allow paramilitary violence to continue. Already this year paramilitaries have killed 529 people. It will continue a civil war that all military experts agree is wasteful and reckless to our region. And to the degree that it has any impact on eliminating coca production in Colombia, it will simply shift that production to other parts of Colombia or neighboring countries. Crop substitution and alternative development projects, already underfunded in Plan Colombia, have not even begun. Because of U.S. funding, fumigation of coca fields has begun, leaving these farmers without any source of income. Imagine you were a poor farmer in Colombia, what would you do to provide income for your family?

Aerial fumigation may successfully kill coca plants, but it also contaminates other food sources. And it certainly creates fear and suspicion among the people in eradication areas.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we can reduce coca production in Colombia on a strategic and a military level. However, military helicopters and aerial fumigation are never going to solve the problem. These tactics merely escalate the conflict and undermine the peace process in Colombia. Until we can move beyond the military strategy of Plan Colombia, we will never solve the drug problem, nor will we bring peace to Colombia.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful program in the city of Santa Clarita called “Hero of the Week” as well as those individuals who have been honored in the program.

The program is sponsored jointly by the City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force and Mad About Rising Crime Santa Clarita Chapter under the direction of Mr. Gary Popejoy. Started by Maria Fulkerson and Lorraine Grimaldo of the Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force, the “Hero of the Week” program focuses on the positive actions of our youth rather than the negative. The program honors students for the constructive choices they have demonstrated. The students from the Santa Clarita Valley Junior and Senior High Schools are recommended by teachers and principals based on their observations of the student exhibiting positive behavior.

The students that are selected exhibit the qualities that we are looking for in future leaders of our nation. These students, many of whom have experienced difficult times in their own lives, have made remarkable improvements through this program. I am pleased to honor these students today here on the House floor.

On May 24th, 2001, the “Hero of the Week” program honored 44 members of my community for their outstanding activities that truly made them heroes in our neighborhood. These students have faced serious obstacles and, in many cases, faltered in the face of adversity. However, none of these students gave up. Their hard work and determination have truly earned them the title “Hero” in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude these remarks by listing the students honored by the city. I congratulate them and the sponsoring organizations for such a worthwhile and beneficial program.

HERO OF WEEK HONOREES


CONGRESS MUST END LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON AMERICAN SOIL

HON. GEORGE MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, years have passed since the Department of Labor-Interior-Justice and INS first documented widespread sweatshop conditions under the American Flag in the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US/CNMI). Years have passed since national media such as ABC's 20/20 first reported thousands of young, Asian women working in the US/CNMI toil as many as 12 hours a day at sub-minimum wages under dangerous and unhealthy conditions. And years have passed since U.S. Congress first had the chance to protect those who work on American soil by passing legislation that allows for more aggressive criminal prosecution of human traffickers after they have committed that deplorable crime, we must also place immigration into the American territories under the control of the Federal government so that we can better prevent human trafficking before it ever happens.

Many of our constituents would be surprised to learn that the garments manufactured in the US/CNMI—in foreign owned factories with foreign labor and foreign fabric—are awarded use of the “Made in USA” label and enter the states both quota and duty free. In 2000, over $1 billion worth of garments came to the states, depriving the U.S. taxpayers of more than $200 million in duty fees. We are allowing US/CNMI garment manufacturers to deceive American consumers with the use of this label and we are providing an enormous subsidy as they do it. This cannot continue. We must only offer the benefits of the “Made in the USA” label and duty free importing to those U.S. territories that agree to follow U.S. laws.

While the House Republicans have refused to even hold a hearing on the exploitation of workers in the US/CNMI, I am glad to report that we are beginning to win support from other places. On May 15, 2001, the Bush Administration endorsed the idea of federalizing labor laws in the US/CNMI in the form of a letter from John Ashcroft's Assistant Attorney General. The Bush Administration endorsement argued that extending Federal rules to the territory: ... would improve immigration policy by guarding against the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, by helping ensure that the United States adheres to its international treaty obligation to protect refugees, and by further hindering the entry into United States territory of aliens engaged in international organized crime, terrorism, or other illegal activities.

Congress cannot continue to stand by and allow these labor abuses to continue on American soil. Today, I am joined by more than 40 co-sponsors as we introduce the “CNMI