EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing, along with my colleague Congressman Capuano and other Members of the Empowered Communities Caucus, the Round II Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Flexibility Act of 2001, to provide funding authority and correct some inequities and inconsistencies with the Round II program. In 1999, 15 Round II urban and 5 rural empowerment zones were awarded to communities which designated the best strategic plans for comprehensive revitalization. The Empowerment Zone program is a 10-year project that targets federal grants to distressed urban and rural communities for community and economic development and provides tax and regulatory relief to attract or retain businesses.

Cumberland County, located in my Congressional District, is one of the 15 urban sites nationwide to win this designation, which is expected to create more than 6,000 new jobs over 10 years. Unfortunately, Cumberland County has only received approximately $8.5 million of the $30 million expected over the past 3 years. Round II empowerment zones did not receive the same Title XX block grant mandatory spending authority as the Round I zones did in 1997 and have to rely on the discretionary appropriations process each year. Even though the President requested full funding in FY02 ($150 million for the EZ program) the House Appropriations Committee did not include any funding for urban zones for the next fiscal year.

The legislation I am introducing today provides general funding authorization for the Round II EZ/ECs by authorizing the Secretary of HUD to make grant awards totaling $100,000,000 to each of the 15 Round II urban empowerment zones and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grant awards totaling $40,000,000 to each of the Round II rural empowerment zones and grant awards totaling $3,000,000 to each of 20 rural enterprise communities. This designation runs until 2009, and our zones must receive assurance that Congress will support continued funding, otherwise, they cannot be expected to operate and achieve long-term capital plans or leverage private sector commitments to major infrastructure projects.

This legislation also includes clarification of the law which allows EZ/ECs to apply for community mental health status without the risk of losing already appropriated Federal funds. We have included language to broaden the definition of “economic development”, which is the essence of the Zone’s strategic plan, and have granted specific authorization for grants to be used as matching funds for other relevant federal programs, all in an effort to offer the EZ/EC program maximum flexibility. For every federal EZ dollar obligated, there are ten more dollars from the private sector committed to economic development in Cumberland County.

Our communities have already invested considerable resources in securing the Round II EZ/EC program designations. Congress has a responsibility to carry out its promise to these distressed communities by making federal funding and tax incentives available to ensure new jobs, revitalize neighborhoods and spur economic growth over the next decade.

It is vital that we secure full funding for Round II Empowerment zones and Enterprise communities, so they may continue and complete their federally approved economic development plans. I urge the House to adopt the legislation before us today.

IN MEMORY OF JACQUELINE CARDELucci

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well being of the city of Riverside, California, was unparalleled. Riverside was indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and dedicated community leader who willingly and unselfishly gave of her time and talents to make her community a better place in which to live and work. The individual I am speaking of is Jacqueline “Jackie” Cardelucci. I was fortunate to have been able to call her my friend. She died this week in her home after a long battle with cancer at the age of 63.

Jackie Cardelucci gave much during her years to her community and the whole of the Inland Empire. Born in Huntington Park, Jackie Cardelucci moved to Riverside where she lived for 18 years. A fixture in the community, Jackie was a talented businesswoman and never shied away from community involvement. She was co-owner of National Environmental Waste Corporation (NEWCO) and International Rubbish Service with her husband, Sam, for over 32 years. In that capacity she served as the companies’ Public Relations Director with the City of Riverside business community.

One on a community level, Jackie served in an impressive array of boards and organizations even while receiving chemotherapy treatments for her cancer over the past eight years. Her philanthropic endeavors included the Mission Inn Foundation Executive Board, Riverside Art Alliance, Riverside Art Museum, Associate University of California at Riverside, Riverside Community Hospital 2000 Century, President of the Riverside Republican Women Federation for three years, Riverside Opera Guild, and Armenian & International Women’s Association.

My deepest condolences go to her husband of 43 years, Sam; her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Cathie; two brothers, Elisha and Ben; and two grandchildren, Jessica and Catherine. I send my prayers to them during this time of loss.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Jackie’s life, we see a life full of courage, tenacity and devotion to her family and community. Her gifts to Riverside and the Inland Empire led to the betterment of those who had the privilege to come in contact or work with Jackie. Honoring her memory is the least that we can do today for all that she gave over her lifetime.

TRIBUTE TO WEST GENESEE’S WOMEN’S VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 9, 2001, the West Genesee Wildcats defeated Bay Shore to win the New York State Class A Women’s Lacrosse Championship. The Wildcats won the Class A final with a 16–10 victory over Bay Shore to top off an impressive 22–1 season and a dominant playoff run.

