

morning, raise my children to be people with integrity and to urge them to contribute wisely to our country. It is going to take a lot for each and every one of us to keep the faith, and to teach the young ones to be strong and positive. I feel that my music has done that for all of these years, and I feel that I deserve to be compensated for my contributions to millions of lives, even if they are not buying my old records, just listening to my old songs on radio stations that play my music.

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope that it will help you in your crusade to enlighten those who need to know "what it is like to be a sixty year old songwriter" who needs to live on BMI performance income.

Very sincerely yours,  
LAMONT HERBERT DOZIER,  
*Holland-Dozier-Holland.*

A TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF  
JOHN "JACK" F. MCCARTHY

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a distinguished leader, family man, and deputy fire chief in my district, John "Jack" F. McCarthy, who recently passed away.

Born in 1927, in the Ogden Park Neighborhood, John had a long record of faithfully serving his country and community. He joined the Fire Department in 1951 after serving as a mechanic in the U.S. Army. In 1961 he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and three years later he was made battalion chief. In 1985, John retired from the fire department as deputy chief, having served for 34 years.

Mr. McCarthy was respected and loved by those who had the privilege to work with him and by his family. He was known for his even-handed leadership, willingness to help other, and for his studious approach to firefighting. John is survived by Patricia, his wife of 34 years, his son Kenneth, and his three daughters, Patricia McCarthy, Pamela Amico, and Marie Connolly.

Mr. Speaker, John "Jack" McCarthy's strong dedication to his family, fire department, and the community as a whole will be sorely missed. I am certain that his legacy will live on for many years to come.

ADDRESS OF FORMER SECRETARY  
OF STATE MADELEINE  
ALBRIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL  
SERVICE OF YITZHAK AND LEAH  
RABIN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, at a singularly moving memorial service for the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his lifelong partner Leah at the Embassy of Israel, our former dis-

tinguished Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, spoke eloquently and with deep feeling about the contribution of this extraordinary couple, to peace and civilized life in the turbulent Middle East. I am delighted to share with my colleagues Dr. Albright's remarks.

ADDRESS OF FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE  
MADELEINE ALBRIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL  
SERVICE OF YITZHAK AND LEAH RABIN

Ambassador Ivory, Sara Ehreman, distinguished guests and friends, I am honored to be here with you tonight. Many of you had the privilege of knowing former Prime Minister Rabin better than I, but I do have some wonderful memories of my own about this warrior who made a strategic decision for peace.

I met the Rabins when he served as Ambassador here, and we had a number of encounters when I was UN Ambassador, some formal, some less so. I kept a picture of the two of us at dinner in New York, in my office throughout my tenure as Ambassador and Secretary. In my mind, however, the most dramatic picture of him was on that September day on the White House lawn, when he at first reluctantly and then firmly shook hands with Chairman Arafat. As he would say, you do not make peace with your friend.

Although by the time I knew Yitzhak Rabin, he had gray hair; I fully understand why Leah had years before fallen in love with a man with a full head of hair and what she described as "the eyes of David." He still had those amazing eyes.

Four years ago, when I made my first major speech on the Middle East, I wore this pin, shaped like a dove, a gift from Leah. Soon thereafter, I saw her in Israel, and she gave me this necklace, along with a note saying that sometimes a dove needs reinforcements. So I am in debt to the Rabins, but for far more than the jewelry.

I will not presume to speak for any of you, but for myself. I am in debt to Yitzhak Rabin for what he has given me, which is an abiding and perhaps illogical sense of hope. In my new life, I still give speeches, and am expected to make sense, even about the Middle East. But I have begun to think, "what is there left to say?" Remember what King Hussein called for that day in Aqaba when Israel and Jordan made peace? "No more death, no more misery, no more suspicion, no more fear, no more uncertainty of what each day may bring." Seven years later, what is it we have, except death, misery, suspicion, fear and uncertainty of what each day may bring? If there is any answer to that question it is the example of Yitzhak Rabin.

The former Prime Minister was no dreamer or sentimentalist. He was a doer and a realist. No one was more dedicated to Israel's survival, security and success. No one was more rigorous in drawing the distinction between right and wrong. No one was more fiercely patriotic on Israel's behalf. And no Israeli leader, before or since, has inspired such trust among Palestinians and Arabs.

