

A native of Indiana, Mr. Kowallik has made Alabama his home and will remain there after his retirement. He has taken an active role in his community serving on the Board of Directors for the Optimist Club and Ducks Unlimited and I imagine during his well-deserved "rest" he will continue to be a leader in civic organizations.

I join his family, his wife Dee, his daughter Tammy, his son-in-law Steve and grandsons Tyler and Cameron, friends and co-workers in congratulating him on a job well done. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional district, I want to express my gratitude to Richard for his extraordinary service to our community and our nation.

CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS
OF BRAVO COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION,
186TH INFANTRY, OREGON
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of Bravo Company, part of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry of the Oregon Army National Guard, who just returned from service in the Middle East as part of Operation Southern Watch.

The 115 members of Bravo Company have completed 180 days of service in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in southwest Asia. Deployed to aid in the mission of the United States Army Forces Central Command—Saudi Arabia, these citizen soldiers of Oregon served with the dedication that Americans have come to expect from those who wear the uniform of our armed forces.

The deployment of the soldiers of Bravo Company marks the first time a combat infantry unit from the Oregon Army National Guard has been called to service since World War II. Like their predecessors, they performed their duties with a firm understanding of the gravity of their mission and a sense of devotion that would make any unit proud.

Bravo Company follows a long line of dedicated Oregonians who have served their nation in the armed forces both at home and abroad. The members of this outstanding outfit have continued that tradition proudly and without reservation. As they return to the lives they left behind when they answered their country's call, each of these soldiers can do so with the satisfaction that comes after a job well done.

On behalf of a nation grateful for their service, I'm proud to say welcome home to the members of Bravo Company.

IN HONOR OF MARK K. KEVESDY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mark K. Kevesdy upon receiving the

Alumni Emerging Leadership award from Cleveland State University. Mr. Kevesdy is a dedicated and gifted teacher and is being recognized for his exceptional leadership skills in his profession and in his community.

Mr. Kevesdy, a current resident of Bay Village and a teacher at Big Creek Elementary School in Berea City School District, received his bachelor's degree from the College of Education in 1992. Mr. Kevesdy is the leader of a multi-age team of three teachers that works with over eighty children in grades three through five. Mr. Kevesdy, an exceptional leader, is in charge of his 847-student building, a position which requires his leadership when the principal is absent. He and a colleague have published a book entitled "Creating Dynamic Teaching Teams in Schools." In addition to this tremendous feat, he has also served as a staff development trainer for other teachers on multi-age teaching and teaching teams, both inside and outside of the Berea district.

Perhaps Mr. Kevesdy's greatest accomplishment is his quality teaching. He is a gifted communicator and works hard to make learning come alive for his students. He tries to give his students a well designed academic program in a warm and encouraging environment, while at the same time making the learning relate to real life situations.

Fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Kevesdy and the tremendous dedication and devotion that he has shown to his profession.

WITHDRAWING APPROVAL OF
UNITED STATES FROM AGREEMENT
ESTABLISHING WORLD
TRADE ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, with the Senate's impending vote to grant China permanent normal trade relations, and its anticipated passage, I oppose H.J. Res. 90, to withdraw Congressional approval of the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO). Relinquishing annual review of China's normal trade relations status leaves the WTO as our last resort to ensure that China abides by its agreements. Unfortunately, our means of last resort is unreliable and serves the interests of multinational corporations over the interests of consumers, workers and the environment. While I oppose the resolution before us today, I am far from offering my support of the world body that is supposed to serve U.S. interests.

The biggest problem with the WTO is the way in which the U.S. and our trading partners have developed a narrow definition of trade. Trade encompasses labor, environmental standards, and consumers as well as the industries that manufacture the products for trade. It is high time that the WTO, with strong U.S. leadership, take into account the interests of the environment, consumers, workers and the oppressed when making the rules for trade. The WTO is in desperate need of re-

form. The U.S. is the largest beneficiary of trade. Meaningful reform will occur when the U.S. insists on meaningful reform in trade negotiations and in the world body that enforces the trade agreements.

Under Article XX(b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a WTO member country may defend its environmental policy if it is "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life and health." But in two cases—the Tuna-Dolphin and the Shrimp-Turtle cases—the WTO ruled that U.S. statute to prevent import of tuna or shrimp from countries that do not comply with U.S. law to protect dolphins and turtles, is in violation of the international trade agreement. Clearly, this exception clause is ineffective. The goal of the WTO must be to strengthen global environmental standards, not weaken them.

Many developing countries have traditionally excluded food and medicine from their intellectual property rights laws in order to ensure that these basic necessities are accessible and affordable and not subject to private monopoly control. Under the WTO's Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property (TRIPs), however, corporations are able to maintain a 20-year monopoly on patents that are often funded through public sponsorship such as the medications to treat AIDs. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) criticized the TRIPs Agreement in its 1999 Human Development Report. UNDP has determined that TRIPs rules prevent developing countries from obtaining the seeds for crops and prevents them from manufacturing affordable medicines. Corporations or individuals in industrialized countries currently hold 97 percent of all patents worldwide. While the developed world holds the majority of these patents, 95 percent of the AIDs victims reside in the developing world. Those who hold the patents hold a greater interest and influence in the proceedings of the WTO, while those who need the patents are not represented at all. Clearly, this is unfair and reforms are needed to correct this harmful imbalance in representation.

The developed world makes the rules. The developed world must start to make these rules with the suffering of billions of fellow humans in mind. It will take the leadership of the United States to make consumers a priority when reforming and creating the rules under which we trade. We must give a voice to the voiceless. We can do this by continuing our membership in the World Trade Organization and seeking to change that organization.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 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, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my grave concern with the bill before us today. This bill critically underfunds important national priorities that are too numerous to mention.

