Today, my colleague, Congressman BILL MCCOLLUM, and I are introducing legislation that will close a legal loophole that currently allows civilians who commit crimes on military bases outside the United States 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 and Senator MICHAEL DEWINE, will provide the federal government much greater ability to hold criminals responsible for crimes which they commit and will finally lighten our laws so that criminals do not go unpunished.

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 does.

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, quote Gaby Pinkerton, the ranch’s development director, “that disqualify us for public funds.”

That’s 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 Console, 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 check presentation 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 EDGWOED 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 $150,000 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. Faith 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 alternate 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