deserves channeling into the customs activity that supports increased international trade.

Texas legislators and businesses, being close to the situation geographically, are acutely aware of the fixes and upgrades that require attention if NAFTA prosperity is truly to live up to the expectations of this state and nation.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
WREATHLAYING CEREMONY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I attended the Eighth Annual Wreathlaying Ceremony commemorating the Anniversary of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's Dedication. Although I have attended these commemorations in the past, this year's ceremony was particularly touching.

Over the course of this decade, our federal, state and local law enforcement officers increasingly have faced dangerous conditions in communities around the Nation. During the 1990s, an average of more than 62,000 officers were assaulted, more than 21,000 were injured and 160 were killed in the line of duty each year. The walls of the Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial are lined with more than 14,000 names, including three of our very own Capitol Police Officers—Officer Jacob J. Chesnut, Detective John Gibson and Officer Christopher Eney.

Every single day, the men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line to protect and serve large and small communities across this Nation. They risk their lives to make ours safe and secure. Whether as a

border patrol agent, state trooper, or community-oriented police officer, all face the ultimate sacrifice in upholding the laws that serve as the foundation to our democratic form of government.

Below you will find that text of remarks made by Mrs. Shirley Gibson. Mrs. Gibson is the mother of Officer Brian Gibson, one of 160 police officers killed in the line of duty in 1997 and one of three officers from the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department to be killed during a three-month period in that year. Officer Gibson was brutally gunned down outside of a District night club not far from this Chamber.

Since Brian's death almost two years ago, Mrs. Gibson has formed a local chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors. I salute her efforts to remember Brian and the thousands of other officers that have left behind family and friends while making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Mrs. Gibson: I feel qualified to stand here today and represent the survivors of each name inscribed on the walls of this beautiful Memorial. I see so much more than names on these walls. I see husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. I see my son's face. His name was added to these walls two short years ago, along with the names of two fellow Metropolitan Police Department officers, Oliver Smith, Jr. and Robert Johnson, all killed in a span of three months.

640 law enforcement officers' names from the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan area are included in the more than 14,000 names that line these walls.

This Memorial recognizes all law enforcement, whether federal, state or local, and pays tribute to those officers killed in the line of duty. There are no boundaries in the family of law enforcement. The grief, shock, and anger felt that the deaths of U.S. Capitol Police Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and the support from MPD and other departments here and around the country, is an example of how law enforcement is truly a family.

To survivors, this is a place that evokes a flood of emotions. I remember seeing my son Brian's name being inscribed on the wall, and the pride I felt mixed with the pain. Pride, knowing that my son was an outstanding officer who was killed during what he loved most, and that his name was being memorialized for all who love him to see and remember. Pain, because I realized that Brian's name would not be the last name inscribed here. Since Brian's death, there have been many more names added, and as much as we pray that there will be no more, we realize that it is inevitable. To those law enforcement officers who diligently continue the job that Brian and the thousands of others here died for, the message this Memorial sends is that you are appreciated, you are needed and you make the world a safer place for law-abiding citizens.

On this, the eighth anniversary of the dedication this Memorial, another message is clearly sent. That message is that the role of Law Enforcement Officers will never be diminished, that the names inscribed here and the names attached to every law enforcement badge, convey the strength, courage, and valor symbolized by the imposing lions with guard the entrance to this Memorial.

The survivors who visit this Memorial find a quiet place of remembrance, dignity and pride. A mother from New York called me a

few weeks after Police Week this year. Her only son had been honored. When she returned home, the desire to come back to the Memorial was so strong, that a few days later she boarded a train to Union Station, got a taxi and came here to simply spend the day looking at her son's name and remembered faces of those who advocated peace. A place where the wind whispers "Always remembered. Never forgotten." A place worthy of the name of those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

God Bless the Gibson Family and God Bless the thousands of families whose loved ones are remembered on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Their tremendous sacrifice will never be forgotten. We will forever be in their debt.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
LEADERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that is vitally important to our society as a whole. The New Leaders is an organization committed to empowering the African American community. Many challenges lie ahead in addressing the concerns of people of color. This organization brings young professionals together to tackle the social, economic, and political problems facing people of color. For five years, this organization used the collective resources of these young professionals to shape public policy.

Using fresh and innovative perspectives that we as policy makers desperately need, this organization has become a part of several youth education and training partnerships. The New Leaders has worked continually to increase African American leadership opportunities and to foster an environment of youth empowerment. As a member of their generation, I realize the importance of looking at our young people as assets and resources.

The New Leaders have made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing scholarship money to students, and sponsoring the highly successful and effective Take A Youth To Work Day.

Not only are The New Leaders ahead of the curve in advocating youth empowerment, they also support a fair and accurate census. Historically, minorities have been under-counted and The New Leaders are committed to Census 2000 in order to ensure equal representation and ample funding to combat some of the growing concerns in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts and the achievements of The New Leaders. I also submit a position paper presented to The White House by The New Leaders for the RECORD.

THE NEW LEADERS—1999 POSITION PAPER ON YOUTH, LEADERSHIP AND THE CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

(Presented to The White House, September 18, 1999)

The New Leaders (TNL) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to empowering the African American community. For the last five years, TNL has been comprised primarily of Black professionals dedicated to addressing the social, economic and political issues facing people of color. We believe by leveraging our combined resources with a fresh, innovative perspective, our goal of shaping public policy will result in the organization attaining a value-added level of influence in this country.

