

district elected them, does not fully fulfill the meaning of true representation.

I felt angry knowing that my father, who represents the United States Territory of Guam, who does the same work as any other Member on the floor is still denied his right to vote. Just because you live on the mainland it does not mean you are more American than an American living from far away lands.

Just because I was born on an island far away from the mainland does not make me more or less of an American born in New York, Florida, Virginia or Ohio. I may be considered a foreigner to some, but we were all foreigners at one time. We all pledge allegiance to the same flag, have the same government and share a President, yet are still denied to speak our voice—the voice of an American citizen.

H.R. 330, THE ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND TAX FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of our nation's families, and against the enormous tax increases imposed by the Clinton administration.

Today I cosponsored Congressman VITO FOSSELLA's (R-NY) bill, H.R. 330, which provides a 30% across the board income tax cut for all Americans. If we can not provide tax relief when we have a \$76 billion surplus, when can we? A 30% across the board income tax cut will allow our families to keep more of their money while encouraging our nation's economic growth.

It is time to let the hardworking men and women who generated the surplus keep some of this money for themselves. Too often our nation's families have to do without, so Washington bureaucrats can go on a spending spree. This money belongs to the people and should be spent by the people.

The fact is, if we keep this surplus in Washington, it will be spent. Let's stand up for the hard working men and women in America. I encourage all my colleagues to support a 30% across the board income tax cut.

IN MEMORY OF DEAN GRIFFIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dean Griffin, president of the Cleveland chapter of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA). He was a consummate professional as a broadcaster and a strong proponent of achieving fairness in union representation.

Mr. Griffin was born in East St. Louis, IL and received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi. He held various radio jobs around the country before he moved to Cleveland and reported the news for WJKW radio and television in the

1960's and 1970's. He was known as an excellent political reporter and covered events such as national political conventions and the space program.

After 11 years at WJKW Mr. Griffin lost his job when the network was sold. I had the pleasure of working with Dean when he served as a liaison between the Cleveland City Council and the mayor's office. At this same time he held positions as secretary of the Fire Department, where he was known to fight for the local labor union on important issues, and as chief of the Burke Lakefront Airport.

In the 1980's, Mr. Griffin returned to radio and television, working for WAKR in Akron. While his daughter, Dawn, marched in the Brunswick High School Band Mr. Griffin announced the pregame, halftime, and competitive shows, continuing to announce the events even after she graduated.

Mr. Griffin spent his life illustrating how to be an outstanding journalist and broadcaster. As long-time president of AFTRA he always worked diligently to better union representation and the lives of workers. He will be greatly missed.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEVE
AND ELEANOR ZARUTSKIE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to call to the attention of our colleagues two remarkable residents of New York State who are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary this coming weekend.

Steve and Eleanor Zarutskie settled in Newburgh, NY, soon after their marriage in 1949, and have remained there ever since. They are both natives of the anthracite coal mining region of eastern Pennsylvania, both of their fathers having been coal miners. They have known each other since childhood. Eleanor was born in the small community of Frackville, and Steve in the even smaller adjacent community of Gilberton. Steve and Eleanor both graduated from Gilberton (PA) High School on June 6, 1944. Steve was class president, but his oration was interrupted by members of the audience leaving the auditorium to hear the latest radio bulletins on the D-Day invasion of Normandy, which took place earlier that same day.

With World War II in full swing, Steve enlisted in the Navy soon after graduation and asked Eleanor to wait for him. She went to work for the post office in Gilberton while he served in the south Pacific. Finally, upon his return from overseas and his military discharge, they were married in Maizeville, PA, on February 6, 1949.

Having spent their honeymoon visiting relatives in Orange County, New York, they decided they liked the scenic beauty of the mid Hudson valley, the employment opportunities of this crossroads of the northeast, and the friendliness of our New Yorkers enough to move permanently to our region. They settled in Newburgh during the summer of 1949, and

soon became Orange County natives. Their family was extended by the birth of two sons, Andrew in 1950 and Stephen in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, in today's climate when commitment seems to have become passe, we can all join in our admiration and respect for Steve and Eleanor Zarutskie who worked as a team to raise their family throughout the trials and tribulations of the second half of the twentieth century.

I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations on this milestone occasion to Steve & Eleanor Zarutskie and with best wishes for health and happiness in the years ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS
WALSH

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects and honor a community leader and loyal democrat, Mr. Thomas Walsh. Thomas Walsh passed away last October at the age of fifty-seven.

Thomas Walsh was a devoted public servant and leader in the Chicago, Illinois community of Mt. Greenwood. Thomas Walsh lent his political expertise and strong leadership to numerous democratic candidates across the city, including myself. As a political strategist, Mr. Walsh contributed a working family man's perspective to numerous elected officials. Mr. Walsh was an Army Veteran and a career law enforcement officer, serving on the Chicago Police Department from 1966–1991 and as an Assistant Chief with the Cook County Sheriff's Department from 1991–1998.

An avid athlete, Mr. Walsh also found the time to coach various sports teams, including the Mt. Greenwood Little League and the Mt. Greenwood football program. Mr. Walsh played softball himself in the Chicago Police League from 1966 to 1998.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Mr. Walsh. As a valuable and revered public servant, community leader, political confidante, and coach, he will be greatly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER BRAUN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen of Los Angeles, Peter Braun, who for the past 10 years has led a very extraordinary organization, the Los Angeles Alzheimer's Association. Under Peter's creative leadership, the Association is helping more than 150,000 families in Los Angeles who are dealing with the awful challenge of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The Association provides direct support and assistance, information, and referral to services for people with the disease and the families who care for them. It has also been instrumental in shaping the health and long term

care system to which families turn for help, through training and direct advocacy with care providers and with local and state agencies and legislative bodies.

