

Masenhimer, Ms. Rita Maugle, Jahvon McAuley, Ms. Ann McCandless, Ms. Marie McClay, Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCormick, Mr. Daniel McFadden, Mr. Charles McKenna, Ms. Patricia Mease, Mr. Hector Mendrell, Ms. Elizabeth Messer, Ms. Pauline Metzger, Ms. Erica Miller, Ms. Justine Miller, Mr. Kyle Miller, Ms. Sharon Miller, Ms. Stephanie Minarik, Ms. Ruth Morgan, Ms. Doris Moser, Mr. Patrick Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nagle, Ms. Milly Nagle, Ms. Lauren Neveling, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Oberdoester, Ms. Elizabeth Oberly, Mr. Kevin O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Orach.

Mr. Michael Orendock, Mr. Gus Orphanides, Mr. Michael Palumbo, Ms. Georgine Patt, Mr. and Mrs. John Pello, Vergen Perez, Ms. Lillian Peters, Ms. Cheryl Petrakovich, Ms. Betsey Pitt, Kelly Potter, Ms. Judy Prodes, Ms. Linda Quinn, Marian Ramacci, Ms. Cynthia Raub, Ms. Eleanor Reichard, Ms. Valerie Reinhard, Ms. Sara Reink, Ms. Janna Reiss, Ms. Sara Reiter, Phares Reitz, Ms. Susan Reynard, Ms. Kimberly Reynolds, Ms. Sharon Ritchey, Ms. Patricia Rice, Mr. Rey Rivera, Mr. Jorge Rodriguez, Mr. Joshua Rodriguez, Ms. Reina Rodriguez, Ms. Julia Rossi, Mr. Charles Roth, Mr. Ryan Ruch.

Ms. Allison Ruyak, Ms. Jennifer Sabot, Ms. Virginia Saemmer, Mr. James Sawruk, Mr. Roger Scanlon, Ms. Brenda Schaadt, Mrs. Betty Scharfenberg, Ms. Dorothy Scherer, Mr. Charles Schmehl, Ms. Mary Schmitt, Mr. Joshua Schnalzer, Mr. Justin Schnell, Mr. Justin Schurawlow, Ms. Marie Scofield, Ms. Beverly Seibert, Mr. Richard Seitzer, Mr. Bobbie Shuhler, Ms. Kathy Schumack, Ms. Tara Siegle, Ms. Cathryn Sinnitz, Ms. Catherine Smicker, Ms. Dariene Smicker, Ms. Brenda Smith, Jamie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Smith, Ms. Arline Snyder, Ms. Melanie Snyder, Ms. Susan Soler, Mr. Simon Song, Mr. and Mrs. Travis So.

Mr. Justin Spanburgh, Mr. Jason Stauffer, Mr. Jerome Stephan, Ms. Lucille Stephens, Ms. Ruth Stier, Ms. Farahlee Straukas, Ms. Joyce Szmodis, Ms. Tamey Nora Lee, Ms. Nichole Taylor, Mr. Ted Terry, Ms. Lynn Teumim, Ms. Carol Thompson, Ms. Mary Lynn Thompson, Mary Kay Thomson, Mr. Bradley Trabosh, Ms. Jamie Trumbauer, Ms. Arlene Uhl, Ms. Mary Jane Uhl, Ms. Hope Ulmer, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vorholy, Ms. Louise M. Wagner, Ms. Phyllis Wagner, Ms. Philomay Walker, Mr. Allen Walp, Ms. Mildred Wehr, Mr. James Wickert, Ms. Alice Widmann, Mr. Henry Williams, Ms. Geraldine Wilson, Ms. Katrina Wilson, Mr. Fred Yeakel, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Youst, Ms. Dolores Zale.

JOSEPH W. DIEHN AMERICAN  
LEGION POST

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the request of the Auxiliary of the Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post in Toledo, Oh. The auxiliary has asked that its 2000 Annual Americanism Program be officially recognized, and I am pleased to submit the auxiliary's report for the record. The American Legion Auxiliary continues to play a vital role in holding dear the flame of freedom and imbuing its spirit in generations of young people through its annual Americanism program. Further, the

program benefits the young participants directly by awarding academic scholarships to winners.

The Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post Auxiliary's Legislative Chair, Jane Ann Rhoades submits:

"On February 20, 2000, J.W. Diehn held its annual Americanism program. The program was opened by Sylvania's Town Crier. Colors were posted by the newly formed Post Color Guard. The program was attended by local dignitaries including Sylvania's Mayor, Craig Stough, and Lucas County Commissioner Harry Barlos.

"The Sylvania Southview band played the 'Star Spangled Banner' and several patriotic hymns, including those of each branch of the armed services.