It is making too much of one man to believe that if Rabin were still here, it would all be different. But how I wish we could test that hypothesis. I suspect, however, that if he WERE here tonight, he would scoff and tell us that our responsibility is not to honor him, or to think about what might have been. Our responsibility is to clean up the mess we are now in.

He would tell us, Israeli and American, to put aside any differences we might have, and to stand together, with all who love freedom and cherish peace, to defeat terror, and conquer the hate outside us while preventing its

growth within us. He would remind us that our common fate is in our hands. Our common inspiration is in the history of resilience and determination that characterize our two nations. Our common strength is in our shared faith that free people working together can achieve miracles.

According to scripture there is a season to everything. Now is not the season for pious platitudes and empty words. It is a time of testing, of walking through the wilderness, of avoiding the sinking sand, and searching for solid rock. And yet, as we gather here tonight to honor a man, share memories, and rededicate ourselves to the principles for which he died, we are not afraid; we are confident, because we know from experiences what terror can and cannot do. Terror can turn life to death, laughter to tears, and shared hopes to sorrowful memories. It can destroy a marketplace and bring down towers that scraped the sky. It can even cause us to hold our breath while opening an envelope. But it cannot deprive us of our love for liberty or our solidarity with one another; it cannot make us retreat from our responsibilities or abandon our commitments; it cannot drive a wedge between America and Israel; and it will not prevail.

Last night we turned our clocks back a single hour, marking the end of daylight savings time. It's all we have the power to do. We cannot turn back the calendar to September the eleventh, 2001, or November the fourth, 1995. We cannot alter the past. We cannot bring back the countrymen and leaders we have lost. We have no choice but to face reality.

But we CAN choose to be animated by hope, not fear; to acknowledge the presence of evil in this world, but never lose sight of the good; to endure terrible blows, but never give in to those who would have us betray our principles or surrender our ideals. We can choose the path that we know in our hearts would have been chosen by Yitzhak Rabin. The path of strength matched by compassion, of courage reinforced by faith. By so doing, we can be sure that the perpetrators of terror will fail in whatever purpose they have; and that America, Israel and all who love freedom will continue toward our rightful purpose of creating a more just and peaceful future for us and for all people.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS 2001  
ELLIS ISLAND

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, standing on the hallowed grounds of Ellis Island—the portal through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States—cast of ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to the life of this Nation were presented with the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at an emotionally uplifting ceremony.

NECO's annual medal ceremony and reception on Ellis Island in New York Harbor is the Nation's largest celebration of ethnic pride. Representing a rainbow of ethnic origins, this year's recipients received their awards in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the United States in the latter part of the 19th century. "Today we

honor great ethnic Americans who, through their achievements and contributions, and in the spirit of their ethnic origins, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations," said NECO Chairman William Denis Fugazy. "In addition, we honor the immigrant experience—those who passed through this Great Hall decades ago, and the new immigrants who arrive on American soil seeking opportunity."

Mr. Fugazy added, "It doesn't matter how you got here or if you already were here. Ellis Island is a symbol of the freedom, diversity and opportunity-ingredients inherent in the fabric of this nation. Although many recipients have no familial ties to Ellis Island, their ancestors share similar histories of struggle and hope for a better life here."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, approximately 1,400 American citizens have received medals.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the United States serving as an umbrella group for over 250 ethnic organizations and whose mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and to combat injustice, hatred, and bigotry. NECO has a new goal in its humanitarian mission: saving the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions. NECO has found The Forum's Children Foundation, which brings children from developing nations needing life-saving surgery to the United States for treatment.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients are selected each year through a national nomination process. Screening committees from NECO's member organizations select the final nominees, who are then considered by the board of directors.

Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, and business executives, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George Bush, Richard Nixon, George Pataki, Mario Cuomo, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Michael Douglas, Gloria Estefan, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Elie Wiesel, Muhammad Ali, Mickey Mantle, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Barbara Walters, Terry Anderson, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, and Attorney General Janet Reno.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2001 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

This year's recipients and their ethnic communities are Melvyn Aaronson, Treasurer UFT, (Lithuanian/Polish/Russian); Monte Ahuja, Chairman and CEO, Transtar Industries, Inc. (Indian); George L. Argyros, Chairman & CEO, Arnel & Associates, (Hellenic); Ted J. Balestreri, Chairman and CEO, Cannery Row Company/Sardine Factory, (Italian); Stasys J. Baras, Executive V.P., Director, Lithuanian Foundation Inc., (Lithuanian); Richard H. Bard, Chairman & CEO, Bard & Co., Inc. (Russian); Donald D. Belcher, Chairman and CEO, Banta Corporation, (Irish/Scottish); Robert A. Belfer, Chairman & CEO, Belco Oil and Gas Corporation (Polish); John Montgomery Belk, Chairman and CEO, Belk, Inc. (English/Scottish/Irish); Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra, Retired Yankee great, (Italian); Bill C. Beutel, WABC-TV Anchorman, (German/English);

Madeline Boyd, Member of the Board, NY Mercantile Exchange, (Irish); Rick Boyko, President and CCO Ogilvy & Mather, (Ukrainian/Italian); David D. Carr, President & CEO, Brennan Industries, (Russian/English); Thomas F. Carr, President, Thomas F. Carr & Associates, Inc., (Irish); Henry J. Caruso, Chairman and CEO, HJC Investment Corporation, (Italian); Sonny Chabra, CEO, AMC Corporation (Indian); Gus A. Chafoulias, Chairman, Chafoulias Company Inc., (Hellenic); Arthur Cheliotis, President, CWA Local 1180 Communications Workers of America, (Hellenic); Mary Higgins Clark, Author, (Irish); Hon. Una S. Tomlinson-Clarke, NYC Council Member, (Caribbean); Robert A. Cornog, Chairman, President, and CEO, Snap-On, Inc. (Welsh); Christos M. Cotsakos, Chairman & CEO, E\* TRADE Group Inc., (Hellenic); George E. Danis, CEO, IntegraTECH Solutions, (Hellenic); William E. Davis, Chairman & CEO, Niagara Mohawk Holdings, (Irish/English).

Erroll B. Davis, Jr., Chairman, President & CEO, Alliant Energy, (African); Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr., Chairman & CEO, Eastman Chemical Company, (Irish/Scottish); Sr. Marion DeFeis, Chaplain, NYC Department of Corrections (Italian); Philip R. DiGennaro, Managing Director/Group Leader, TIAA-CREF, (Italian); Simos C. Dimas, Attorney, Pavia and Harcourt, (Hellenic); H.E. Bishop Stephen H. Doueih, Office of the Bishop, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, (Lebanese); Nikitas Drakotos, President and CEO, M & N Management Corp., (Hellenic); Brigid Driscoll RSHM, Ph. D., President Emerita, Marymount College, (Irish); Col. Brian Duffy, Astronaut, NASA/USAF (Irish); Anthony Drexel Duke, Founder & President Emeritus, Boys & Girls Harbor, (English/Spanish); Archie W. Dunham, Chairman, President & CEO (Native American/English/Irish/Scottish/German); John R. Durso, President, Local 338, (Italian, Irish, German, Danish); Robert M. Dutkowsky, Chairman, President, & CEO, GenRad Inc., (Polish); Charles S. Ensley, President, AFSOCME Local 371, (African); Joseph J. Esposito, Chief of Department NYPD (Italian); Jamie Farr, Actor, (Lebanese); James L. Ferraro, Esq., President, Ferraro & Associates, (Italian); Kenneth Fisher, Partner, Fisher Brothers (Russian).

Renee Fleming, Soprano, (Czech/Scottish/Welsh); Charles L. Flynn Jr., Ph.D., President, College of Mount St. Vincent, (Italian/Irish); Harry C. Fotopoulos, President & CEO, INT Management, (Hellenic); Joseph L. Fox, President, J. Fox Investigations, (Irish/English); William P. Galatis, Executive Director, Sports Museum of New England, (Hellenic); George G. Gellert, Chairman, Atalanta Corp., (Russian/Hungarian); Michael J. George, President, Melody Foods, Inc., (Chaldean); Lt. Col. Rodney W. Gettign, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, (French/German); Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor of New York City, (Italian); Jack M. Greenberg, Chairman & CEO, McDonald's Corp., (Eastern European); Pedro J. Greer, Jr., M.D., Assistant Dean for Homeless Education, University of Miami School of Medicine, (Cuban/Irish); Gedalio Grinberg, Chairman & CEO, Movado Group Inc., (Cuban); Hon. Felix Grucci, Jr., Congressman, United States Congress, (Italian); Edward Guiliano, President & CEO, New York Institute of Technology (Italian); Charles J. Hamm, President, CEO, & Chairman, Independence Community Bank Corp., (Irish/Swiss); Marion R. Harris, CEO, International & Domestic Development Corp., (African); Alan G. Hassenfeld, Chairman & CEO, Hasbro, Inc.

