

make a difference in their own lives, in their communities and in our country. They have earned our praise and respect.

HONORING BERNARD E. MADDEN

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a dear constituent, Bernard Madden, who died on November 5 in San Luis Obispo at the age of 105 years.

Mr. Madden worked as a steam engineer in Omaha, Nebraska, for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. After his retirement, Mr. Madden and his wife, Eula, moved to San Luis Obispo. He spoke highly of his nieces and nephews, read the newspapers every day and spoke to my staff frequently about current affairs. One of his most passionate pleas was that prescription drug coverage be included in Medicare. Mr. Madden and I had a lot in common there. I will strive to see that this is accomplished in remembrance of him and the many seniors he knew and I know will benefit when this gaping hole in Medicare is fixed.

Bernard Madden had a wonderful and cheerful spirit and my staff and I will remember him fondly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BUD SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Tuesday, November 9, 1999, I was unavoidably detained by matters relating to the Aviation Conference and because of this missed rollcall votes 580 and 581. On rollcall vote No. 580, House Concurrent Resolution 223, Expressing the Sense of the Congress on the Fall of the Berlin Wall, I would have voted "yea." In addition, on rollcall vote No. 581, House Resolution 1554—the Satellite Copyright, Competition and Consumer Protection Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF OUR NATION'S  
VETERANS

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow our nation pays tribute to the men and women who served in the armed forces. Veterans Day is an opportunity for everyone to stop and say thanks to those who have given so much to protect our freedom.

Since the beginning of our nation, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of the Armed Forces have been called on to risk their lives and fight for the ideals that make

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

America great. The level of our support for the Armed Forces has varied throughout history. Yet, regardless of what one thinks about the wars that they fought, or the wisdom of our involvement, we all should agree that those men and women responded to the call of their country and performed with honor and dignity.

This year we should take time to especially remember the veterans of World War II, many of whom are well into their 80's. Now more than ever, we need to listen to and preserve their collective wisdom and experience. Their devotion and courage can teach us about the importance of an individual's commitment to a cause greater than oneself.

On Veterans Day, in my congressional district, I have arranged to bring some of those veterans together with middle school students in several communities in western Wisconsin. My hope is that our children will learn the true meaning of duty, honor and courage from those veterans who were heroes on battlefields around the globe. It is important that our children learn about the sacrifices made by previous generations.

I recently read an excerpt from Senator JOHN MCCAIN's new book *Faith of our Fathers*. Senator MCCAIN spent more than 5 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, in what was derisively referred to as the "Hanoi Hilton." In his book he talks about the meaning of glory.

For I have learned the truth: There are greater pursuits than self-seeking. Glory is not a conceit. It is not decoration for valor. It is not a prize for being the most clever, the strongest, or the boldest. Glory belongs to the act of being constant to something greater than yourself, to a cause, to your principles, to the people on whom you rely, and who rely on you in return. No misfortune, no injury, no humiliation can destroy it.

These words are a powerful reminder of the attitude shared by thousands of our veterans, living and dead, when they answered their nation's call. They are good words to remember, not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, as is reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I was granted a leave of absence for Tuesday, November 9, 1999.

If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote 577—H.R. 1714—On agreeing to the Inslee of Washington amendment: "Yes."

On rollcall vote 578—H.R. 1714—On agreeing to the Dingell of Michigan amendment: "No."

On rollcall vote 579—H.R. 1714—On passage of the Electronic Signatures in Global and International Commerce Act: "Yes."

On rollcall vote 580—H. Con. Res. 223—Suspend the Rules and agree to express the Sense of Congress regarding Freedom Day: "Yes."

*November 11, 1999*

On rollcall vote 581—H.R. 1554—Suspend the Rules and agree to conference report on the Satellite Copyright, Competition, and Consumer Protection Act: "Yes."

TRIBUTE TO H. HARPER KERR

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize H. Harper Kerr, former Puebloan, who passed away last Thursday.