"The Americanism and Government test winners were presented with scholarships. This year's topic was 'Voting and the Importance of One Vote.' The winners were Chung Van Koh of Southview, Karen Wabeke of Northview, and Mike Samples of Northview. The government test winners were Rustam Salari of Southview, Jeff Allota of Northview, and Alexi Osborne of Southview.

"Miss Poppy, Cortney Furguson, read the 'Poppy Story.' The program concluded with the singing of 'God Bless the USA.'"

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN  
PATRICIA SCHROEDER

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, to mark National Woman's History Month, I rise to honor an outstanding leader from Colorado—a woman who broke down stereotypes and fought hard for what she believed was right, Representative Patricia Schroeder.

Pat represented Colorado's 1st Congressional District from 1973 to 1996. As a 12-term Member of Congress, she was affectionately known as the feminist "Dean" on Capitol Hill at a time when feminism was thought of as a radical idea. She helped change the way people thought about women. Her hard work in Congress ensured that women would be allowed to take care of their newborn children, that men and women would be able to take family and medical leave to care for a loved one, and that violence against women would not be tolerated in America.

Representative Schroeder was first elected to Congress in 1972 on an anti-Vietnam war platform. One of her first committee assignments was the Armed Services Committee, where she helped reshape the debate about arms control, responsible defense spending and improved working conditions for military personnel. On that committee, Pat worked to make sure that spouses of military personnel received health and survivor benefits. She also authored legislation that authorized State courts to divide military pensions in accordance with State divorce laws.

During her tenure on the Armed Services Committee, Pat was the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Installations, and later

she chaired the Subcommittee on Research and Technology. She also served on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, which she eventually chaired. In addition, Pat was a member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

When she retired in 1996, Representative Schroeder was the dean of Colorado's congressional delegation. Coloradans are independent in thought and deed, and Pat is a perfect example of that characteristic. She fought old attitudes and prejudices and overcame great odds to make a difference in how women are perceived and treated. When Pat was asked why she was running as a woman, she would respond, "What choice do I have?" One of her slogans was, "When She Wins, We Win"—and so we did during the 24 years she served in the House. I am pleased to honor former Representative Patricia Schroeder during National Women's History Month.

RONGELAP RESETTLEMENT  
EXTENSION

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to be aware of a constructive and welcome agreement concluded this month by the Department of the Interior with the Rongelap Atoll Local Government which is a direct result of a bill passed by the House last year. H.R. 2970, "A bill to prescribe certain terms for the resettlement of the people of Rongelap Atoll due to conditions created at Rongelap during United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." The primary intent of the legislation which I introduced with the Senior Democratic Member of the Committee on Resources, George Miller, was to extend for ten years the existing resettlement agreement initially required by Congress. Finally, the objective of Congress in H.R. 2970 was accomplished with the signing on March 10, 2000, of the Memorandum of Agreement on Implementation of the "Agreement Regarding United States Assistance in the Resettlement of Rongelap Concluded Between the United States Department of the Interior and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government".

Rongelap is an atoll in Micronesia and the home of people and islands which was contaminated by high level radioactivity during the U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands. The United States provides assistance to this former Trust Territory community in accordance with the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as well as subsequent treaties and agreements relating to the current resettlement projects at Rongelap Island. The background on H.R. 2970 and Rongelap resettlement is set forth in House Report 106-404.

The Committee on Resources, which I chair, developed H.R. 2970 on a bipartisan basis, recognizing the success to date of the resettlement and radiological rehabilitation of

Rongelap and the need to continue the decision-making process of the resettlement of Rongelap by the local atoll government, rather than directly by the Department of the Interior. However, the legislation was also in recognition that the Department of the Interior had done a good job carrying out the resettlement policies embodied in Section 103(i) of Public Law 99-239, Public Law 102-154, and Section 118(d) of Public Law 104-134. Specifically, in the bill, we agreed to continue for at least another ten years the current program under which the Rongelap Atoll Local Government (RALGOV) manages the Rongelap Resettlement Trust Fund and determines its use to achieve the resettlement goals defined by the Rongelap people and address their current condition of dislocation.

On October 26, 1999, the House unanimously approved H.R. 2970, to extend by law the program for the resettlement of Rongelap which has been established by the Department of the Interior as directed by Congress under statutes authorizing resettlement assistance. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which is chaired by my good friend from Alaska, Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI. I believe the Senate's willingness to take consideration of H.R. 2970 if the current policy were not continued by agreement between DOI and RALGOV contributed directly to the recent conclusion of just such an agreement.

What the DOI and RALGOV have now agreed to and accepted are indeed the same result as would have obtained under H.R. 2970. This outcome could have been accomplished by agreement of the parties or enactment of legislation, and I am pleased that the House action approving H.R. 2970 and the Senate's support for the underlying policy led the parties to take the initiative and agree to extend that policy for ten years as the House bill provided.

