

citizen of our great nation. Frank Aguirre is a fitting example of someone living "the American dream."

Born and raised in Sonora, Mexico, Frank came to the United States in 1949 on a student visa. His interest was Engineering, and he attended Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Later, at East Los Angeles College and California State University, Los Angeles, his major changed to Accounting.

Recognizing the value of hard work and the opportunities it opens in the United States, Frank became a naturalized citizen in 1956. While at East Los Angeles College, he met Rosie Padilla, and they wed in March 1957. They have four children: Victor, Cindy, Becky and Haydee and six grandsons: Alex, Ryan, Austin, Victor, Kellen and Brett.

After attending East Los Angeles College, Frank started as a stock boy in a wall paper hanging company. He worked hard, and his industry was noticed. Frank soon earned a promotion to the accounting department. Anxious to provide for his new family, Frank went on to work as an accountant at Global Van and Storage and opened an income tax business at home.

His dreams were big, and he worked diligently to offer his growing family more than he had ever had growing up. He accepted positions at Pacific Van and Storage, again at Global Van Lines and finally plunged into the moving business himself. Owning his own business had been his goal, but his Sun Moving & Storage company struggled through adversity for a year and a half before closing its doors. Several years later, he was joined by two partners and formed Merit United Moving and Storage. This business brought Frank prosperity, not to mention, high blood pressure.

Perhaps what is most notable about Frank is his love for his family. He worked hard, yet he always had time for his children. They have fond memories of impromptu Saturday mountain day trips, miniature golf games, road trips to Mexico and lots of family get-togethers. Frank is the most fortunate of men—he is deeply loved and respected by his family and peers.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 6, 1999, family and friends—and I am privileged to count myself among them—will gather at a special dinner to pay tribute and celebrate Frank Aguirre's accomplishments as a father, businessman, and model American citizen. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional human being.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the name of Devils Tower National Monument remain unchanged. I introduced this bill during the 104th Congress, the 105th Congress, and rise now to introduce the same bill at the beginning of the 106th Congress. Since the time that this

bill was first introduced, I have received numerous positive comments and support from constituents from around the Devils Tower area. In fact, my office has received a petition with an estimated 2,000 names from not only those in and around the Monument, but from all over the country of those concerned with changing the name of this beloved landmark.

For more than 100 years the name "Devils Tower" has applied to the geologic formation in my state and has since appeared as such on maps in Wyoming and nationwide. The name was given to the Monument by a scientific team, directed by General George Custer and escorted by Col. Richard Dodge in 1875, and is universally recognized as an important landmark that distinguishes the northeastern part of Wyoming. The Monument has brought a vital tourist industry to that portion of the state due to its unique character and structure.

According to a recent memo, released by the United States Board on Geographic Names, the National Park Service has advised the board that several Native American groups intend to submit a proposal, if one has not already been submitted, to change the name of the Monument. On September 4–6, 1996, former Superintendent of Devils Tower, Deborah Liggett, gave a presentation at the Western States Geographic Names Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, giving the Native American perspective.

The legislation that I am introducing today on behalf of the state of Wyoming will ensure that the name of the geological formation, historically known as Devils Tower, remain unchanged.

It is my belief and the belief of hundreds of people from around the region that a name change will only bring economic hardship to the tourist industry in the area. I cannot and will not stand idly by and allow that to happen. I commend this bill to my colleagues and ask for their support.

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#### REMEMBER PAOLI!

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of the outstanding schools in my Congressional District—Sugartown Elementary School, KD Markley Elementary School, Charlestown Elementary School, and East Goshen Elementary School. The fine students of these schools have contacted me to inform me of an issue which is important to them, to their schools, to their community and to our nation—they are fighting to save the Paoli Battlefield.

The Paoli Battlefield, which is located in my Congressional District, remains one of the only historic sites from the Revolutionary War left untouched since 1777. This land was the site of the "Paoli Massacre" in which British troops led by Major General Grey attacked the American Army of Pennsylvania Regiments on the wooded hillside and two fields between what is now Sugartown Road and Warren Avenue. The ensuing battle resulted in at least 52

American deaths and 7 British fatalities. The British night-time bayonet charge was aided by the fact that Americans were silhouetted against the light of their campfires. Some American troops panicked and fled and general disorder spread throughout the American line. British dragoons, arriving on the field, shattered the American column and pursued retreating Americans as far as Sugartown Road. Only the more disciplined American soldiers escaped the original onslaught unscathed, but a following British assault completed the rout.