This talented group was guided by this year’s All-CNY girls lacrosse coach, Bob Elmer, who is now in his second year leading the Wildcats. The State Champion Lady Wildcats previously won the Section III Championship and Upstate Regional to advance to the State Championship game.
The Lady Wildcats’ star player is none other than the CNY Player of the Year, Martha Dwyer. West Genesee is also home to three other CNY team members: Chrissy Zaika, Meghan O’Connell and Nicole Motondo. The 2001 Class A Championship team also includes: Eileen Gagnon, Vanessa Bain, Shannon Burke, Laura Corso, Lindsey Shiritz, Kelly Fitzgerald, Colleen O’Hara, Milly Yackel, Kelly Kuss, Keri Rubeis, Nelli Nash, Katie Kozloski, Carolyn Maurer, Kim Capraro, and Eileen Flynn.

I am very proud of these young women and wish to celebrate the outstanding athletic achievements they have made this season. I am equally proud of the coaching staff and wish to join them, as well as the parents and other family members, teachers and administrators, in extending sincere congratulations for a job well done. This strong group of fine young athletes deserves special recognition.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

HON. GENE GREEN
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation which would allow states and localities to provide primary and preventive health care services to undocumented residents.

According to some estimates, there are as many as nine million undocumented residents currently living in the United States. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) prohibits public hospitals from providing free or discounted preventive service to undocumented immigrants—even if they pay for such services with State or local funds. PRWORA does, however, allow public hospitals to provide emergency room services.

This system has created a crisis in our nation’s emergency rooms. Because undocumented residents cannot afford to see the doctor for routine physicals and preventive medicine, they arrive in the emergency room with costlier, often preventable, health problems. The Federation for American Immigration Reform estimates that 29 percent of this population uses hospital and other emergency services in a given year, compared to the 11 percent use by the general U.S. population.

The costs of this broken system are especially burdensome for our nation’s public hospitals. Harris County Hospital District, in my hometown of Houston, Texas, estimates that emergency room care for undocumented residents cost taxpayers, insurance companies, and patients $225 million over the last three years. Hospitals in New York State provide a total uncompensated care for undocumented residents of $300 million to $380 million each year—almost one third of uncompensated care for the state.

Mr. Speaker, people should not enter any nation illegally, but I cannot understand a health care system that forces patients to let their health problems escalate into full fledged emergencies before it will provide them care. Wouldn’t it make more economic sense to cover preventive services rather than let illnesses develop into painful and expensive complications? Most importantly, should the federal government be telling states and localities how they can and can’t spend their own health care dollars?

That is why I am introducing legislation which would allow—shall I say—require state and local programs to provide preventive and primary health care to undocumented aliens. This legislation would not provide a new benefit for undocumented residents. However, it would make sure that our health care dollars are spent more wisely by preventing emergencies—not treating them.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPREAD OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our American flag and as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 36, which would amend the Constitution to allow Congress to protect the United States flag from acts of physical desecration.

Our flag occupies a truly unique place in the hearts of millions of citizens as a cherished symbol of freedom. As an international emblem of the world’s greatest democracy, the American flag should be treated with respect and care. I do not believe our free speech rights should entitle us to consider the flag as mere “personal property,” which can be treated any way we see fit, including physically desecrating it as a form of political protest.

The American flag is a source of inspiration wherever it is displayed, and a symbol of hope to all nations struggling to build democracies. As a proud member of the House Armed Services Committee, I deeply admire those who have fought and died to preserve our freedoms. These men and women have bravely defended our flag and the fundamental principles for which it stands. They deserve to know that their government treasures the flag and all it represents as much as they do.

For these reasons, I, as well as a great number of Americans, believe that our flag should be treated with dignity and deserves protection under the law. I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting one of the most enduring symbols of our nation and our democracy by adopting this resolution today.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPREAD OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I arise today in support of the Lee-Leach Global HIV/AIDS Amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which would increase the United States’ contribution to the international AIDS trust fund from $100 million to $160 million.

In June 1981, scientists reported the first evidence of a disease that would become known as AIDS. Twenty years later, the AIDS pandemic has spread to every corner of the world. Almost 22 million people have already lost their lives to the disease, and over 36 million people are currently infected with the HIV virus. The numbers are indeed staggering.

Yet, the consequences of the AIDS pandemic extend far beyond the death toll. The AIDS pandemic is much more than just a health crisis. It is a social crisis, an economic crisis, and a political crisis. AIDS knows no borders, and respects no boundaries.

A world with AIDS is a world in chaos. Imagine growing up without parents, without teachers. Imagine living in a community with no options for work, no options for education, no mentors or civic leaders to help mold the community’s youths into productive members of society. Imagine living in a world where people have no reason to plan for the years ahead, no reason to want to better themselves or improve society. This is the world of AIDS. This is the world we live in.

As the world’s greatest nation—the nation that is most admired, most respected, and most powerful—we must take a leading role in the fight against AIDS. We must demonstrate to the global community the depth of our compassion, the breadth of our courage, and the strength of our commitment to the greater good. To do otherwise would be irresponsible and un-American. Therefore, I wholeheartedly Support the Lee-Leach Global HIV/AIDS Amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING DAVID AND SUE ANN SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to recognize two individuals, David and Sue Ann Smith. They have shared a life...