

assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8. REPORTS OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report on the programs, projects, and activities on the Commission for the prior year.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE AND WOMEN WARTIME VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL) and in honoring the many women who have selflessly volunteered to assist our armed forces during time of war. In World War I, more than 90,000 civilian women served as volunteers and nearly 350 women gave their lives in this effort. Women served in both World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf, and in many other conflicts. As these women returned to the United States, however, they came home without the benefits that male soldiers received. Because these women were not considered "veterans," their contribution to the Armed Forces was, until recently, practically unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, women played many important roles in the WOSL. Women ran recreation centers, created libraries for the military, taught in hospitals and schools, and worked as journalists. By participating in these humanitarian activities, these women risked their lives and their health. In recognition of the great services these women provided our Armed Services, a memorial freeway in California was named in their honor on May 29, 2000.

The Women's Overseas Service League honors and recognizes the women who have graciously volunteered for their country. Currently, the WOSL supports the Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Seminars at Valley Forge. WOSL offers scholarships for young women pursuing military careers and has vigorously supported events such as the creation of the Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Highway. The WOSL's dedication to women veterans and volunteers has made a large impact in keeping the memory of these individuals alive and ensuring strong support of women in the military for the future.

Mr. Speaker, groups such as the Women's Overseas Service League have started to spread awareness of women in the military.

The Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Freeway is the beginning in honoring women who have served our country. Nevertheless, it is only a beginning. The women who gave their time, their health and their lives deserve our recognition and our gratitude for their outstanding contribution to our Armed Forces and to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the women volunteers who have served so valiantly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 416, on Wednesday, July 19.

I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARGARET OWENS ON JULY 26, 2000

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I not only congratulate Margaret Owens as she turns ninety-eight years old on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, but also I celebrate the dedication and achievement that marks her place in the history of this great nation.

Born on July 26, 1902, Margaret Owens finished her high school education at Saint John's Academy in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. She attended Mount Saint Bernard Ladies College for a year before pursuing training at Mount Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Niagara Falls, New York. Margaret received \$100.00 per month as a private duty nurse from 1925 until September 1944, when she began serving the United States Army as a General Duty Nurse. After Basic Training, she was stationed in the United Kingdom where she petitioned English Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, to allow American hospitals behind enemy lines in France and Germany. Though initially unsuccessful, she eventually gained permission to cross the English Channel and set up medical facilities. Margaret was transferred to the front line in December 1944 where she initiated, organized and supervised a one-hundred twenty-four bed surgical block in the 201st General Hospital in Verdum, France. In June 1945, she was transferred to Weisbaden, Germany, where she served valiantly with the 317th Station Hospital.

Mrs. Owens is a true American hero. Her persistence and selfless service provided emergency medical care and attention to thousands of men and women who served abroad during World War II. In recognition of this dedication, Mrs. Owens was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with one Bronze Star and the World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I congratulate Mrs. Owens on her life of service and achievement. Mrs. Owens truly has a cause for celebration and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating her. Mrs. Owens, as you celebrate ninety-eight wonderful years, we wish you a happy birthday and all the best in the years to come.

JOB CORPS EXPERIENCE PAYS OFF FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the good work that is being done by the Job Corps program that is run by the Department of Labor. The Job Corps serves low-income young women and men, ages 16 through 24, who are in need of additional educational, vocational and social skills training, and other support services in order to gain meaningful employment, return to school or enter the Armed Forces.

I am proud that my district is home to the Keystone Job Corps Center of Drums, Pennsylvania. At a Job Corps advisory meeting in Pennsylvania earlier this year, a member of the Transportation Communications International Union, or TCU, which represents many Job Corps employees, presented me with an e-mail written by Dawn Day, a young woman from rural Maine. Ms. Day recently graduated from the Potomac Job Corps Center, and I think she provides an excellent example of the good results that this program produces. I would like to enter a portion of that e-mail into the RECORD.

Between my salary and my moving I should make over \$50,000 this year. This is a way more money than I have ever dreamed of making.

My first knowledge of TCU was at a conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, where I met with students from other schools. From there I contacted the TCU to set up an interview. The interviewer, Tom Huster, told me about a student in Florida who was making \$14.22 an hour and my jaw hit the ground. I told a friend "I'm going to have a job like that when I leave here." Little did I realize that one year later, I would have a job exactly like that in Jacksonville, Florida. Now, one more year later, I have a job paying about \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year in New York. I never could have imagined that TCU would open such great doors for me.

Before PJCC and TCU, I was working in a fish factory in a tiny town in Maine making \$5.33/hour. When the opportunity was upon me to go to TCU in St. Louis, I thought of a zillion reasons why I shouldn't go. The small-town girl in a big city, you know, the usual excuses associated with change. But there was one thing that made me realize I had to go. I never wanted to look back and say "What if" and know I didn't even try. I knew I could always come home but I may not always have an opportunity to do anything like this ever again. So, I was soon on a plane and on my way to TCU.

The best advice to a student interested in TCU would have to be stay focused. There will be many mountains which you will have to climb in order to reach your goals. But I

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guarantee that after each mountain there will be a sunny day waiting for you on the other sides.

Mr. Speaker, I think Ms. Day's experience is a tremendous example of why we need to encourage other young people to participate in this program and other training programs through Job Corps.

I send my best wishes to the students, graduates and employees of the Job Corps and my wishes for continued success.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic bill. While I will support the underlying legislation, and I intend to support it, I think we could build on this good bill and make it better. We should be doing more to provide a secure retirement for low and middle income workers.