(Polish); Ralph Hittman, Retired Executive Director, Boys Brotherhood Republic of New York, Inc., (Austrian/Polish); David R. Holmes, Chairman, The Reynolds & Reynolds Company, (English/Irish/German); Morton P. Hyman, Chairman & CEO, Overseas Shipholding Group Inc., (Russian).

Joseph F. Inzinna, M.D., Founder & Medical Director, Medical Imaging, P.A., (Italian); U.S. Army General George Joulwan (Ret.) (Lebanese); Vice Admiral Michael P. Kalleres, USN (Ret.), Naval Fleet Commander, (Hellenic); Dimitrios Kaloidis, Owner, Terrace on the Park, (Hellenic); Bozena Kaminski, President, Polish and Slavic Center, (Polish); Stephen P. Kaufman, Chairman, Arrow Electronic Inc., (Russian/Romanian/Austrian/Hungarian); Hon. Bernard B. Kerick, Police Commissioner, NYCPD (Russian/Irish); Peter E. Kilissanly, President & COO, Preferred Employers Holdings, Inc., (Lebanese); Soonja Park Kim, President, M.K. Enterprise Inc., (Korean); Richard Jay Kogan, Chairman & CEO, Scheering-Plough Corp. (Russian/Austrian/Hungarian); Evris Kontos, President & Founder, Kontos Foods, (Cypriot); John A. Koumoulides, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of History, Ball State University, (Hellenic); Richard L. Krzyzanowski, Esq., Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc., (Polish); Vello Alexander Kuuskraa, President, Advanced Resources International, Inc., (Estonian); Ralph J. Lamberti, Executive Vice President, Staten Island University Hospital, (Italian); Evelyn H. Lauder, Sr. Corporate Vice President, The Estee Lauder Companies Inc., (Austrian); Jay Lee, President & CEO, By Design LLC, (Korean); Joseph H. Lemieux, Chairman & CEO, Owens-Illinois (English/Canadian); Howard Li, Chairman & CEO, Waitex International Co., Inc., (Chinese); Michael F. Manzulli, Chairman & CEO Richmond County Bank, (Italian); Markos Marinakis, President & CEO, MKM Chartering Inc., (Hellenic); Hon. Dominic R. Massaro, Justice, Supreme Court of New York (Italian); Joseph A. Melillo, Chairman, Richmond Investment Corp., (Italian); Samuel H. Miller, Co-Chairman & Treasurer, Forest City Enterprises, Inc. (Polish/Russian); Sidney A. Miller, Chairman, Delta Financial Corp., (Romanian/Russian); Larry A. Mizel, Chairman & CEO, MDC Holdings, Inc., (Russian/Polish).

Joseph Monti, President, Crest Hollow Country Club, (Italian); Nicola Mossa, President, Nico Hairstylists, Inc., (Italian); John H. Myers, President, GE Asset Management Inc., (German); Richard J. Naclerio, Ret. President & CEO, Naclerio Contracting Co., Inc. (Italian); Richard Nicotra, President, The Nicotra Group, (Italian); Hon. George Onorato, Senator, NY State Senate, (Italian); Paul J. Orfalea, Founder & Chairperson Emeritus, Kinko's Inc. (Lebanese); Constantine Papadakis, Ph.D., President, Drexel University & MCP, Hahnemann University, (Hellenic); Peter J. Pappas, CEO & President, P.J. Mechanical Corp. (Cypriot); John Youn Young Park, President, Four Seasons Fashions, (Korean); Margaret LaGana Pataki, Volunteer & Homemaker, (Italian/Irish); Kathleen M. Peslie, Principal, Peslie Financial Group, (Italian); Joseph Pfeifer, President, Joseph Pfeifer Foundation (German); Vincent T. Pica, Vice Chairman Voyant Corporation, (Italian); Diane Portnoy, President/Director/Co-Founder, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc., (Polish); Leslie C. Quick, (Posthumously) Former Chairman & CEO Quick & Reilly/Fleet Securities, Inc. (Irish); Peter Quick Jr., President, American Stock Exchange, (Irish/English);

Richard S. Rhee, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurology, UMD of NJ & President of KAHF, (Korean); Daniel D. Ricciardi, M.D., Chief, Division of Rheumatology, LI College Hospital, (Italian); Marie Rust, Director N.E. Region, National Park Service, (Italian).

