Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, when Iran's desire of the American people to defend themselves from ballistic missile attack. Flashy polls depress Americans about our defense, and the defense of our allies and our friends and allies. Deploying a ballistic missile defense in space will be our best response. It will provide us the most effective defense possible, capable of giving global coverage, able to assist our friends and allies such as Israel.

REGARDING MY VOTE ON THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, when I returned to Congress for my second term last January, I came with the hope that I could believe the House leadership when it said things would be different in the 106th Congress from the experience of my first term in the 105th. We were told that the appropriations process would follow the rules: 13 separate spending bills brought to the floor for consideration with reasonable time and access for debate. We were told that the bills would be straightforward, without tricks or gimmicks. We were misled. The House leadership has continued to play tricks with the budget process. This fall, it did so at the expense of the men and women in our armed forces.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for the American men and women who serve in uniform. My brother is currently serving a tour with his Reserve unit in Europe, and I have made two trips to the Balkans to visit our troops there. The young soldiers with whom I spoke were bursting with pride and confidence, and universally voiced their commitment to peace, freedom and their duty.

Mr. SCHAEFFER. Mr. Speaker, when Iran's supreme leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, leads thousands of his countrymen in violent protests against the United States and Israel, chanting "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!" America is concerned. When the Russian Foreign Ministry says as a matter of official policy that Russia will overcome an American missile defense by launching more missiles, America is concerned. When North Korea flaunts agreements with the United States by continuing to develop long range missiles to attack the U.S., America is concerned.

Every American should be concerned with our lack of missile defense. Our cities are vulnerable to destruction. Our military has no defense against long range ballistic missiles in the event of the common misperception about Patriot which is only for intercepting short range missiles, not ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles). The truth is we cannot stop a single ICBM, whether launched by Russia, China, North Korea, or even Iran, which is developing long range ballistic missiles to threaten us.

Iran has demonstrated its desire to threaten the U.S. and Israel. Iran is matching its religious zeal with its ballistic missile program. Iran's missiles threaten Israel and peace in the Middle East. Iran's missiles could eventually threaten American cities. Other countries also threaten us. Russia still has over a thousand long range ballistic missiles. China is building three new types of long range ballistic missiles. North Korea tested last year a three-stage missile capable of reaching the U.S.

These protests in Iran burnt the American and Israeli flags. They climbed on top of buildings opposite the old U.S. embassy compound, setting fire to the Stars and Stripes, the blue-and-white Star of David flag of Israel, and the Union Jack of Great Britain. America is not alone in its need to deploy an effective ballistic missile defense system. Ballistic missiles threaten Israel, Europe, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, as well as the U.S. Ballistic missiles are a global problem requiring a global solution.

Congress has recognized the growing threat from long range ballistic missiles. Earlier this year, Congress energetically passed legislation making it the policy of the United States to deploy a ballistic missile defense. This legislation came in the form of North Korea's August 31, 1998 ballistic missile test, the warnings of the Rumsfeld Commission on the ballistic missile threat to the U.S., and the theft by China of advanced U.S. missile and nuclear weapons technology.

But despite the growing threat posed by ballistic missiles, President Clinton and his administration have consistently opposed the deployment of an effective ballistic missile defense. President Clinton especially opposes a missile defense using space. Yet, a space-based missile defense could provide the global coverage the U.S. needs to protect its armed forces overseas, and its friends and allies such as Israel. A space-based ballistic missile defense is technologically feasible, using a combination of miniature interceptors, high energy lasers, and other technologies.

We need a President who will be concerned about our defense, and the defense of our allies such as Israel. All the legislation passed by Congress cannot take effect without a President, a Commander-in-Chief, who is willing to work toward, not obstruct, the natural desire of the American people to defend themselves from ballistic missile attack. Flashy policy statements are no substitute for a real defense. By the year 2000, after eight years of office, President Clinton will not have deployed a ballistic missile defense, leaving us vulnerable to destruction.

I recently addressed our need to deploy an effective missile defense in a series of letters to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the CIA, and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. I have addressed our need to deploy an effective missile defense in past letters, and in speeches on the floor of the House. I will continue to speak out on our need to deploy an effective missile defense, especially a defense using space.

I am encouraged by the policies of countries such as Israel which recognize the need for ballistic missile defense. In 1988, Israel and the United States began collaboration on the Arrow ballistic missile interceptor, linked to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as Star Wars. Today, Israel's Arrow missile defense program completed its seventh test launch, successfully hitting its target. I believe America should continue to support Israel in its ballistic missile defense program.