The Democratic substitute helps low and middle income workers by establishing Retirement Savings Accounts. RSAs would provide a refundable tax credit to low and middle income workers of up to 50 percent of the annual contributions made to a traditional IRA, or an employer-sponsored pension plan, such as a 401(k) plan.

RSAs would make a real difference in the lives of workers who are struggling to build some retirement savings, but who too often find themselves falling behind. By providing a maximum credit of \$1,000 for the lowest income working Americans, we can help ensure that each and every American can begin building a nest egg that will supplement their Social Security benefits in their retirement years.

These are families that are struggling day to day. They deserve a little extra help in building retirement security. One recent study by the Consumer Federation of America concluded that only 44 percent of households will accumulate adequate retirement savings. The current savings rate in America is only 3.8 percent. That is not a prescription for retirement security for all Americans.

The Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act takes an important step toward encouraging saving by increasing the limit on contributions to deductible IRAs from \$2,000 to \$5,000 by 2003. This applies for both traditional and Roth IRAs. When you consider that the original limit when we created IRAs in 1974 was \$1,500, you can see why the limits need to be increased. This will make a real difference and help families build retirement savings.

But in and of itself, increasing the limit does not address the need of millions of Americans to save more. According to the Treasury Department, only seven percent of eligible taxpayers made any contribution to an IRA in 1995. Furthermore, only four percent of taxpayers who were eligible to make any contribution made the maximum one.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

People are not failing contributing to IRA because the limits are too low. They are not contributing because they do not have the wherewithal to contribute. We should increase the limits, but we should also add an RSA provision to give low income workers the benefits of an IRA and allow them to build some retirement savings.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic substitute. I recognize the bipartisan work that has gone into developing the legislation before us today. This bill could be improved and we can do it in a bipartisan way. Support the Democratic substitute.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF A.J. BENSEN FOR THE JUNIOR OLYMPIC ARCHERY TEAM

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young man on an exemplary achievement. Allastair John Bensen, known to his friends and family as A.J., was selected as a member of the 2000 Junior Olympic Team for Archery. This honor comes after many years of practice and dedication.

A.J. began shooting for fun with his father, John, when he was five years old. As his skills improved, they began competing in the Capital Land Bowhunters 3-D Shoots as well as other archery competitions throughout the Capital Region, the Hudson Valley, the Adirondacks and the Catskills. Over the years, A.J. has won a number of trophies, medals and several plaques, including more than fifteen first place finishes. In 1999, A.J. and his father placed second in the father-son category of the DARE shoot, held in Middleburgh, NY. This spring A.J. participated in the Triple Crown, an event where participants compete in three separate shoots. Overall, A.J. placed higher than any other competitor and secured the Triple Crown Trophy. For A.J., placing first at the regions paramount archery event transformed a weekend hobby into an opportunity to compete on the national level.

A.J. was selected to compete in the United States Junior Olympics and National Association of Police Athletic League Youth Festival held in Detroit, Michigan from July 18-24, 2000. The regional team of archers is sponsored by the Albany Police Departments Police Athletic League program. Under the coaching and direction of Officer Jim Teller, the team has prepared rigorously for this nationally acclaimed event. These young people should be commended for their dedication and achievement.

A.J. and his parents, John and Jeanne Bensen, reside in Greenville, New York, within the 22nd Congressional District. In addition to his archery accomplishment, A.J. is a first class Boy Scout, a Black Belt in Budokai (traditional Japanese) Karate and an honor student at Greenville Central Middle School. A.J. is twelve years old and is an energetic and motivated young man whose efforts deserve recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate A.J. Bensen on his selection to the

Junior Olympic Archery Team. I hope my colleagues will join me as I commend this achievement and wish A.J. the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES HURT BY U.S.-CANADA SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2000, I introduced, along with my colleague Representative STENY HOYER, H. Con. Res. 252, calling for an end to the U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement when it expires in 2001. The resolution was introduced with 30 bipartisan original cosponsors. There are now 115 cosponsors from all regions of the country and the number is growing every day. The purpose of the resolution is to: (1) Ensure a competitive North American market for softwood lumber; (2) ensure free trade regarding softwood lumber between the U.S. and Canada; (3) ensure all stakeholders are included in discussions regarding trade of softwood lumber; and, (4) ensure that the Softwood Lumber Agreement is allowed to terminate when it expires in 2001. By taking these steps, the negative impact on U.S. consumers and housing affordability can be eliminated.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement imposes quotas on lumber shipped from Canada to the United States. These quotas have a dramatic impact on the price and volatility of lumber, which jeopardizes affordable housing in America and hurts American consumers. A recent study by Brink Lindsay and Mark Groombridge of the Cato Institute entitled "Nailing the Homeowner: the Economic Impact of Trade Protection of the Softwood Lumber Industry," confirms the detrimental impact this agreement has on the American consumer. The authors calculated that trade restrictions imposed upon the American consumer by the Softwood Lumber Agreement added an estimated \$50 to \$80 per thousand board feet to the price of lumber. The result is an addition of \$800 to \$1,300 to the cost of new home prices, thereby driving some 300,000 American families out of the housing market. Unfortunately, the bulk of these consumers are lower-income families.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement is the worst form of government market intervention, driving up consumer costs and distorting the free market. Fortunately, the agreement is set to expire on April 1, 2001. I hope that the Administration will seriously consider the impact of the Softwood Lumber Agreement on consumers within the United States and allow the agreement to expire with no extension or further quota agreement. If the administration wants to discuss softwood lumber and forestry matters with Canada, the President should include consumers in any discussion. I hope the Administration will notify interested members of the U.S. House of Representatives if such discussions are underway.

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