Many Members of this House have expressed their concern about the Federal Government's chronic failure to meet its commitment to special-needs kids. Yet, this bill provides just \$6.6 billion in funding for special education, \$514 million over last year's funding but far short of the \$16 billion-plus we need to fulfill this longstanding commitment to our most vulnerable children.

Mr. Chairman, I have a school in my district where exposed wires dangle from the ceiling, and rainwater seeps over those wires, but this bill provides no funds to repair collapsing schools. Never mind that more than 200 of my colleagues have heeded the call of their school districts, who are begging for assistance repairing schools.

53.2 million kids—a national enrollment record—started school in 1999 and 2.2 million teachers will be needed in the coming years to teach them what they need to know. The teacher shortage is an imminent national crisis, yet this bill includes no funds to continue the class size reduction initiative that is putting 100,000 new teachers in our schools.

Mr. Chairman, we know that quality early childhood programs for low-income children can increase the likelihood that children will be literate, employed, and educated, and less likely to be school dropouts, dependent on welfare, or arrested for criminal activity. This bill, however, cuts the President's request for Head Start by \$600 million, which denies 53,000 low-income children the opportunity to benefit from this comprehensive child development program.

Tragically, our country has become desensitized to school violence, accustomed to reports of shootings in schools. School shootings are no longer front page news. Yet, this bill eliminates assistance for elementary school counselors that serve more than 100,000 children in 60 high-need school districts that could intervene and identify troubled kids before they harm themselves, their classmates or their teachers.

Earlier this week, I supported a bill to relieve the estate tax with great reservation. I have long been a supporter of responsible estate tax relief that maintains our national commitments—paying down the national debt, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and supporting important domestic priorities such as the ones I have listed here. The leadership of this House, however, gave us one vehicle for estate tax relief, and I supported it with the hope that the Senate and the conference committee will craft a fiscally responsible compromise.

Today, however, I am faced with this bill that turns its back on our Nation's number one priority—our kids. The leadership of this House expects a veto of this irresponsible bill. I am voting against this bill today and I ask my colleagues to do the same. We then can return to the drawing board and craft a fiscally

responsible bill that reflects our priorities as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE WILDE—
ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker. It is at this moment that I would like to congratulate Debbie Wilde for receiving the ATHENA Award, in recognition of her commitment to helping women reach their full leadership potential. Mary is currently the director of Garfield Youth Services and her professional accomplishments, community efforts and youth activities deserve the recognition of this body.

Mary has played an important role in Garfield Youth Services' road to success. During her time with the organization, GYS has seen a tremendous growth in their staff and their membership. Currently, the youth organization provides more than 10 programs in which area youth and parents play an active role. One of Mary's most notable undertakings is the "Kiss-A-Pig" Contest, a contest that has seen an increase in proceeds for the organization from \$3,000 to \$100,000.

Mary has not only been instrumental in developing the Garfield Youth Services into a renowned organization, but she has also been very active in other facets of her community. As a resident of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Mary involves herself in church, school, and various recreational activities. She believes it is important to "be a servant" and credits her devotion and faith as the backbone to her public service.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate Mary for receiving the ATHENA Award and I commend her on her public involvement. It is a real pleasure to honor people of Mary's character. We are all very proud of you, Mary. Congratulations!

GEORGE PALKO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. George Palko upon receiving the Alumni Emerging Leadership Award from Cleveland State University. Mr. Palko is being recognized for his great engineering work and for his dedication as an educator at the Cleveland State University.

Mr. George Palko earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Fenn College of Engineering in 1988 and a master's of business administration from the College of Business Administration in 1993. Mr. George Palko is currently a resident of North Royalton.

Mr. George Palko has been engaged in the Cleveland State University's cooperative education program through which he has received training at the Great Lakes Construction Company. Upon graduating from college, Mr. Palko

continued working for the Great Lakes Construction Company. As an in-house engineer and project engineer, Mr. Palko worked on many projects in the city of Cleveland. He has been superintendent of many ODOT projects, including the construction of interstate 90. In August 1997, Mr. Palko became president of the Great Lakes Construction Company.

Since Mr. Palko became president of the Great Lakes Construction Company the number of co-op students that the firm employs has quadrupled. In addition, Mr. Palko is teaching Construction Planning and Estimating at the Cleveland State University's Civil Engineering Department and he is a member of the College of Engineering's Visiting Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Palko's impressive career and wish him all the best as he continues his work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health emergency, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 292 through 321. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 292, 293, 294, 296, 297, 298, 300, 301, 304, 307, 313, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320 and "nay" on rollcall votes 295, 299, 302, 303, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 314, and 321.

CHURCH PLAN PARITY

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I support S. 1309, the Church Plan Parity and Entanglement Prevention Act. The purpose of this legislation is to clarify the status of church plans under state law and the status of a church welfare plan as a plan sponsored by a single employer. It also addresses the problem of health insurance issuers refusing to do business with church plans because of concern that church plans could be classified as unlicensed entities.

Most major religious denominations in the United States have established health, disability and pension plans for the employees of churches and church-controlled institutions. These church plans provide benefits that are critical to the welfare of the clergy and lay workers of each denomination. All Americans should have access to a viable health insurance plan. Just as the clergy plays a vital role in maintaining the spiritual health and well-being of our nation, it is equally important for us to give churches the tools they need in order to maintain the physical health and well-being of their clergy.

It is imperative that we pass this much needed piece of legislation. Therefore, I urge