Jim Ryan, TV Anchor, FOX 5, (Irish); Peter John Sacripanti, Attorney/Partner-In-Charge, McDermott, Will & Emery, (Italian); Nicholas J. Sakellariadis, Managing Director, Salomon Smith Barney, (Hellenic); Charles G. Samiotes, Chairman, Samiotes Consultants, Inc., (Hellenic); Camille F. Sarrouf, Esq., Attorney, Sarrouf, Tarricone & Flemming, (Lebanese); Hon. Bret Schundler, Mayor Jersey City, (German); Robert A. Sgarlato, President, Slater & Sgarlato P.C., (Italian); Joseph Shaker, Chairman, Shaker Advertising Agency, Inc., (Lebanese); Sinan Sinanian, President, Sinanian Development Inc. (Lebanese/Armenian); Shun Yen Siu, Chairman & CEO, Lafayette 148, Inc., (Chinese); Kaloust P. Sogioan, CEO, Director of Engineering, K P Sogioan Mfg. Inc., (Armenian); Daisy M. Soros, Philanthropist, (Hungarian); Ted G. Spyropoulos, President, TGS Petroleum Co. Inc., (Hellenic); Jerry Stiller, Actor, 2000 Medalist, (Polish); Frank Stillo, Chairman & CEO, Sandy Alexander Inc. (Italian); Christopher Stratakis, Senior Partner, Poles, Tublin, Patestides & Stratakis LLP, (Hellenic); Fred R. Sullivan, Chairman, Richton International Corp., (Irish/Welsh); Thomas C.C. Sung, Chairman & CEO, Abacus Federal Saving Bank, (Chinese); Anthony J. Szuwaczewicz, President Polonia Bank, (Polish); Ivan Tiger, Secretary/Treasurer New York State United Teachers, (Russian); Joseph Volpe, General Manager, Metropolitan Opera, (Italian); Farah M. Walters, President & CEO, University Hospitals Health System, (Persian); Bruce D. Wardinski, Chairman & CEO, Crestline Capital, (Irish/Polish); Ludwik Wnekowicz, President, Doma Export Co. Inc., (Polish); James G. Wood, Executive Director, New York State United Teachers, (German/Welsh); Emily Woods, Chairman J. Crew Group Inc., (Dutch/Austrian/Russian); Stephen G. Yeonas, Chairman, Stephen G. Yeonas Co., (Hellenic); Hon. Dennison Young, Jr., Counsel to the Mayor, Office of the Mayor, (Russian/Polish/Latvian) and Dr. Joseph Zagame, Philatelist, Italia Philatelic Society, (Italian).

#### A FEDERAL ROLE IN AVIATION SECURITY

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government must take over our Nation's aviation security system. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3110, the "Transportation Security Enhancement Act of 2001" which will make security screeners Federal employees.

I believe security screening must become a Federal function because, until now, the airlines have contracted out to private security companies for the lowest bidder. As a result of this arrangement, the men and women who screen passengers as they walk through metal detectors at our Nation's airports are paid low wages—just above the minimum wage—have no benefits, and have a turnover rate as high as 400 percent. They leave their jobs before

they have a chance to master them. This means that people who screen passengers as they walk through the metal detectors have very little experience looking for potentially lethal weapons before passengers take their carry-on luggage aboard a plane.

I attach for the RECORD an op-ed entitled "Airport security shouldn't be hit-or-miss" by James E. Casto, Associate Editor of the Herald Dispatch of Huntington, WV. Mr. Casto writes a rather entertaining piece about being stopped at the airport in San Diego, CA, in June 1998, when a security screener spotted "something" in his bag. The "something" turned out to be a letter opener in his toiletry kit. He used it as a makeshift screwdriver to replace a screw he lost from his eyeglasses.

