Today, my colleague, Congressman BILL McCOLLUM, and I are introducing legislation that will close a legal loophole that currently allows civilians who commit crimes overseas in peacetime to avoid prosecution from crimes.

For example, a Department of Defense teacher raped a minor and videotaped the event. The host country chose not to prosecute, and the United States did not have the jurisdiction to prosecute the teacher.

The son of a contractor employee in Italy committed various crimes including rape, arson, assault, and drug trafficking. Because of a lack of jurisdiction to prosecute, the son was simply barred from the base.

A civilian spouse living overseas attacked her active duty husband with a kitchen knife and stabbed him in the shoulder. Although the spouse confessed to aggravated assault, the local national law enforcement agencies declined to prosecute.

A 13-year-old living on an Army base in Germany, sexually molested and raped several other children under the age of ten. German authorities decided not to prosecute. The only punishment for the offender was to be expelled from Germany.

An Air Force employee molested 24 children, ages 9 to 14. Because the host country refused to prosecute, the only recourse was to bar him from the base.

An Overseas Jurisdiction Advisory Committee has recommended to the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General that this kind of “legislation is needed to address misconduct by civilians accompanying the force overseas in peacetime settings.” Both the Department of Justice and the Department of Defense support legislation that will help to maintain order and discipline among our armed forces.

It is time that we close the loophole that allows civilian criminals to escape prosecution of their crimes. The Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act we are introducing today, similar to S. 768 introduced by Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama, creates military jurisdiction over civilians accompanying the force overseas in peacetime settings. These forces, that will close a legal loophole that currently allows the offender to be exiled from the base.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who is nearing the end of her tenure as president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association. Sharon Beck is a remarkable woman who deserves the appreciation of all of those whose livelihoods depend on their ability to till the soil and raise cattle. She is a woman who has devoted a significant portion of her life to defending the farmers and ranchers of both Oregon and the United States and preserving their rural way of life.

Sharon's election by her peers as president of the OCA is merely one reflection of the respect and admiration she has garnered throughout her years of tireless devotion on behalf of the agricultural community. In 1984 the Beck family was named producers of the year by the Beef Improvement Federation. Sharon and her husband appeared on the cover of Beef Today in 1995. This year her family's farm received the high honor of being named the Oregon Wheat Growers League “State Conservation Farm of the Year.” Sharon Beck has received awards from the Oregon Cattlemen, which twice received the President's award from the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and was named Union County’s “Agricultural Woman of the Year.” These awards represent not only Sharon’s dedication to agriculture, but also that of her family and especially her husband Bob, who deserves a recognition of his own.

Sharon's son Rob summed up her life of achievement perfectly by noting that her commitment and dedication have allowed her to excel at any endeavor she undertakes, and that nothing she attempts is ever overwhelmed. That's why farmers and ranchers turn to Sharon in times of trouble. And Mr. Speaker, that's why I rise today to recognize Sharon Beck—a true American rancher and a true friend of mine.

IN PRAISE OF UNCONVENTIONAL GIVING
HON. BILL McCOLLUM OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the excellent and unconventional work accomplished at America’s Community Bankers’ Annual Convention in Orlando. I say “unconventional” because not many of the nation’s millions of convention-goers do what America’s Community Bankers do.

Each year, ACB and its spouses’ organization, Housing Partners, select a charity in their convention city, raise funds for it, and present the group with a check during the convention. On November 2 in Orlando, Housing Partners presented their 1999 charity, Orlando’s Edgewood Children’s Ranch, with a record donation of $170,000. Over the past 8 years, ACB’s Housing Partners has donated more than $700,000 to charities around the country. The money is raised in a variety of ways, including a craft sale, a golf tournament, a benefit concert, and donations from member banks.

The Edgewood Children’s Ranch, a residential child care and development facility that has been helping troubled youngsters and families in the Orlando area for more than 30 years, is one of my favorites in an area blessed with many fine helping organizations. The ranch has been called a “boot camp with love,” because of its emphasis on structure, school, and parental involvement.