The Paoli Massacre was part of the Revolutionary War's Philadelphia Campaign, a chapter of the war that witnessed the occupation of Philadelphia and the famed American encampment at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777–78. The first two American attempts to stop the British invasion that Fall were the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, and the unsuccessful Battle of the Clouds, September 16, 1777. The Paoli Massacre was part of the third effort to contain British General William Howe's advance on Philadelphia.

In an effort to save the Paoli Battlefield, I will be introducing the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act—Preserve America's Treasures of the Revolution for Independence for Our Tomorrow. Passage of this legislation will forever insure that the sacrifice made by our nation's first veterans will be remembered. This legislation will also protect the Brandywine Battlefield. The Battle at Brandywine was the most significant battle of the Philadelphia campaign. My bill further memorializes this campaign by authorizing the Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park to enter into an agreement with the Valley Forge Historical Society to build a museum which would house the world's largest collection of Revolutionary War artifacts and memorabilia, including the tent in which General Washington slept at Valley Forge.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the outstanding young patriots of my district who have made their voices heard in the fight to preserve this piece of our nation's history. The students of these schools sent me almost five hundred letters, pictures, and banners with their plea for this body to "Remember Paoli!"—this small piece of land that is so important to their communities. As a former school teacher and a father of five, I am heartened by their dedication and commitment to this cause. The future of America lies with our youth, and with youngsters like these, I am confident that America's future will be bright.

I would like to congratulate these young patriots of my district, and thank them for taking part in this campaign to preserve the history of the Revolutionary War. I would also like to thank their teachers and parents who also sent me letters, and taught these students that their involvement could make a difference. I would like to include the letters of Melissa Clark, who is in the first grade at KDMarkely; Bonnie Hughes-Sobbi, mother of a fourth grader at KDMarkely; Bess McCadden, who is in the fourth grade at Charlestown Elementary; and Catherine Wahl, who is in the fourth grade at the Sugartown School, for the record so that my colleagues can also appreciate them.

JANUARY 6, 1998.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you to ask you to save the Paoli Battlefield. We need to remember the men who fought to make our country free. Please do not build houses on the Paoli Battlefield.

Sincerely,

MELISSA CLARK.

JANUARY 5, 1999.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WELDON: It has come to my attention, through my daughter's fourth grade class, that a part of our local history is being threatened by "progress". The site to which I refer is the Paoli Battlefield, located in Malvern, PA.

Our children are being taught the importance of this site in their local history lessons and are also being taught to respect sites such as this for their intrinsic and irreplaceable value. We should be willing to support our lessons to our children by protecting the Paoli Battlefield from development.

Thank you for your efforts in support of protecting this site, hopefully with permanent registry as an historic landmark. I will be happy to lend any assistance, as I am able, to further this cause.

Very truly yours,

BONNIE HUGHES-SABBI.

DECEMBER 22, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WELDON: People know that it is wrong to build something on historical land. Valley Forge Park is part of our history, so we should also save the site of the Paoli Massacre Battlefield. My classmates and I have been studying it, and I think that building things on historical land is destructive. If General Anthony Wayne were here, he would do all he could to stop people from building something on the ground of our past.

Don't let people build on the site of the Paoli Massacre Battlefield! Please save it!

Sincerely,

BESS MCCADDEN.

DECEMBER 11, 1998.

DEAR MR. WELDON: I think that you should stop this craziness because it should remain a burial ground. Paoli isn't very popular except for the Paoli Battlefield. That puts us in the battlefield book. It is a historical sight [sic]. It's disrespectful to mow down a memorial battlefield. One of my ancestors was buried at that battlefield there so I care very deeply about this battlefield.

CATHERINE WAHL.

#### DEVOTED EMPLOYEES SAVINGS LIVES

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
G1THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Christmas Day, the New York Times ran a wonderful article that tells a story about the careful and thoughtful work of a cadre of employees at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) who test toys to ensure they do not injure or kill children. One CPSC employee, Bob Hundemer, who works in CPSC's engineering laboratory, calls his toy testing work a "labor of love." The article goes on to describe some of the testing methods used to determine if certain toys are risks to children. The article quotes Robert Garrett, acting director of the lab: "I walk out of here every day thinking

we're made the world a better place," adding, "I am not sure every government agency can say that."

As the new Chairman of the VA-HUD Independent Agency Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the CPSC, I am delighted to read about Federal employees who are so devoted to the mission of their agency.

