

Street revitalization project, which involved a complete rehabilitation of the New Horizon Apartments, an elderly affordable housing complex. He also played an integral role in securing the funding for the development of Shaws Supermarket at Dwight Place which has brought about an economic renaissance in the area. Alvis always brought the needs of his constituents to City Hall—ensuring that their voices were heard.

During his three term tenure on the Board of Aldermen Board, he chaired the Public Safety and Substance Abuse Committee as well as the Youth and Youth Services Committee. As a case manager with the New Haven Family Alliance, he worked with primarily high-risk adolescents with drug and alcohol problems. His career experiences brought an uncommon insight to these committees and he was able to communicate the specific issues which our young people face with a unique authority. Prior to his work at the New Haven Family Alliance, Alvis pursued a counseling career within the Connecticut Department of Corrections, counseling inmates with substance abuse problems and lectured on the Criminal Justice System at public schools and universities across Connecticut. He also started and facilitated a program entitled "Youth Reaching Out to Youth", a program that designed an environment where teens could counsel each other on the difficult issues which they faced each day.

In only 33 years of life, Alvis Brooker left an invaluable mark on our community. Behind the myriad of Aldermanic Citations and Mayoral Proclamations, there was a man who truly cared about his community. He was a leader in every sense of the word and will always be remembered for his unwavering commitment and tireless work on behalf of our children and families. He has certainly been an inspiration to all of us in the New Haven community and it was indeed a privilege to work with him and I am proud to have called him my friend.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to join his mother, Sallie, family, friends, colleagues, and the community he loved well to bid a fond farewell to my dear friend, Alvis Brooker. His strength and good heart will live on.

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UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY IN  
TAIWAN

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1996, the People's Republic of China (PRC) conducted two guided missile tests north of Taiwan, in an effort to intimidate the voting populous. Fortunately, the people in Taiwan recognized this act of intimidation by the PRC and overwhelmingly elected Lee Teng-hui as their first freely elected president in China's 5,000-year history.

This year, on the eve of Taiwan's second presidential election, the People's Republic of China has once again renewed its militaristic intimidation tactics against Taiwan. On at least two occasions, Beijing leaders had made it

abundantly clear that it could invade Taiwan if Taiwan refused to engage in reunification talks. There is widespread concern throughout Taiwan, South Asia, and here in the United States that the PRC will continue its efforts to intimidate Taiwan. These attempts to destabilize Taiwan's healthy policy and economy would eventually lead to the surrender of Taiwan to mainland China.

I trust the voters in Taiwan will once again choose one of the three leading candidates as their president on March 18. It is vitally important that Taiwan's security not be compromised in any way. In the meantime, the goal of both governments should be increased dialog and a cooling of inflammatory rhetoric. Fear and instability will not serve the people of either Taiwan or the PRC, and it certainly will not serve the interest of the United States.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL  
SECURITY BENEFITS PROTEC-  
TION ACT OF 2000

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that is very important to me, to my constituents in Hawaii, and to the people of the United States of America—the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

Under current law, the Social Security Administration does not pay benefits for the last month of life. It doesn't matter what day of the month the retiree dies. Even if a Social Security beneficiary dies on the very last day of the month, the surviving spouse or family members must send back the Social Security check for that month.

This is an unfair and heartless rule.

When a loved one dies, there are expenses that the family must take care of:

There are final bills to pay. There are utility bills that need to be paid. There is rent or a mortgage that must be taken care of, and oftentimes, there are final health expenses.

Companies will not cancel these bills for that final month of life. These expenses must still be paid. So why is Social Security telling the family that the final month of Social Security income must be returned? This money is needed for these expenses.

My bill corrects this unfair rule in a simple and straightforward way:

It says that if you die after the 15th of the month, your surviving spouse or the family estate will get the Social Security check for that full month.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and support the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPOSIT  
INSURANCE FUNDS MERGER ACT  
OF 2000

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, the Chair of the Financial Institu-

tions Subcommittee of the Banking Committee, MARGE ROUKEMA, in introducing the Deposit Insurance Funds Merger Act of 2000. I would like to thank Congresswoman ROUKEMA for her leadership in putting forward this timely legislation.

