Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reluctantly support this conference report, as well as commend Chairman YOUNG, Mr. O'BRYE, and my colleagues for their hard work in bringing this difficult bill to the floor. Clearly, many of my colleagues share my ambivalence about this legislation. As a body, we seem to be all over the place on this measure. Some of my friends on the Republican side voted earlier this month to oppose NATO intervention in Kosovo; now they support double the President's budget request. My Democratic colleagues urge that nation to assist in reinvigorating that process.

I have great concerns over portions of this legislation; however, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the need for much of the funding is real and outweighs my reservations. Given the situation in Kosovo three months ago and our commitment to the defense of Europe, I believe that President Clinton made the right decision to join our NATO allies in acting against Milosevic's ethnic cleansing campaign. The responsibility to allocate dollars to pay for the military campaign falls on the Congress. While the increases over the President's request for Kosovo should be addressed in the regular 2000 appropriations process, we need to move forward to commit these funds.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following statement to my colleagues. When I was traveling back to Washington, D.C. on May 24, 1999, H.R. 974, the District of Columbia College Access Act, was passed by voice vote. Due to the fact that I was commuting and the vote took place before the 6 p.m. scheduled time, I missed the voice vote. I would like to make it known for the record that had I been present, I would have asked for a recorded vote and voted against this bill. I do not feel that students in the District of Columbia should be made "exceptions" when it comes to paying in-states fees at any state institution. This privilege is not granted to students in this country who choose to attend a state college outside of their residential state.

Mr. VICOSLKIY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 92nd Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, June 6, 1999. This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversay celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. Settlement of these claims will close a shameful episode in this great nation's history.

The Republican majority continues to use appropriations bills to pass damaging environmental provisions. This time we have Senate provisions to protect narrow special interests at the expense of the environment. We continue to delay reforms to the 1872 mining law which ensure that the government receives reasonable royalties from drilling on federal land. I urge my colleagues to vote to recommit this legislation so that the bill's onerous environmental provisions can be removed.

While the increases over the President's request for Kosovo should be addressed in the regular 2000 appropriations process, we need to move forward to commit these funds.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENT PRINCESS VICTORIA KA'ULANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Princess Victoria Ka'ulani Elementary School, which has earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools that have been judged particularly effective in meeting local, state, and national goals. In being selected, Princess Ka'ulani Elementary School displayed the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The school demonstrates its strong leadership by providing high quality teaching, instilling policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, initiating strong parental and community involvement, and helping all students achieve to high standards.

The awarding of Princess Victoria Ka'ulani Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School is more than a recognition. It made even more special by the fact that this year marks the school's centennial anniversary. The school opened its doors on April 22, 1899 and was named for the beautiful Princess Victoria Ka'ulani. The name Ka'ulani...