Originally the son of an Iowa country doctor, Dr. Kerr arrived in Pueblo in the mid-1950s and practiced medicine for more than 20 years, specializing in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. He served as chief of staff and chief of surgery at St. Mary-Corwin hospital. In addition, he served on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Colorado Medical Society. In 1968, he was elected as the Pueblo County Coroner, where he served for a number of years.

Upon Dr. Kerr's retirement from surgery, he moved to Kansas City where he was appointed Chief Medical Director of Social Security Disability for the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Following his work in Kansas City, Dr. Kerr moved to Shalimar, Florida, where he was on the original committee that formed the Elderhostel Senior Center for Lifelong Learning. In addition, he was active with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, functioned as a Flotilla Commander, served as medical advisor to the Air Commando Association and the McCoskrie Foundation.

Dr. Kerr's contributions to this country extend back to World War II as physician and surgeon of the 605th Field Artillery Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army.

Dr. Kerr was an asset to the people of Pueblo and his ability as a surgeon assured Puebloans were in good hands while under his supervision. We will miss his service and friendship greatly.

HONORING OUR NATION'S  
VETERANS

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Veterans Day, and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served our country so bravely. Tomorrow, all over this great country we will honor men and women who willingly gave body and soul to defend our nation and the values which make it great. Tomorrow truly is their day and I wish I could be in my district to celebrate it with my constituents.

My husband Walter drew his inspiration to run for Congress largely from decades of work with Vietnam veterans. I live every day with Walter in my heart. His passions and cherished causes are now very much my own. I

am committed to upholding his legacy of support and respect for America's veterans.

Vietnam veterans were his teachers, as they have been ours. From their painful experiences, we have learned that when we send our soldiers to war we must always welcome them home. But, whether a veteran of Vietnam, of World War II, Kosovo, the Gulf War, or Korea, they are to be commended for their great accomplishments and tremendous sacrifice. Whether called to safeguard the world from a menacing dictator, to fight the spread of tyranny, or to maintain a fragile peace, our nation owes a priceless debt of gratitude to each and every veteran.

Veterans Day also allows veterans to come together to continue a much needed healing process. Just as Walter invited Vietnam vets into his classroom to share their stories, veterans will come together to share each other's stories and gain comfort from each other.

As a Member of Congress, I have the distinct—almost sacred—responsibility to preserve our nation's security. This means ensuring that our military remains the best trained, best equipped, and most prepared in the world. It also means providing today's fighting men and women, and those who have retired, with the support they need to maintain the quality of life they deserve. This is especially true at a time when military personnel are being deployed more frequently, and in more places around the world.

In Congress, I am working hard to support increased military pay, improved health care coverage, and a strengthened retirement system.

I am proud to note that we recently passed a Defense bill which provides much needed improvements for current and retired military personnel. It included a 4.8% pay raise, and authorized bonuses and other incentives to retain and promote our servicemen and women. It will also change the unfair REDUX retirement plan—giving veterans the choice to return to the more generous pre-REDUX retirement system or receive a \$30,000 retirement bonus.

When talking to veterans up and down the Central Coast—whether it be in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande, or Paso Robles—I hear a common refrain. Vets are increasingly concerned about benefits they have earned and maintaining access to quality health care. I am working on a number of initiatives to address these concerns.

I recently introduced the Veterans Emergency Telephone Service Act. The VETS Act would set up a national veterans' hotline service operating 24-hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. This hotline would provide vets immediate access to a staff knowledgeable in VA benefits and programs. This combination "411-911" number for veterans would provide a one-stop, toll free number veterans can call at any time of day or night to receive encouragement and assistance.

I am also supporting a bill requiring the VA to institute an annual outreach plan to insure that veterans are informed about the entire range of benefits and health care services available to them. Too often veterans are not informed about benefits they are eligible for, or how to receive them. This bill also assists widows and survivors of veterans obtain important assistance.