While the Secretary of Interior necessarily retains the power to disapprove use of the trust fund in a way that does not advance resettlement or address the conditions of dislocation, we believe RALGOV established a good record administering the resettlement program. Use of up to 50% of the annual earnings of the trust fund for local government operations so that it can bear the costs and burdens of administering the resettlement program has proven the efficient and economical way to carry out the resettlement program.

Without enabling the local government to support and manage the resettlement program directly, a community decision-making process and administrative structure that would duplicate the local government would have to be created to manage the resettlement process. Instead, the local government has taken responsibility for resettlement, dealing with dislocation and resettlement have become the central organizing mission and purpose of the local government instead of a program being carried out by the U.S. government. This has a democratic institution building effect for the community, and ensures a stable policy and program. This is important for planning purposes because resettlement is a long term project the ground rules for which should not change unless there is a good reason for it.

I commend the Rongelap Atoll Local Government for its successful management of

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Phase I of the resettlement program. Mayor James Matayoshi has improved local government operations in order to make RALGOV administration of resettlement possible. Coordination and cooperation between the local council and the Marshall Islands government is enabling far greater progress than anyone expected. With the extension of the agreement for ten years, Rongelap leaders can confidently engage in long-term planning and take action locally consistent with the federally-funded resettlement plan to move forward in the process of both physical resettlement, radiological rehabilitation, and cultural recovery that is taking place under the resettlement program.

Following is the agreement by the Department of the Interior with the Rongelap Atoll Local Government, dated March 10, 2000:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "AGREEMENT REGARDING UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF RONGELAP CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE RONGELAP ATOLL LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

1. With respect to implementation of the "Agreement Regarding United States Assistance in the Resettlement of Rongelap Concluded Between the United States Department of the Interior and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government", dated September 19, 1996, as amended, it is hereby agreed that Section 3 thereof, as amended effective September 29, 1999, shall terminate at the end of fiscal year 2010, unless extended thereafter by agreement of the Secretary of the Interior or applicable law.

2. This agreement shall enter into full effect upon its signature on behalf of the United States Department of the Interior and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government.

Date: March 10, 2000.

JOHN BERRY,  
*Assistant Secretary for  
Policy, Management  
and Budget.*

For the United States Department of the Interior.

Date: March 10, 2000.

HOWARD HILLS,  
*Counsel for Resettle-  
ment Affairs.*

For the Rongelap Atoll Local Government.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2000 I had to return to my district in order to attend to personal business. During my absence, I missed roll call votes 53, 54, and 55.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Mr. BOEHLERT's substitute amendment to H.R. 2372. I would have voted "no" on the motion to recommit H.R. 2372 with instructions. I would have voted "yes" to pass H.R. 2373, the "Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000".

March 22, 2000

## TRIBUTE TO EAST TEXAS LITERACY COUNCIL

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East Texas Literacy Council, which recently was selected to be the first literacy agency in the nation to receive accreditation from Literacy Volunteers of America. The Literacy Council is well known in my district for its outstanding work in promoting adult literacy, and it is with a great sense of pride that I join citizens and officials of Longview, TX, and Gregg County in paying tribute to those community leaders and volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of this organization.

Literacy Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit organization consisting of more than 375 community programs in 42 states. The organization delivers local literacy services through a network of more than 50,000 volunteers nationwide who have helped more than half a million adults and their families gain literacy skills. It is quite an accomplishment for the East Texas Literacy Council to be chosen as the first local affiliate in the nation to receive accreditation from the Literacy Volunteers—and it is a testament to the dedication, hard work and quality of service of the Literacy Council's staff and volunteers.

The East Texas Literacy Council was founded as a community-based, nonprofit organization in 1987. Through collaboration with other community agencies, the Literacy Council provides opportunities for adults in Gregg County to develop the basic literacy skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency and to function successfully in their community. Last year more than 500 adults benefitted from this program—almost 200 learning basic literacy skills and more than 300 learning English as a Second Language. These adults were instructed by more than 100 volunteer tutors who received ten hours of basic literacy training.

Executive Director of the East Texas Literacy Council is Freda Peppard, who has provided effective leadership for the organization over the past nine years. Current officers of the Board of Directors are Mary Price, president; Clement Dunn, vice president; Jerre Jouett, secretary; and Jennifer Slade, treasurer. Others who have been instrumental in the Council's success include Cissy Ward, longtime community leader who helped organize the East Texas Literacy Council and became its first Executive Director, and Retta Kelly, formerly publisher of the Longview News-Journal, who served as the Council's first Board president. Another influential community leader, Nancy Jackson, served as Executive Director following Mrs. Ward's tenure. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Jackson continue to advise and work with the Council.

The East Texas Literacy Council is a community success story—and an example of what can be accomplished through public/private funding and through community-based partnerships. Funding sources for the Literacy Council include the United Way, Community Development Block Grant funding and various