Although the ranch accepts children from all denominations and races, it expects them to attend chapel, pledge allegiance to the American flag, and respect their elders—activities, Mr. Speaker, that's what we mean by “education.”

That why America’s Community Bankers’ unrestricted gift of $170,000, which represents about one-tenth of the ranch’s annual budget, is so important. “We are ecstatic,” said Joan Consolvo, executive director of the ranch. “It’s unheard of for a convention group to leave a gift like this for the community.”

I recognized America’s Community Bankers’ unique commitment to community in my remarks at the convention and I was glad that Orlando did as well. Mayor Glenda Hood and Orange County Chairman Mel Martinez both took time from their busy schedules to come to the convention ceremony and express the collective thanks of our community.

Chairman Martinez said the philanthropic model developed by ACB’s Housing Partners serves as an example of leadership and community service for other trade associations and conventions.” He commended them “for the extraordinary gesture of goodwill and the legacy they have left to our community.” Mayor Hood proclaimed October 31—November 3, 1999, as America’s Community Bankers and Housing Partners Day in Orlando in recognition of their philanthropic excellence.”

The Orlando Sentinel ran the following editorial.

Bankers Give Back to Local Children—They Raised $170,000 for Edgewood Children’s Ranch During Their Convention

People who live near the Edgewood Children’s Ranch can drive past it for years without ever knowing it’s there. Tucked next to a lake and down the hill from a quiet street off Old Winter Garden Road, the sprawling campus affords a splendid view that few see.

Last week, a Washington, D.C.-based banker’s group got the chance to set eyes on the ranch, and its members liked it so much, they raised $170,000 for the 30-year old home for troubled kids, a record for the trade group.

America’s Community Bankers picks a city for its convention each year, and every year, its organization of spouses and housing partners hold fund-raisers during the convention. In 1994, the group raised $50,000 for House of Hope, an Orlando-based teen program. Last year, it gave $50,000 to a battered women’s shelter in Chicago.

From a popular craft sale to a big, convention-capping concert—this year’s featured Frankie Avalon—the fund-raising gives spouses a chance to do more than just tag along for golf outings or fancy dinners, said Joan Pinkerton, a spokeswoman for America’s Community Bankers.

“People will say to me, ‘That’s the reason I come to the convention,’” Pinkerton said, “It’s a neat way to tie into the community.’”

For the children’s ranch, which ekes out an existence on a $1.2 million annual budget and a lot of prayers, the gift is the largest ever that will go to its general fund. We were blown away by the amount,” said Gaby Acks, children’s development director for the ranch. It is a huge component at the ranch, which accepts struggling children and teens for a year or two. While the residents are not ordered by the courts to be there, many have chosen the alternative to juvenile detention or other probationary conditions.

The rules are strict—hospital corners on the beds, neatly folded clothes and taking only what you can eat at meals—but the kids who live there find they don’t mind after a few weeks.

Richard Amado, 16, found himself at the ranch after some minor scrapes with the law. Although he says he initially chafed at the
carefully regimented days there, he has made up two grade levels in his schoolwork and has become a quiet, well-mannered young man.

During their convention, the bankers held a golf tournament in addition to the craft sale and the concert.

Some of them also toured the ranch, meeting the kids and seeing where their money will go. They were so impressed, they may donate some of next year’s fund-raising haul to the ranch, Pinkerton said.

Aacks, who said each day can bring small miracles for the often-strapped ranch, wasn’t surprised at their reaction. Anyone who visits, she said, can’t help but be touched.

“It’s really just an amazing place,” she said.

I commend America’s Community Bankers for leaving its most recent hand-print in Orlando at the Edgewood Children’s Ranch, and encourage other groups to follow this unique example of community involvement.

A CLARIFICATION FOR THE PATENT AND TRADemark PROVIsonS OF H.R. 1554, AS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON NOVEMBER 9, 1999

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1554, the Satellite Home Viewer Act, includes most of the legislation that would impact the U.S. Patent system. I worked closely with the authors of the bill in the House of Representatives. I appreciate the time they took to listen to my strong concerns about the original bill, H.R. 1907, which passed in the House overwhelmingly this past August. I offer these remarks, however, to create a legislative history and to clarify language in one of the sections I believed needed reworking—the title concerning Third Party Re-Examination.