But woven into that entertaining piece, Mr. Casto noted that:

As September 11th made tragically clear, until now airline and airport security has been pretty much a hit-or-miss proposition.

While the screener at the San Diego airport was really on her toes, others are not. Mr. Casto noted that during a long layover in Chicago, there was a

gaggle of screeners who were laughing and apparently having a great time. I doubt they would have noticed if I'd had an A-K 47 under my arm.

Mr. Casto's message is clear, concise, complete and correct. The aviation security workforce must have consistent work standards, because they answer to a vast number of companies with inconsistent work standards. I believe federalizing the force is the surest way to achieve this goal.

When the Federal Government takes over training, supervision, and employment of security screeners, as the "Transportation Security Enhancement Act of 2001" provides, they will be subject to the highest performance standards. In addition, they will be paid decent wages and benefits, which will encourage them to stay on the job and master their jobs.

Our Nation's passengers will then be reassured that the most thorough screening of all passengers has taken place before they board their flights. This system is the best step we can take to prevent the heinous crime of September 11, 2001, from ever happening again.

#### AIRPORT SECURITY SHOULDN'T BE HIT-OR-MISS

I remember the incident in every detail—although I had to check back a bit to find exactly when it happened. It was June of 1998, and I was at the airport in San Diego, Calif., heading home.

I got in line at security. When my turn came, I placed my bag on the conveyor, stepped through the metal detector and reached to retrieve my bag, only to find that one of the security screeners had a firm grasp on it.

"There's something in here," she said, fixing me with the same kind of cold-eyed stare she no doubt would have given bank robber John Dillinger had he turned up in her line.

I resisted an impulse to tell her that the only contraband in my bag was some dirty socks.

"May I take a look?" she asked, delving into my bag before I had a chance to even answer.

"I don't see it," she said, as she pawed through my stuff.

"See What?" I asked.

"The machine showed a letter opener in here."

A letter opener? What the dickens would I be doing with a letter opener? Slowly, a faint memory dawned.

Unzipping my toilet kit, she reached in, fumbled around a bit and triumphantly pulled out a metal letter opener.

She summoned her supervisor, who looked even less amused than she did.

"Listen," I said, "if this is a problem, I'll simply leave the opener here. I don't need it. All I want to do is catch my plane."

I started to walk away.

"Wait," the supervisor said, "you have to fill out a form."

So I had to complete and sign an "Abandoned Property" form, giving my name and flight number, before I hurried on my way.

How in the world had a letter opener found its way into my toilet kit? Actually, the explanation was simple: One day, I lost a screw out of my eyeglasses. I used the letter opener as a makeshift screwdriver to replace it. And, since I was on my way to the airport at the time, I threw the screwdriver in my toilet kit in case I needed it again.

But that was years before my 1998 California visit.

At the time, I estimated that I had gone through maybe 50 or so airport security checks with the letter opener tucked away in my kit. Nobody said a word about it—until I encountered that eagle-eyed female screener at the San Diego airport.

Since Sept. 11 and the terrorist attacks perpetrated by airline hijackers said to be armed with simple box cutters, I've thought a lot about my old letter opener. And about the amazing number of times I was able to breeze through airport security checkpoints without anyone saying a word about it.

As Sept. 11 made tragically clear, until now airline and airport security has been pretty much a hit-or-miss proposition.

Security checkpoints have been manned by people generally working for whatever company submitted the low bid for the contract. Often, they've been paid minimum wage and given little or no training.

Far more typical than my experience in San Diego was one I encountered when, during a long layover in Chicago, I waltzed through security several times—letter opener and all—and never got a second glance from a gaggle of screeners who were laughing and talking and apparently having a great time. I doubt they would have noticed, if I'd had an AK-47 under my arm.

Congress is debating changes in airline and airport security. The Senate has voted to have security operations taken over by the federal government. The House and President Bush favor a system that would see the federal government supervise and train private-sector employees.

As for me, I think I'd favor tracking down that tough-as-nails screener I encountered out in San Diego and putting her in charge.

#### CONGRATULATING COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF FRESNO COUNTY

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fresno County for earning national recognition for their exemplary