I believe the merger of the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) and Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAIF) is a matter of substantial public policy importance that should be addressed on its independent merits. A merger of the BIF and SAIF would clearly benefit the deposit insurance system by creating a single, more diversified fund that is less vulnerable to regional economic problems. In addition, a merger of the funds would more accurately reflect the reality of today's financial services industry, in which 46 percent of the SAIF deposits are held by commercial banks and FDIC-regulated state savings banks. In fact, the funds have lost their independent identities, and we should rationalize their structure. Both industries should support the change as bringing needed rationality and stability to the deposit insurance funds.

The merger of the funds is an issue that I therefore believe merits independent consideration and Congressional action in the near term.

I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on this very critical issue.

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TRIBUTE TO LEE KANON ALPERT

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. SHERMAN, and I, today pay tribute to Lee Kanon Alpert, who has been selected to receive this year's prestigious Fernando Award for outstanding volunteerism. He will be honored Friday March 10, 2000 at the 41st Annual Special Recognition Dinner by the Board of Directors of the Fernando Award Foundation and his name will be placed alongside previous winners at the base of the magnificent bronze statue of "Fernando" which stands in the San Fernando Valley Civic Center.

The Fernando Award was created to honor individuals who have exemplified leadership, volunteerism and dedication. It is recognized as the leading award for civic accomplishment in the San Fernando Valley. The process by which selection is made each year includes extensive participation by community organizations and community leaders. This year that process has yielded a particularly worthy recipient.

Lee has been a practicing attorney for over 28 years. In his distinguished legal career, he has developed expertise in numerous areas of the law, including administrative and governmental relations, arbitration and mediation, family law and real estate transactions. Despite his extensive professional responsibilities, he has taken an active role in the community, serving on numerous boards and commissions, providing public commentary on

radio and television programs, writing articles and editorials for legal and news publications and assuming leadership roles within a variety of civic organizations.

Lee Alpert currently serves as President of the Los Angeles City Board of Building and Safety Commission and is outgoing president of the California State University Northridge, Advisory Board. He is the current co-chair of the California State Assembly Business Advisory Commission which provides counsel to Assembly member Robert Hertzberg. He has previously served as the co-chair of the California State Senate Small Business Advisory Commission. Since 1993 he has chaired the Governing Board of Directors of the Encino—Tarzana Regional Medical Centers (Hospitals) Joint Venture between American Medical International (AMI) and Health Trust, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join in paying tribute to Lee Alpert. We are grateful for the tireless service he has given to his community and the many ways he exemplifies good citizenship. We congratulate him on the well deserved honor he is about to receive.

HONORING DR. IRVING SMILER  
FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE FRANKFORD COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Irving Smiler for his fifty years of service to the Frankford Community.

During the post World War II era, Dr. Irving Smiler rose to reclaim one's sense of nationalism for the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Dr. Smiler devoted his entire life for the betterment of others. Dr. Smiler, a native Philadelphian, located his pursuit in the Frankford Community and for the past fifty years toiled to create a community worth noting. I am honored to know an individual of such character, voice, and determination.

Dr. Smiler advanced the meaning of an honest life by devoting his mindset to the study of Podiatry. After completely his undergraduate work at Temple University College of Podiatric Medicine in 1948, he felt the true testament of the "American Dream" by struggling to locate a place of business to put that education into action. Finally, he located Frankford and Pratt where he went into business with a young optometrist. Together they formed a practice and a lasting friendship in the heart of Frankford.

To further advance his practice and knowledge base, Dr. Smiler gained more autonomy and liberty by acquiring a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine in the late 1960's. Skillfully juggling his responsibilities to his beloved wife and three children, he managed to publish several medical journals and a book entitled, Geriatric Foot Care: An Aging Challenge. These publications served solely as a foundation for Dr. Smiler's devotion and dedication to the education of others which was apparent through his numerous lectures to the Frankford Hospital Community.

