

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Emily Brooks. I hold this student up to the House, and to all Americans, as an example of the best of America's students.

HONORING MARTIN J. "MARTY"  
FORD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to my good friend Marty Ford who will be honored this evening by the Guilford Democratic Town Committee for his contributions to the Guilford community.

Like an illustration of a quaint New England town, Guilford is probably best known for its historic Town Green. Residents take great pride in the enchanting atmosphere of this growing community and work hard to maintain its unique character and charm. As a longtime resident of Guilford, Marty has devoted countless hours ensuring that the culture and history of the town is preserved. He has served ten years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, eight years on the Historic District Commission and sat on two Charter Revision Commissions. We commend his distinguished record of service.

The political arena has served as a forum for Marty's diligent work to promote the values and ideas that have guided him. For decades he has served as a strong political supporter for candidates running for local, state and federal government. He cares about his community, and uses his talent to help elect leaders who will do the same. He has served twelve years on the Board of Education, helping to develop policies that will best serve Guilford's youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

Marty is also known for his work with Guilford residents and community leaders. As President of the Guilford Interfaith Ministries, Marty's energy is directed at assisting some of the community's most vulnerable citizens. Under his direction, programs such as "Meals on Wheels", Friendly Visitors, and the Guilford Food Bank assist hundreds of people in need.

As an active citizen of Guilford, Marty is the kind of man who quietly makes his town a better place. He appreciates Guilford's past and has a vision for its preservation for the future. If Marty sees a need in the community, he takes it upon himself to work toward a solution. At a time when many Americans are becoming bitter about problems that seem too great to solve, Marty is the kind of man that serves as an example of hope. If we continue striving for a better community as Marty does, we really can make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to join with family, friends and the town of Guilford to honor Marty Ford for his outstanding service to the community. His efforts are clearly deserving of this public recognition and gratitude. I wish him continued success and thank him for the high standard he has set for us all.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REVEREND ROBERT M. NERVIG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Robert M. Nervig for his service to the people he has served and the communities he has enriched in his 43 years as a minister in Brooklyn and throughout the city and across the country.

Reverend Nervig began his ministry in 1956 when he was ordained into the Holy Ministry at the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Soon after that he began his religious ministry at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. Three years later he moved to Our Savior Lutheran Church serving the Staten Island community. And in 1988, Reverend Nervig returned to Trinity, Brooklyn where he continued his ministry in this multilingual, multi-cultural parish. During this time he also served as president of Augustana Academy, a school that broke all barriers by providing academic opportunities to children of all races and economic position.

Reverend Nervig has been a powerful force in our community, because of his strong commitment to serve diverse communities. His ministry is not bound by the constraints of language or culture, and extends to the many diverse groups of people in the communities to which he ministers. His parish is surrounded by the sounds of prayers in many languages, and each Sunday his multi-cultural parish prays in three languages—English, Norwegian and Spanish. His efforts to reach out and unite people involved him in the organization of 65 congregations of the former American Lutheran Church.

And beyond this, Reverend Nervig has touched the lives of thousands, of young adults in the community through his activities in youth ministries, where he is known as "Pastor Bob." As president of Augustana High School, he has helped strengthen and expand that diverse institution—a place where students rich and poor from many backgrounds and many nations can learn in a dynamic environment. He has organized youth outreach programs and national Lutheran youth gatherings that have become enormously successful, and have touched young people across the country.

Reverend Nervig is a model for our community in Brooklyn and a model for communities across the country. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Robert M. Nervig for his 43 years of service to many communities—a ministry and a man that can be condensed into these words—a love for all God's children—no matter the age.

*April 28, 1999*

THE MILITARY RESERVISTS  
SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act of 1999 to aid small businesses whose owner, manager or key employee has been or may be called to active duty in the Balkans. I am pleased to note that I have been joined by a bipartisan group of my colleagues in sponsoring this legislation. A companion bill is being introduced in the Senate, and we are hopeful that Congress will address this issue expeditiously.

Eight years ago, at the beginning of the Gulf War, substantially identical legislation was introduced and passed. Now, as then, we in Congress owe it to those brave men and women who are answering their nation's, and the world's, call to help resolve the situation in Kosovo. Small businesses which rely on the talents and energies of reservists called up for active duty can suffer immeasurable harm from the absence of those individuals.

The bill I am introducing today provides three forms of assistance to small businesses affected by the callup of reservists. Briefly, the bill would address the following matters:

**Deferral of Loan Repayments.** Payments would be deferred on any direct loans from the Small Business Administration, including disaster loans, which have been extended to reservists or guard members who have been called to report for active duty. SBA is further directed to develop policies consistent with this approach for microloans and for guaranteed loans under SBA's financial assistance programs. Deferrals will be available from the date of call up until 180 days after he or she is released from active duty.

**Economic Injury Loans.** The bill establishes a new program, to be administered by SBA's disaster loan program, to provide interim operating capital to any small business where the departure of a reservist causes economic harm to that business. This program applies when the individual called up is an owner, manager or a key employee; businesses can apply from the date of a call up until 180 days after the reservist is released from active duty.

**Technical Assistance, Counseling and Training.** SBA and its private sector partners, such as the Small Business Development Centers, are directed to reach out to businesses affected by the call up of reservists and guard members. The goal would be to mitigate business disruptions through counseling, training and other assistance for those left behind to run the business.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all our colleagues to join with me in moving forward to pass this bill and provide this much needed relief to our reservists. As former Senator Bumpers said when he introduced a similar bill in 1991 during the Gulf war, ". . . some small business will be irretrievably lost due to this war . . . We may not be able to save all