

about 300 wishes each year for local children. She created the Gaylord Wish Tree Foundation in 1987 and serves as its president.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the Otesgo County United Way since 1993 and has served on the Alpenfest Honors Luncheon Committee—the panel that honors the local industry each year—since 1991.

With interests in several other hotels, Daune is active in local business and community promotion organizations, serving on the Gaylord Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors and the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau. The dedicated community activist also serves or has served on the boards of directors of Northern Michigan University, the West Michigan Tourist Association, and the North County Bank and Trust.

When an opportunity arose this spring to bring business representatives from our district to take part in a workshop with Cabinet officers and other federal representatives, Daune Weiss was the first name that came to mind. I know she would be personally interested in the meetings, would offer excellent input on the interface of government and business, and would bring valuable information and insights back to her community.

Daune has received numerous other honors, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to call attention to her being named as the 21st Buergermeister chosen by the Gaylord Herald Times, because the honor and the Alpenfest event so perfectly represent the enterprising spirit of the community. I hope my House colleagues will have an opportunity in the future to attend this colorful, unique family celebration. For today, however, I invite House members to join me in offering our congratulations to the paper for its excellent choice of Daune Weiss as Buergermeister for Alpenfest 2000.

**SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN
DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP**

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, America is the land of opportunity. More Americans have owned homes than any people in the history of man. However, the American dream is not a reality for far too many of our countrymen. For all too many Americans the dream of homeownership is just that, a dream, not a reality. Federal government actions have raised the cost of building materials leaving homes beyond the financial reach of many of our countrymen.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) between our nation and Canada continues to deny Americans the benefits of homeownership. It violates the spirit of NAFTA by creating barriers to commerce instead of ripping them down. It denies American consumers the competition that leads to increased choice and lower prices. The American people have waited far too long for a free trade agreement in softwood lumber. An IMF economist has estimated that the SLA increases new home costs as much as \$1300 per home, denying over 300,000 Americans the ability to purchase a

home according to Census Bureau projections.

However, there is hope. We can have free trade in softwood lumber soon. The SLA is scheduled to expire on April 1, 2001 and we have the opportunity to share the benefits of free trade with home buyers. 113 Members of Congress have joined me as cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 252, calling for free softwood lumber trade between the U.S. and Canada.

The support for free trade is evident, but in order to make it a reality we need to negotiate a long term free trade agreement with Canada. Let's begin negotiations now to replace the SLA with a free trade agreement in softwood lumber and make housing affordable for more Americans. The American Dream should be a reality for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXPRESS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to clarify the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. For years, Congress has legislated on behalf of Native Hawaiians as the aboriginal, indigenous, native peoples of Hawaii. This measure clarifies that political relationship and provides a process for Native Hawaiians to form a Native Hawaiian governing body to engage in a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The United States has declared a special responsibility for the welfare of the Native peoples of the United States, including Native Hawaiians. This relationship has been acknowledged by the United States since the inception of Hawaii's status as a territory. This relationship was most explicitly affirmed by the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which set aside 200,000 acres of land in Hawaii for homesteading by Native Hawaiians. Legislative history clearly shows that in addressing this situation, Congress based this action and subsequent legislation on the constitutional precedent in programs enacted for the benefit of American Indians.

Since Hawaii's admission into the Union, Congress has continued to legislate on behalf of Native Hawaiians as indigenous peoples. Native Hawaiians have been included as Native Americans in a number of federal statutes which have addressed the conditions of Native Hawaiians. P.L. 103-150, the Apology Resolution, extended an apology on behalf of the United States to the Native people of Hawaii for the United States' role in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. The Apology Resolution also expressed the commitment of Congress and the President to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and Native Hawaiians.

The legislation I am introducing today is important not only to Native Hawaiians, but to all people in Hawaii. This measure provides the process to begin resolving many longstanding issues facing Hawaii's indigenous peoples and the State of Hawaii. In addressing these issues, we have begun a process of healing, a process of reconciliation not only with the United States but within the State of Hawaii. The essence of Hawaii is characterized not by the beauty of its islands, but by the beauty of its people. The State of Hawaii has recognized, acknowledged and acted upon the need to preserve the culture, tradition, language and heritage of Hawaii's indigenous peoples. This measure furthers these actions.

The clarification of the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States is one that has been long in coming and is well-deserved. Unfortunately, the history and the timing of Hawaii's relationship to the United States has not provided the appropriate structure for a government-to-government relationship between Hawaii's indigenous native peoples and the United States. The time has come to correct this injustice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, during House consideration of H.R. 1102, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, I regret that I missed rollcall votes 410 and 411. I was unavoidably detained returning from the funeral of Senator John O. Pastore in Rhode Island.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea" on both votes. Rollcall vote No. 410, the Democratic substitute, offered by Representative NEAL, would have added provisions to H.R. 1102 that would have offered tax credits to small businesses to set up pension plans for their employees. The substitute would also have provided refundable tax credits for low and middle income workers to encourage them to save for their retirement. As a former small business owner, I understand both the importance of providing pensions to the employees of small businesses and the difficulties small businesses often face as they attempt to establish these plans. I believe that the provisions of the substitute would have made a good bill even better and I regret that the substitute was not agreed to.

I would also have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 411. This motion to recommit H.R. 1102 would have sent the bill back to Committee with instructions to include additional language requiring that there must be an on-budget surplus and prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries through the Medicare program before the tax and pension relief provisions of the bill could be enacted. Maintaining our hard-won surplus and providing prescription drug coverage to our senior citizens are critically important and must be given the highest of priorities. I regret that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not share our belief in keeping the federal budget in surplus