The pursuit of happiness in the eyes of Dr. Smiler based upon his curriculum vitae and his professional development was twofold, first to the study of Podiatry and secondly to the betterment of the community. Dr. Smiler is a solid witness and steward of the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving Smiler should be commended for his tireless pursuit to support the development of the Frankford Community from its post World War II conception to even beyond the new millennium. I congratulate and highly revere Dr. Smiler upon this most glorious occasion on his fifty years of service and I offer him my best wishes in the coming years.

LUTHER MASINGILL

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a citizen who has contributed as much as anyone in the Third District of Tennessee to the wonderful quality of life that all of us who live there are privileged to enjoy. The occasion is his 78th birthday, but this tribute could be delivered any day. It is a testament to how universally known, loved and admired he is that you only have to say the word "Luther," and just about anyone will know you are referring to Luther Masingill, who has made Chattanooga's mornings brighter for 60 years.

He signed on as host of his near universally known morning show on WDEF Radio, then an AM only station, on December 31, 1940. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President then, and we were on the eve of World War II. Luther has seen Chattanooga—and the world—change mightily during his years on the air. Eleven U.S. Presidents as well as numerous Tennessee governors and Chattanooga mayors have come and gone while Luther has held way on the air. Luther has stayed on, however; and the "secrets" of his success and value to the Chattanooga area have remained the same.

His radio show, now broadcast on WDEF AM and FM from 6–9 a.m. each weekday morning, does not focus on the controversies that tear us apart. By design, Luther devotes his show to the things that bring us together and make us human. Is your dog or cat missing? Would you like to buy or sell an animal? Is your civil club meeting or having a sale? His show is very much about neighbors helping neighbors and swapping information across the backyard fence, or at the grocery store, or after church. And his devoted listeners treat Luther as their friend and neighbor, which indeed he is.

Luther plays relaxing, traditional music in between announcements; and his warm, reassuring voice has made countless folks in Southeast Tennessee, North Georgia, North Alabama and Western North Carolina begin the day in a better spirit, no matter what the day may bring. He also does a spot on the noon news on Channel 12, WDEF television, and he's been with that station since it signed on in 1954.

Today, March 9, 2000, is your 78th birthday, Luther; and so we say a loud "Happy Birthday!" and thanks for all you have done to enrich our lives and communities. And here's wishing you many more years on the air!

PROVIDE RELIEF TO AMERICAN  
ENERGY CONSUMERS: SUSPEND  
THE TARIFF ON NUCLEAR  
STEAM GENERATORS

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, in ongoing efforts to ensure safety and efficiency, nuclear power plants must periodically replace their steam generators. When a Florida manufacturing plant closes its doors following the delivery of two steam generators this year, there will no longer be any steam generator producers in the United States. Consequently, the 103 nuclear power facilities located in the United States will have no choice but to import replacement steam generators.

Under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, steam generators imported for use in nuclear power plants are taxed at a duty rate of 5.2 percent (except those imported from Canada, where a zero duty rate applies). Importing a single \$30 million steam generator results in a tariff of approximately \$1.56 million. Because nuclear plants generally replace two of these generators at a time, the cost of this hidden tax to consumers is considerable. Unless it is addressed, this duty will increase the cost of supplying electricity to Georgia's rate payers by \$2.7 million this year. Such unnecessary expenses are inevitably incorporated into the rate base.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), at least a dozen nuclear power plants are planning to replace their steam generators over the next several years. Since there are no domestic manufacturers, there is no legitimate reason to continue imposing this duty. American consumers should not be required to bear this unnecessary cost.

Today, with the support and original co-sponsorships of colleagues from Tennessee, Arizona, Georgia, and Connecticut, I am introducing legislation that will suspend the duty on steam generators for nuclear facilities for five years, providing significant relief for energy consumers around the country. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER JIM GRAHAM

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina to honor a great American and a true friend to farmers, North Carolina Agricultural