America needs to be concerned with its vulnerability to ballistic missile attack. The ballistic missile threat posed by Iran and other countries is real and growing. The threat of ballistic missile attack is a global threat to our friends and allies. Deploying a ballistic missile defense in space will be our best response. It will provide us the most effective defense possible, capable of giving global coverage, able to assist our friends and allies such as Israel.
was also glad to see readiness issues appropriately addressed. Accordingly, I voted in favor of the Department of Defense Appropriations bill which was considered by the House, even though I had some reservations concerning other provisions of legislation. It was my hope that, during the committee conference process, the bill would be strengthened and framed in an honest and responsible manner.

Sadly though, I could not vote for the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report. Instead of making a sincere commitment to our troops and an honest accounting to the taxpayers, the Congressional leadership in both houses resorted to budget tricks and gimmicks to hide the fact that it had failed to make the needed difficult decisions during the entire budget process in order to stick to the 1997 balanced budget agreement. The defense report designated $7.2 billion of routine operation and maintenance appropriations as “emergency funding.” This exempted an additional $10.5 billion from the federal budget caps. Through that bill, the Congressional leadership tried to convince the public that a $267 billion budget only costs $249 billion. I simply could not support that tactic.

The budget gimmicks were set up by Congress to keep federal spending in check and to help reach the goal of a balanced federal budget. House Republican leaders, in an attempt to circumvent the budget caps, have repeatedly designated traditional budget items as emergency funding. Any spending in excess of the budget caps threatens our ability to insure the long term solvency of Social Security and Medicare and to pay down the national debt.

To call routine operations and maintenance an emergency item is an insult to every American. It is the same kind of budget trick the House leadership used when they say the upcoming 2000 Census is an emergency. The taxpayers should not, and will not, be fooled by this accounting sleight-of-hand.

Furthermore, pork-barrel projects permeated the bill, in some cases even for a ship to be built in Mississippi that the Navy did not request, and $275 million for F–15 aircraft not requested. As Senator John McCain said on the floor of the Senate: “I would have liked to have been able to . . . support the defense appropriations bill. Unfortunately, the smoke and mirrors budgeting at the core of this bill is too pervasive, the level of wasteful spending . . . is too irresponsible for me to acquiesce in its passage.”

The House should find the cuts needed to keep spending within the budget caps, rather than using monies that should be put towards reducing our national debt and preserving Social Security and Medicare for future generations. These budget gimmicks only serve to erode public confidence in the process and threaten the future of Social Security and Medicare. It was fitting that the vote on the defense conference report came just before Halloween. Congressional leaders tried hard to trick the public into believing the government's budget is all treat.

Ultimately, I am very glad our troops are getting their due pay raises, and I am very glad needed investments were made in the infrastructure which maintains our military readiness. I only wish I could have voted in favor of the defense appropriations conference report as a symbol of my support for our troops and our national security interests. But such a symbolic act, when in my heart I believed the American people were being deceived, would have flown in the face of the very ideals for which our men and women in uniform carry out their duty.

HONORING ALEX K. “BUD” GEREN

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary man, who will be honored by family and friends on November 20th as he celebrates his retirement from the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transportation Department and Spirit of ’76 Association.

Alex K. “Bud” Geren faithfully served the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transportation Department for twenty-five years. Bud also served as coordinator, recruiter, and volunteer driver for MTD buses on the Fourth of July. For Bud’s dedication to safely transporting members of the community each year after the Fourth of July fireworks, he earned the title “Mr. Fourth of July.” Too often, people who work in the public transportation community are not given proper credit for the service they provide. Without the leadership and service of people like Bud, our quality of life would be diminished.

Bud also served the community on the Board of Directors for the Sparkle and Traditions Committee. In addition, Bud was co-founder of the Santa Barbara Family Fourth Coordinating Committee. I believe that his dedicated service in these organizations earned the sincere appreciation and admiration of the people of Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Speaker, Bud has made immeasurable contributions to his community, and it is only honored to represent Mr. Geren in Congress. I send my most heartfelt appreciation for his hard work and dedicated service.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 16, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the United States Submarine Force for a century of service to America. Today, I have introduced a resolution stressing the importance of the Submarine Force to this nation and commending it on behalf of the House of Representatives. A similar resolution has also been introduced in the Senate.

Earlier this year, I introduced a resolution urging the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor the service of submariners past and present. More than 180 other Members of the House of Representa-