reason and conscience, wisely articulating his credo that we have got to learn to live and understand each other, or we run the risk of shamefully reaping the grapes of wrath from those who have been left out.

Mr. Earl T. Shinhoster truly exemplified a calm but reasoned leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character as a nation. While he will be missed by all of us, we will celebrate the gift of his life and thank God for sending him to grace our paths at a time when we most needed him.

My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my eternal gratitude for all that he has sacrificed on our behalf. This is the magnificent legacy by which we will honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

SPeaCH OF
HON. SILVISTRE REYES
of Texas
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous sense of pride that I rise to congratulate the United States Army on its 225th Birthday. For 225 years, our men and women have answered the call and served this Nation, where they were needed and when they were needed. For over two centuries members of the Army have fought and died on distant shores to ensure that not only Americans remain free, but more importantly, to also protect the freedoms of other people.

I've felt the camaraderie, been part of the tradition, and felt the hard work of service in the Army. There is no more noble profession, and there are no words that can suitably honor the men and women of the Army who served in the past and continue to serve today. Today members of the Army serve in Europe, Korea, Bosna, Kosovo and in many other locations far away from their homes, friends and families.

However distant, whatever the challenge, for 225 years, the United States Army has fought the Nation's wars and served its country honorably in peace. I commend the men and women of the Army, and again, congratulate them on this very special birthday.

GRAPHIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.
of Florida
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 23, 2000 the Graphic International Communications 2000 meeting will commence in Orlando, Florida. Graphic International Communications is an international marketing organization representing a hundred companies in seventeen nations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Florida Congressional Delegation, it is my honor to welcome those participating in the Graphic International Communications annual conference to Florida.

Serving as the host of this event is the Merchandising & Marketing Corporation. As a corporation located in my Congressional District, I am proud that they have been chosen to host this important conference. In fact, this is the second time that the Merchandising & Marketing Corporation has been chosen to host this event.

I congratulate them on their selection, and I am sure that the Graphic International Communications annual meeting will be a major success.

DEBT REDUCTION ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE
of Illinois
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, deficit spending has run rampant for too long. The federal debt has ballooned to nearly $6 trillion. With this legislation for the first time since 1917 we are reversing this trend. Uncle Sam will actually begin to pay off our $6 trillion credit card bill. Paying off our huge debt should be a top priority, not an afterthought.

Under current law, any money left over at the end of the year is used to reduce the debt. This bill makes debt reduction a priority by setting aside the money up front.

Reducing the public debt is good for the country. It increases national saving and makes it more likely that the economy will continue growing strong. American families benefit through lower interest rates on mortgages and other loans, more jobs, better wages, and ultimately higher living standards.

Reducing the public debt strengthens the government's fiscal position by reducing interest costs and promoting economic growth. This makes it easier for the government to afford its future budget obligations.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPeaCH OF
HON. ROBIN HAYES
of North Carolina
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I cannot support any amendment to FY 2001 Labor-Health and Human Services—Education bill that will cut funding to Impact Aid. Impact Aid is a crucial element of the basic financial support for schools that support our military and Native American children. In some cases, Impact Aid supplies a critical portion of school districts' budget. In some of the 50 school districts in North Carolina, Impact Aid represents more than $2 million of their school budget. Mr. Chairman, we have a responsibility to assist those school districts impacted by a Federal presence. I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting against any amendments that would threaten the Impact Aid Program.

HONORING THE HISTORY OF O'FALLON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO
of Illinois
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the history of one of the oldest communities in my congressional district.

The City of O'Fallon, Illinois was named in honor of Colonel John O'Fallon. He was a soldier, a businessman, a real estate owner and a public minded citizen. His father, James O'Fallon was a physician who came to this country shortly before the Revolutionary War and served as a surgeon in George Washington's Army. After the war, he went to Louisville, Kentucky where he met and married Frances Clark, a sister of George Rogers Clark and William Clark, army officers, who became famous in the development of the Mississippi Valley.

John's father died when he was a child and he was reared and educated by his mother and uncles. With his army background, he became a soldier. He fought in the War of 1812 where he rose to the rank of Captain. After the war ended, O'Fallon became assistant Indian Agent to his Uncle William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Later he became contractor, buying and selling Army supplies. He invested his money and became involved with the expanding railroad industry across the nation. He promoted the Missouri Pacific railroad, as well as the Wabash and the B&O railroads. His involvement with railroads and the purchase of lands lead him to become the namesake of both O'Fallon, Illinois and O'Fallon, Missouri.

O'Fallon, Illinois was formed around the depot and a water tank for the B&O railroad. A newly replicated depot stands near the site of the beginnings of this community. O'Fallon was incorporated as a village in 1874 and in 1905 became a town. O'Fallon's early growth was due to the large coal mining industry in the region. O'Fallon was also home to major businesses like Willard Stove, Tiedeman Milling and the Independent Engineering Company. O'Fallon also had abundant agricultural land which supported large farming operations.