

human rights issues also provided encouragement and sustenance to courageous individuals who dared to challenge repressive communist regimes. Many of these brave men and women—members of the Helsinki Monitoring and affiliated Groups in Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia, Armenia, and similar groups in Poland and Czechoslovakia and elsewhere, Soviet Jewish emigration activists, members of repressed Christian denominations and others—paid a high price in the loss of personal freedom and, in some instances, their lives, for their active support of principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

Pressure by governments through the Helsinki process at various Helsinki fora, thoroughly reviewing compliance with Helsinki commitments and raising issues with Helsinki signatory governments which violated their freely undertaken human rights commitments, helped make it possible for the people of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to regain their freedom and independence.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the OSCE region has changed dramatically. In many of the States, we have witnessed widespread and significant transformations and a consolidation of the core OSCE values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, in others, there has been little if any progress, and in some, armed conflicts have resulted in hundreds of thousands having been killed and in the grotesque violation of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, this milestone anniversary presents the President an appropriate opportunity to issue a proclamation in recognition of the obligations we and the other OSCE States have committed to uphold. It is important to keep in mind that all of the agreements of the Helsinki process have been adopted by consensus and consequently, each participating State is equally bound by each document. In addition to committing ourselves of the faithful implementation of the OSCE principles, the President should encourage other OSCE signatories as all of us have recognized that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy and genuine security and cooperation in the OSCE region. Each participating State of the OSCE bears primary responsibility for raising violations of the Helsinki Final Act and the other OSCE documents.

In the twenty-five years since this historic process was initiated in Helsinki, there have been many successes, but the task is far from complete. Mr. Speaker, we can look at OSCE's past with pride and its future with hope, keeping in mind President Ford's concluding comments at the signing of the Helsinki Final Act: "History will judge this conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow—not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep."

TRIBUTE TO ANNE WILLIS,  
LONGTIME CHICAGO EDUCATOR

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a longtime educator who is retiring from the Chicago Public School system (CPS) this year. After 36 years of tremendous service for the Chicago Board of Education (CBE), Anne Willis will be leaving Byrne Elementary School in Southwest Chicago. This teacher is a perfect example of the continuously hardworking, but often-unrecognized efforts of educators in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. It gives me great pride to share with you her story and accomplishments.

Anne Willis brought to the Chicago public schools an extensive advanced education. In 1957, Anne earned a bachelors of arts from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Ten years later, she earned a masters of education from Chicago State. In 1978, Mrs. Willis completed another masters degree from Rush University's College of Nursing.

Besides years of tremendous medical care for Chicago students, Anne was active in important community organizations. For example, she served as a school nurses delegate to the Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU), and participated in the Courtesy Classroom of the Region 4 Nurses Club.

With her duly earned free time, Anne plans to join the "Walkers of the USA" and walk across the Earth's most beautiful locations. When commenting on her retirement, Anne stated admirably: "The most important people for me are the children I serve, my family and friends."

Again, I was pleased to learn of the retirement and wonderfully productive life of Anne Willis. In a time when she is receiving numerous recognition and praise, I gladly echo my own thanks from the Halls of the U.S. Congress. This educator represents the day-to-day hard work and compassion that steer Chicago's youth toward successful and healthy futures. Mr. Speaker, I wish Anne Willis a well-deserved long and happy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO PITNEY BOWES'  
COMMITMENT TO DISABLED  
AMERICANS

**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which has helped all our fellow Americans to realize their full potential. In this regard, I was pleased to attend a ceremony last month here in the U.S. Capitol Building at which Pitney Bowes, a worldwide leader in messaging technology based in Connecticut, received the Blinded American Veterans Foundation's Corporate Award for their development of the Universal Access Copier.

This revolutionary copier incorporates many leading technologies, including the first-ever use of advanced speech recognition in a copier. This speech recognition software can "learn" any user's voice pattern, including those with speech disabilities, and respond to any language. This enables users to operate every feature of the copier merely by stating simple commands. In addition to voice activation, a touch screen and Braille keyboard allows operators to choose how they prefer to operate the system. The copier also adjusts to different heights allowing people with mobility limitations, including those in wheelchairs, to operate it. The Universal Access Copier assists those with disabilities in enjoying employment opportunities that may not have been previously available to them.

At the ceremony, John Fales, Jr., President of the Blinded American Veterans Foundation (BAVF), presented the award to Michael Critelli, CEO and Chairman of Pitney Bowes. This was the 15th annual George "Buck" Gillispie Congressional awards ceremony held as part of the 2000 Flag Week events. For those who may not know, BAVF was launched in 1985 by three American Veterans who lost their sight during service in Korea and Vietnam—John Fales (USMC), Don Garner (USN) and Dennis Wyant (USN). All of these individuals had achieved successful careers despite their blindness but they realized that many sensory disabled veterans had not had the same opportunities afforded them. Accordingly, they determined to form the foundation and pursue its goals of research, rehabilitation, and re-employment.

I am proud to say the Universal Access Copier was developed at the Pitney Bowes Technology Center, which serves as the company's "innovation incubator," and symbolizes Pitney Bowes' ongoing commitment to excellence in research and technological development. The Technology Center sits on a nine-acre site in my congressional district in Shelton, Connecticut and provides a consolidated engineering campus for several hundred engineers, scientists and programmers. The company was previously honored for development of the copier when it was presented the Computerworld Smithsonian Award which recognizes vision, leadership and innovation through outstanding use of information technology. Pitney Bowes' Universal Access Copier was singled out for the help it offers 34 million Americans with disabilities of working age in living and working more independently. The copier has also been inducted into the permanent Smithsonian Institution's Research Collection alongside such famous technological innovations as Samuel Morse's original telegraph.

The copier is only one of many Pitney Bowes' technological innovations. For the last 14 years, the company has ranked in the top 200 companies receiving U.S. patents. Pitney Bowes has received over 3,000 patents worldwide, with an average of more than 100 issued every year.

Mr. Speaker, Pitney Bowes' unwavering commitment to bring innovative technologies to all, including those with disabilities, truly stands out. I commend them on their work and look forward to their continued success.