I commend this article to my colleagues.

[From the New York Times, December 25, 1998]

#### IN PARADISE OF TOYS, THE GAME PLAN IS TO SAVE LIVES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—In the Washington suburb of Gaithersburg, Md., far from the intrigue of the capital and even farther from the North Pole, employees of the Consumer Product Safety Commission test toys of every description for dangers and defects.

Bob Hundemer, an engineering technician, has tested toys at the agency for two decades. He has cultivated a scrupulous and unforgiving eye for potential hazards and quickly detects whether a toy is up to standard—whether it is safe as well as inviting beneath the Christmas tree.

"This is a killer," Mr. Hundemer said, pointing to a fluorescent yellow rattle with an unusually thin stem and tiny ball at the tip. "The end could get jammed in a baby's mouth so easily and cause choking."

Mr. Hundemer's office is a 5-year-old's paradise. A bookcase overflowing with brightly colored tops, dolls, toy cars, and jacks-in-the-box covers the back wall. A sign reading "Caution: Adults at Play" adorns his door.

Robert Garrett, the acting director of the engineering laboratory, said: "After years in the private sector, I realized that I could get a job with the Government doing about the same thing. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

At the annual Toy Fair in February, giant manufacturers like Mattel and Hasbro, as well as small toy companies from around the country, gather in New York City to display their wares. Representatives from the commission attend the show and examine all the new toys. They discuss potential problems with the manufacturers and then work with them to insure that potential hazards are eliminated.

"The big retailers don't want to recall their products," said Kathleen P. Begala, the commission's director of public affairs. "With mailings and bad press, it's a very expensive process for them, and so there is an incentive to cooperate with us."

Mindful that injuries kill more children than any illnesses, the agency, which has requested just over \$57 million for its 2000 budget, performs four tests on toys it reviews.

One, the template test, examines small parts of a toy that could catch in a child's throat and affect breathing. Mr. Hundemer uses a truncated cylinder that represents an average child's mouth and throat. Any piece of a toy that fits into the cylinder is considered dangerous.

The sharp-edge test uses a special tape to indicate whether any side of an object could cut the skin.

The force test determines how easily parts of the stuffed animals, like eyes and noses, can be removed from the toy. Mr. Hundemer uses an instrument that resembles pliers to grasp the eye of a stuffed toy, for example, and applies 15 pounds of pressure, about the strength of a 2-year-old. He tries to rip off the part for about 20 seconds.

In the impact test, a toy is dropped four and a half feet to test durability. "We use something pretty cheap," Mr. Hundemer said. "It's called gravity." If pieces of the toy break off, and the shards of plastic fail the template test, the toy is considered not safe.

The commission officially approves toys that survive the tests.

Like veterans telling war stories, Ms. Begala and Mr. Hundemer recalled some of the most troublesome toys. They remembered the Cabbage Patch doll accused of "eating" a child's hair, the Chinese slap bracelets made with cloth and sharp metal that could cut a child and Woody, the cowboy with plastic spurs that had sharp edges and a small plastic badge.

Mr. Hundemer added that this year's hot toy, the Furby, was safe.

"People shopping for toys need to be sure that toys do not contain parts smaller than their child's fist," Mr. Hundemer said.

Mr. Garrett mused happily on his career.

"I walk out of here every day thinking we've made the world a better place," he said.

Then, pausing, he added, "I am not sure every government agency can say that."

#### CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the "Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Services Improvement Act of 1999." This measure contains the improvements in benefits and services for America's service members and veterans recommended by the Congressional Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance.

By way of background, the Commission was established by Public Law 104-275 and was directed to review the programs and benefits designed to facilitate the transition from military service to civilian life for those who have served in uniform. The Commission was encouraged to be thorough in its analysis of existing programs and to be bold in its recommendations for program changes and improvements. Without question, the Commission has met those challenges and transmitted to Congress a meticulous examination of transition programs in place today and an impressive list of recommendations to improve and enhance those existing programs and benefits.

Many of the Commission's proposals, particularly those related to veterans' education and training, can serve as a blueprint for the 106th Congress. Of particular interest to me is the recommendation to significantly increase and expand educational opportunities under the Montgomery GI Bill. I agree with the Commission's statement that education ". . . is the most valuable benefit our Nation can offer the men and women whose military service preserves our liberty." I know from first hand experience the benefits of these educational benefits and I look forward to discussing this and the Commission's other initiatives in depth during upcoming hearings.