And I'm working hard to pass landmark legislation—known as the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. This bill would allow all military retirees to participate in the same health care programs federal employees currently enjoy and provides free lifetime health care to those who enrolled in the services prior to 1956.

Many Americans made sacrifices to defend our country with the understanding that upon retirement the government would provide them with lifetime health care. But for too many military retirees there is little or no health care available.

In addition, I support legislation allowing military retirees with service connected disabilities to receive the full amount of their retired pay along with VA disability compensation—without a deduction from either source of support. We need to take extra special care of those whose service has left them with an injury or disability.

I will always support our fighting men and women, whether in peace time or in war.

I will always support the benefits our veterans need and deserve.

And I will forever cherish the honor my constituents have bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve as their Representative.

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#### TRIBUTE TO LEON FOY

#### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Veterans Day, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the extraordinary accomplishments of Leon Foy. Mr. Foy, a recipient of the Silver Star, deserves recognition for his valiant bravery on behalf of the American people while a member of our Armed Forces. I am proud to represent Mr. Foy in Congress.

Leon Foy, now 78, served in the 8th Air Force during World War II. On May 29, 1944, during his 15th bombing mission, Mr. Foy and his nine-member crew were raiding a ball-bearing plant near Berlin. German aircraft attacked and a bullet struck Mr. Foy's head. Ever strong and brave, Mr. Foy continued to fly his B-24 until he was in Sweden, a neutral country, where he landed safely on a very short runway.

Mr. Leon Foy is an outstanding and inspirational individual. His bravery and courage during this operation and throughout his service to our country is admirable and should be commended.

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#### SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD USE PHONICS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my colleague from Indiana, I regret that I cannot support this resolution.

Phonics is a proven method of reading instruction that has a place alongside other approaches to teaching reading. But I think this resolution goes a bit too far. The Federal Government should not tell professional educators in our States and local school districts how to teach reading to their students. I believe communities know best when it comes to educating their kids and I had thought my colleague, Mr. MCINTOSH, would agree with this sentiment.

I'm concerned about education policy as a representative in Congress, but I have a much greater stake in education as the father of public school kids and the husband of a public school teacher. My wife, Betty, is a middle school math teacher. My two oldest daughters are products of the public schools and my youngest still attends a public school.

I hear every day from them about the successes and challenges in our schools. That's how I know the power to make decisions should be at the local level and the focus should be on how to help our communities better educate our students.

We should always keep in mind that the Federal Government is only a junior partner in our Nation's education process. More than 95 percent of the money our country spends on education comes from the States or from local communities. The ultimate day-to-day responsibility of running our Nation's schools does not belong to the Federal Government, but to the parents, teachers, and administrators who work with our children every day.

The Federal Government plays a limited, but important, role in our education system. Its role is to help States and localities address their toughest challenges. Through programs like Title I and Head Start, the Federal Government helps disadvantaged kids and schools with challenging student populations. It helps millions of kids to go to college through student loan programs. It also provides educators with important research on teaching methods and school performance.

When the Federal Government addresses these important education priorities, it must spend the taxpayers' money responsibly. The Federal Government has a duty to ensure that its resources are actually being spent on the problems we are trying to solve. But beyond targeting federal funds to specific areas where local schools need help. Congress should resist micro-managing and allow local schools to make their own decisions.

We have to maintain the delicate balance between Federal educational priorities and local control of schools. States and localities must have the flexibility to address their problems in ways that make sense for them, but our Federal resources must remain targeted at the people and communities who need them most. While it makes sense to give States and localities discretion, I don't believe we should send money to States without asking for accountability and results.

Governor George W. Bush of Texas was on the right track when he recently said: "The Federal Government must be humble enough to stay out of the day-to-day operation of local schools. It must be wise enough to give States and schools more authority and freedom. And it must be strong enough to require proven performance in return."