Building upon the success the Clinton Administration has had in fostering mentoring, expanding investments in youth education and training, and creating the GEAR-UP initiative, TNL recognizes that several partnership opportunities lie ahead. Therefore, TNL recommends that the Administration put forth initiatives that further promote our young people to become actively involved in leadership and government. Additionally, these initiatives will help remedy the misrepresentation of Blacks that resulted from previous under-counts of minorities in past national census counts.

OBJECTIVE FOR INCREASING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATION

TNL encourages the Clinton Administration to expand existing initiatives and/or create a new initiative design to invest in the development of governmental leadership within African American communities across this nation. To formulate a model that could be duplicated, TNL proposes the development of a demonstration project that creates a leadership institute to train and prepare African Americans to take an active role in government.

CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF BLACKS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Extreme apathy exists among a massive pool of untapped voters across this country. This apathy is prevalent in the Black community, especially among our youth. While reasons vary as to why eligible young voters are so far removed from the political process, we must find a way to reengage these individuals. Our failure to successfully address this issue will result in continued inadequate resources for underserved minority communities.

TNL'S COMMITMENT TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Over the past few years, TNL has touched the lives of thousands by addressing the social, political and economic state of the African American community. One of TNL's primary interests has been and continues to be our youth—equipping and instructing them to assume responsibility for their own lives and the future of their communities.

TNL has made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing \$88,000 in scholarship moneys through Texas Southern University (TSU), and most importantly, sponsoring our annual Take a Youth to Work Day. Every year this milestone even pairs African American males between the ages of 13 and 18 with professional Black men for a day of mentoring. By partnering with the current administration, TNL seeks to expand our outreach efforts. We will achieve this through continued advancements in technology, creation of charter organizations, and drawing upon the expertise of African American leaders both past and present.

THE HISTORICAL UNDER-COUNT IN THE PAST CENSUS & THE IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICANS

Since the inception of the census count, Blacks have been consistently under-counted. As a result, the Black community has been grossly misrepresented and ample funding has not been secured. One area of vital importance is health care. In this area, a new generation of African Americans continue to lead in the disparity of diseases such as: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations (diseases identified by the Administration's initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities). As we move towards a new millennium, an under-count in Census 2000 will have an enormous impact on the reapportionment efforts in this country. These efforts in turn could jeopardize minority political representation on the local, state and federal levels.

REMEDYING PAST UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

It is the contention of TNL that one glaring example of the apathy and distrust of government deals with the under-count of Blacks in the census. While it is understood that federal moneys have been set aside to actively outreach underserved communities, TNL believes that additional steps are needed to address this long standing problem.

TNL recommends that the White House introduce an initiative similar to the one introduced by the Kennedy Administration that encouraged Americans to join the Peace Corps. This initiative would focus on training and empowering young people to become active in government. TNL believes that such an initiative will not only address the issues of inadequate reapportionment, but also concerns regarding reparations as well as the equitable treatment of Black Americans caught up in this nation's burgeoning criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION

In their purest form, true leaders empower the constituency they represent, they take control of adverse circumstances, and they assume the responsibility for a better way of life. The best way to instill this ideology is to train and equip individuals that have been consistently and systematically denied the liberties this country has afforded other citizens.

Therefore, TNL believes that the most effective way to tackle these issues begins with empowering every African-American to become motivated and actively engage in the principals of democracy. If we can accomplish this, we will balance the scales of justice, ensuring fairness and equitable treatment for all, irrespective of race, creed, or color.

A new era. A new American. The possibilities are endless.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 194, introduced by my colleague Mr. DEAL. I am pleased to talk about this concurrent resolution that recognizes the contributions of 4-H

Clubs and their members to voluntary community service.

I visit 4-H exhibits whenever I have the chance to stop by the booths at county fairs. I eagerly address 4-H meetings, particularly the annual teen conference.

This is a great organization. It is a group of young people who take the time and make the effort to learn about the environment, to help others, and to take care of their own animals.

The meetings and workshops conducted by the organization consistently reflect the interests of young people of Maine and of the nation, and those interests are varied. Times change and these days they are changing rapidly. It is great that they have the desire to learn more about their world.

4-H teaches young people how to work together, to compromise to reach the solution that's best for the most people. It allows them to take advantage of their time in school. But agriculture continues to serve as the roots of 4-H.

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I have done what I could to help the youth of 4-H learn more about the role the agriculture industry plans in our state, our country, and indeed, the world. At the same time I have always admired the volunteerism of the organization and the quality of their contributions to their communities.

I am pleased to support this resolution recognizing the efforts of 4-H youth throughout this country.

PUBLIC USE OF THE MCGREGOR RANGE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a request made by the Texas State Legislature asking that Members of Congress ensure that the critical infrastructure for the U.S. military defense strategy be maintained through the renewal of the withdrawal from public use of the McGregor Range land beyond 2001.

Future military threats to the United States and its allies may come from technologically advanced rogue states that for the first time are armed with long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons to an increasingly wider range of countries.

The U.S. military strategy requires flexible and strong armed forces that are well-trained, well-equipped, and ready to defend our nation's interests against these devastating weapons of mass destruction. Previous rounds of military base closures combined with the realignment of the Department of the Army force structure have established Fort Bliss as the Army's Air Defense Artillery Center of Excellence, thus making McGregor Range, which is a part of Fort Bliss, the nation's principal training facility for air defense systems.

McGregor Range is inextricably linked to the advanced missile defense testing network that includes Fort Bliss and the White Sands Missile range, providing, verifying, and maintaining the highest level of missile defense testing