

the history of Santa Paula and promote its development.

Lupe Ortiz has served on the Fine Arts Committee of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. She has also assisted the fundraising efforts of several charitable organizations, including Interface and Easter Seals.

Their tireless commitment to enrich the lives of their family and their neighbors deserves our deep appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong supporter of Interface Children Family Services for more than twenty years. The work of the organization and its volunteers has bettered the lives of countless families in my community. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Leonard and Lupe Ortiz for the honor they so richly deserve and thank them for decades of helping others.

**SUPPORTING CHILD CARE
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of increasing the Child Care Development block grant by \$417 million in order to meet the dire needs of our children and families.

How in the world do we expect single women to get a job and become self sufficient if affordable and adequate child care is not available?

Reliable and quality child care is necessary for the healthy development of our children and for parents' productivity at work.

I was in the California State Senate when the Welfare Reform Bill was signed into law. Then, I adamantly opposed the bill because I knew that while most women on Welfare want to work, they do not have affordable and accessible child care.

I was on the Conference Committee in the State Senate that negotiated the California Plan. Over and over again we heard testimony from women who pleaded with us to provide resources for child care so that they could go to work. While we directed additional resources for child care, today there are still over 200,000 families on the waiting list in California.

In many states, parents pay more than 10 percent of their income for child care. Women who make minimum or low wages can not afford 10 percent of their income for child care. Yet, welfare reform has forced women to take low paying jobs to meet the very stringent work requirements that the Congress has imposed. And now, we want to reduce even further these meager resources to low-income working families who need it now, more than ever.

I raised 2 boys as a single parent. I will never forget the long waiting lists, being told there were not enough slots for my kids and then, when I could find decent child care, I couldn't afford it. And, that was in the 70's and 80's.

This country is enjoying an incredible economic boom, and in the dawn of a new century, we can certainly establish children as our

priority. We must do whatever it takes to find the resources to ensure the future.

It is unconscionable that in the year 2000 families must choose between food, clothing, housing, or child care. We can and we must do better.

Also, in no way, in the year 2000 should we be reducing the number of children being served in child care centers. This debate really does go to our fundamental values, our most basic priorities. Do we care about our children's future or not?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber today during rollcall votes No. 257 and No. 258. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 257 and "yea" and rollcall vote No. 258.

**PRESIDENT PUTIN'S VISIT TO
MOLDOVA**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, President Putin of Russia continues to maintain a heavy schedule of international visits. Among the several destinations, he is scheduled to visit Moldova later this week.

The Republic of Moldova is located principally between the Prut River on the west and the Dniestr River to the east, between Romania and Ukraine. A sliver of the country, the "left bank" or "Transdnistria" region, extends beyond the Dniestr River and borders with Ukraine. The 4.3 million population in Moldova is 65 percent ethnic Romanian, with significant Ukrainian and Russian minorities. Gagauz, Bulgarians, Roma, and Jews constitute the bulk of the remainder.

While Moldova and Romania were united between World Wars I and II, following seizure by the Soviets in World War II, Moldova became a Soviet "republic." When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Moldova gained its independence and is now an internationally-recognized sovereign state, a member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and a host of other international organizations.

When Moldova became independent, there were approximately 15,000 Soviet troops of the 14th Army based in the Transdnistria region of Moldova. In 1992, elements of these troops helped pro-Soviet elements establish a separatist state in Transdnistria, the so-called Dniestr Moldovan Republic. This state, unrecognized and barely changed from the Soviet era, continues to exist and defy the legitimate authorities of Moldova.

Meanwhile, elements of the former Soviet army, now the Russian army, remained in

Transdnistria after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Renamed the Operational Group of Forces, they presently number about 2,500. The Moldovan Government has wanted the troops to leave, and the Russians keep saying they are going to leave. The Moldovan and Russian Governments signed an agreement in 1994 according to which Russian forces would withdraw in three years. Obviously, that deadline has passed. Russia was supposed to remove her forces from Moldova as a part of the Council of Europe accession agreement in February 1996.

In fact, language in the declaration of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit insists that Russia remove its military arsenals from Moldova by December 2001 and its forces by December 2002. This latest OSCE language enhances language included in the 1994 Budapest document and the 1996 Lisbon document calling for complete withdrawal of the Russian troops.

Mr. Speaker, there is no legitimate security reason for the Russian Government to continue to base military forces on the territory of a sovereign state that wishes to see them removed. This relatively small contingent of troops is a vestige of the Cold War. I would add also that the United States Government has agreed to help finance some of the moving costs for the Russian equipment. I would hope President Putin will assure his hosts in Moldova that the Russian forces will be removed in accordance with the OSCE deadline, if not earlier.

**CONGRATULATING MICHAEL &
COLLEENA MCHUGH**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. McHugh of Belmont, California for their actions of good will. Colleena and Michael McHugh were on a weekend visit to Los Angeles when they spotted a van that had been profiled on a news report as belonging to a known kidnapper. Colleena reported the van to authorities on her wireless phone and was asked by the dispatcher to keep a close distance until California Highway Patrol units could take over. The couple kept the van in sight for about 40 miles before police began their pursuit and eventually made an arrest.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor the McHugh's for making California safer. Because of their assistance in this emergency situation they are also being honored by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association with the Wireless Samaritan Award. This award is given to individuals from each state across the country recognizing the contributions heroic individuals make to their communities. The McHugh's have more than earned this award for their exemplary civic service. I'm proud to represent them and I salute them for the distinction they bring to California's 14th Congressional District.