The following are just a few examples of the work the Los Angeles Alzheimer's Association is doing to shape the delivery of health care to people with dementia.

With initial support from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and the California Department of Health, the Association has created national models of culturally relevant community services for Latino families in South Central Los Angeles and for African-American families in Inglewood.

Working again with the California Department of Health, the staff of the Association has led development of clinical practice guidelines for Alzheimer care that are being used by physicians throughout the state.

In partnership with Kaiser Permanente in Southern California, the Association is developing a model for managed care for persons with dementia—through clinical practice guidelines for diagnosis and management, physician and staff training, and case management.

Peter has built the Los Angeles program to become the largest of more than 200 chapters in the national network of the Alzheimer's Association. But his commitment to the organization goes beyond his own chapter. He has been a key collaborator with his colleagues in other chapters in helping to shape the direction of the entire Alzheimer movement in this country. And just last week, the President of the Alzheimer's Association appointed Peter to serve on the management committee of the national organization.

On Friday, the people of Los Angeles will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Peter Braun's service to the Alzheimer's Association. It is a personal pleasure for me to join in recognizing his leadership, his commitment, and his dedication to his organization, to his community, to the Alzheimer movement, but most particularly, to the families who turn to the Association for help.

BARB ALBERTSON: A POSITIVE
INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the toughest and most pleasing position in public service is that of local officials. It is the toughest because no matter where you go, you are always encountering constituents who rightly bring to you problems and concerns. It is the most pleasing because you get to see the effects of your efforts in the satisfied faces of the people you represent. For the past 38 years, the people of Bay County, Michigan, my home county, have had the good fortune to be served by an outstanding woman, Barbara J. Albertson, who retired on January 1st. This week she is being honored for her commitment to Bay County, and those honors are very well deserved, indeed.

Barb was hired in 1960 by former County Clerk Steven Toth. After four years, she was

promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk, after the death of Barney Balcer. Since the Clerk's position is an elected one, Barb sought the people's approval in 1984 after Clerk Toth announced he would not run for another term. Barb took up the challenge and scored a decisive victory after going door to door, and from event to event. The lesson she learned in that campaign—it's important to make yourself as visible as possible—was a policy she kept alive as the Bay County Clerk herself.

During her fourteen years as Clerk, Barb Albertson modernized the recordkeeping system of the Clerk's Office, using a portion of a federal grant and a temporary staff of four to put all court documents and vital records dating back to the 1800's on microfilm. Since her initial efforts, all of these records, including births, deaths, and divorces are filmed each year, with the records being accessible by computer for the ease of everyone in the community. She also improved the election process by switching from voting machines to a computerized election system, which saves taxpayers at least \$60,000 per election.

Barb readily acknowledges the excellent work done by her staff of four full-time Deputy Clerks plus a Chief Deputy Clerk. Linda Tober, the Chief Deputy Clerk, recognizes the reason that this staff has been so successful when she says, "I feel like I've been trained by the best."

As Barbara Albertson begins her well-deserved retirement, and has the chance to spend more time with her husband, William Silvernale, and plans to fish, golf, and travel, it is only right that we all take a moment to say: Thank you, Barb. Thank you for caring about our community, our neighbors, our heritage and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in recognition of Barbara J. Abertson's outstanding career of public service. May all of our communities have the good fortune to be served by more caring and thoughtful individuals like her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND
DOWN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF
1999

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999. This important legislation will build up and expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 275,000 veterans are without homes every night and twice as many may be homeless during the course of the year. Based on this statistic, one out of every three individuals who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country. Unfortunately, these numbers are only expected to increase as the military downsizes.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefield to a place of safety. This

procedure was known as "Stand Down." Today, Stand Downs which help veterans are held across our nation. Stand Downs are grassroots, community-based intervention programs designed to help the estimated 275,000 veterans without homes in our country. Today's battlefield is too often life on the streets for our nation's veterans.

The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will direct the VA to create a pilot program that would establish Stand Down programs in every state. Currently, only 100 Stand Down events take place in a handful of states annually. In addition, my legislation would also authorize the VA to distribute excess supplies and equipment to Stand Downs across the nation.

I have participated in several Stand Down events back in my home state of Minnesota. The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will build upon the success of the Minnesota Stand Down and serve as a national role model for all states to adopt. Furthermore, the Administration allocated \$1.5 million in the Presidents Fiscal Year 2000 budget request to Congress. This will allow the VA to formally support Stand Down events for veterans without homes in Minnesota and across the nation. This budget request is only a one year proposal, however, my legislation will establish Stand Downs in each state each year starting in the year 2000.

The first such special Stand Down, held in 1988, was the creation of several Vietnam veterans. The goal of the event was to provide one to three days of hope designed to serve and empower homeless veterans. Since then, Stand Downs have provided a means for thousands of homeless or near-homeless veterans to obtain a broad range of necessities and services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, mental health assessment, job counseling and housing referrals. Most importantly, Stand Downs provide a gathering that offers companionship, camaraderie and mutual support.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations over the past decade have done an outstanding job donating their time, expertise and energy to address the unique needs of homeless or near homeless veterans and their families. Currently, the VA coordinates with local veteran service organizations, the National Guard and Reserve Units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers and other members of the community in organizing the Stand Down events annually. However, much more action is needed to address the persistent and growing number of homeless veterans who have fought honorably to preserve our freedom and now face personal crisis in their lives. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Vets (DAV) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) have endorsed this legislation. In addition, the Stand Down Authorization Act has the strong support from over 50 Members of Congress.

Veterans in past service unconditionally stood up for America. Now we must speak up and stand up for veterans today. I urge all members to join with me in providing outreach assistance to veterans without homes by co-sponsoring the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999.