for Chrisman Excellence “ACE” youth volunteer program. Independence has made $150 million worth of improvements to its transportation infrastructure in the past three years, and this past year 325 Chrisman students involved in the ACE program volunteered more than 11,000 hours of their time in community service. Those students who volunteered 40 hours or more were rewarded with a varsity letter.

Even more impressive, the City won this honor after overcoming a period of decline in its public facilities as well as civic apathy. In his presentation to the All America City judges Truman impersonator Ray Ettinger, while holding a replica of the famous “Dewey Defeats Truman” newspaper, declared to the jury, “I know a great comeback when I see one.”

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the 50 delegates and Mayor Ron Stewart who represented Independence in this competition. This award reflects the City’s civic leaders and its citizens, whose commitment to bettering their hometown made these accomplishments possible. I concur with Lenneal J. Henderson, one of the All America City judges, who said, “There was no debate about Independence.”

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the City of Independence for its excellence. I am proud to represent them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 27, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed at a meeting with the President and missed roll call votes 275 and 276 on June 26, 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted no on roll call vote 275 and yes on roll call vote 276.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, last evening, July 26, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call votes number 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, and 285. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on each of these votes.

IN HONOR OF HARRY BRIDGES
HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 27, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Bridges, arguably the most significant labor leader of the 20th century. He died on March 30, 1990 at age 88. I am here to celebrate his life and achievements on this day, the 100th anniversary of his birth.

After leaving his native Australia at age fifteen he spent several years as a merchant marine, before he settled in San Francisco in 1920. In those days, working wages were ten dollars a week, with seventy-two hour work shifts. Work was dangerous and injuries were not uncommon. Harry Bridges set out to improve the lives of workers everywhere.

As leader of the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union (ILWU), the most progressive union of the time, Harry Bridges led the struggle for worker’s dignity. He called for the San Francisco General Strike of 1934, which was suppressed with brutality, but Harry Bridges and the ILWU-led strike prevailed, and to this day, workers have benefited from safe work conditions, health care benefits, and eight hour work days. Today we can hold our heads high and be proud of Harry Bridges’ legacy.

Harry Bridges’ passionate support for workers’ rights made him the enemy of the corporate titans and anti-union government officials. His persecution led to his attempted deportation, but justice prevailed. Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy praised Bridges stating, “Seldom if ever in the history of this Nation has there been such a concentrated, relentless crusade to deport an individual simply because he dared to exercise the freedoms guaranteed to him by the constitution.”

Harry Bridges successfully fought for the integration of segregated unions. In addition, he fought for women’s rights and he opposed the internment of Japanese Americans during the Second World War. He later fought against apartheid in South Africa with strikes and boycotts of South African Cargo, and he advocated for divestment of the union pension funds from businesses that trade and operate in South Africa.

Harry Bridges and the longshoremen of the 1930’s will be memorialized on July 28th when the City of San Francisco dedicates the plaza in front of its historic Ferry building as the Harry Bridges Plaza. He is truly deserving of such a distinguished honor. Harry Bridges is respected by the people of San Francisco, beloved by the workers of this Nation, and recognized as one of the most important labor leaders in the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the City of San Francisco on this Saturday, July 26 in Slippery Rock Township. I join them in their tribute and hope that others find inspiration in their sense of duty and selfless service just as I have.

CONCERN FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER
HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for the health and safety of the American Worker. Ergonomic hazards contribute to hundreds of thousands of injuries each year, and we must do more to address the problem. Unfortunately, instead of dealing with this serious problem, the President with help from the majority party in the House of Representatives, took the drastic step of overturning workplace safety regulations that had been carefully studied for the past 10 years.

The ergonomic rule that was overturned earlier this year protected over 100 million working women and men in this nation and covered over 6 million work sites around the country. These critically important ergonomic regulations would have prevented 4.6 million musculoskeletal disorders, including carpal tunnel syndrome and other ailments related to repetitive motion, force, awkward postures, contact stress and vibration.

Now the Bush Administration, in conjunction with its Labor Department, is going through the motions, dare I say “repetitive motions” of having “field hearings” to review the effects of ergonomic related injuries. These problems have been studied for the past 10 years, how much more information does this administration need to be convinced that this is a pressing matter?