Under Subtitle I—Optional Inter Partes Re-examination, Section 4606 Conforming Amendments, paragraph (b) contains what I believe to be a technical error. Section 134 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Patent Applicant.—An applicant for a patent, any of whose claims has been twice rejected, may appeal from the decision of the primary examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal.

(b) Patent Owner.—A patent owner in any reexamination proceeding may appeal from the final rejection of any claim by the primary examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal.

I thank the Speaker for his indulgence in allowing me this opportunity to clarify the language of this section of H.R. 1554.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
CELEBRATING THE 134TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROCKETT, TX

HON. JIM TURNER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an important milestone in the history of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, of Crockett, Texas. On October 10, 1999, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church celebrated 134 years of service to this East Texas community. As the church members celebrate this important anniversary, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing this milestone. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Delvin Atchison for his continued leadership of the Bethel congregation.

Organized in 1965 by newly-freed slaves, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church today is a vibrant and growing ministry. As a resident of Crockett, I can truly attest to the tremendous impact the church and its members continue to have on the lives of Houston County residents. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has become known throughout Crockett and surrounding communities as “A Community of Caring Christians.”

Through the years Bethel Missionary Baptist Church as profoundly influenced the life of our community because it has been blessed with lay leaders who have also been leaders in the civic, cultural and political affairs of Crockett, Houston County and the State of Texas. In addition, Bethel has benefited from the leadership of many gifted and talented ministers exemplified by its current pastor, Delvin Atchison. My personal relationship with Reverend Atchison and with the late Reverend J.T. Graham has been a blessing to me and my family. Their leadership has expanded the boundaries of influence of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Bethel’s ministry has contributed not only to meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation but to the healing, reconciliation and racial harmony of the larger community. During the past 134 years, the members of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church congregation have been at the forefront in advancing civil rights and civic participation and have fostered unity, justice and social progress for all citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the congregation of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Reverend Atchison, as it celebrates its 134th anniversary. All past and present church members and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has made in the spiritual life of the Crockett community over the past 134 years. May God continue to bless this ministry of service and caring.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. BORDER PATROL’S SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

SPEECH OF
HON. HENRY BONILLA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation “recognizing the United States Border Patrol’s 75 years of service since its founding.”

I have nearly 800 miles of the Texas-Mexico border in my congressional district. I know all too well the extent to which Border Patrol agents meet the daily challenge of keeping our borders safe and curbing the flow of illegal aliens and drugs into the United States with courage, patience and sheer tenacity. They go out every day and fight to keep our borders and border residents safe.

Our Border Patrol field agents are the best in the business. It is an ongoing battle to keep our borders safe, drug-free and crime free. The Border Patrol is faced with carrying out a tremendous task with limited, often outdated and failing resources. Yet, every day they go out to defend our borders. The brave men and women of the Border Patrol put their lives on the line for us. Those of us in border communities know what a crucial role the Border Patrol plays in protecting our borders daily.

As a Texan I take pride in recognizing the fact that the founding members of the Border Patrol included Texas Rangers, sheriffs and deputized cowboys who patrolled the Texas frontier during the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

I am honored to support this legislation which honors our Border Patrol personnel who serve this nation in defending our borders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to provide a technical clarification to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). This clarification is necessary to protect workers and small businesses from unsafe work conditions and to root out illegal activity in the workplace.

Provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) as amended in 1996 undermine investigations of sexual harassment, embezzlement, workplace violence, drug sales and other illegal activities in the workplace. Because of an interpretation by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of the 1996 FCRA amendments, employers who retain investigators, attorneys, or others to conduct investigations into unlawful activities subject themselves to the provisions of the Act and must: Provide written authorization to the suspect and other employees; upon request, disclose the