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and give our heroes even greater strength to draw on in the difficult days ahead.

REMEMBRANCE OF GERALD
SOLOMON

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York, Mr. SWEENEY, for leading this special order. I rise tonight to commemorate the life and career of Gerald B.H. Solomon.

Gerry Solomon was well known as a tough-talking advocate for his Congressional district. But as a former Marine, he was perhaps the House's biggest advocate for veterans during his 20 years in Congress. As the ranking member on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Solomon worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and veterans' benefits, including beneficiary travel for veterans going to and from VA hospitals. Solomon was also successful in efforts to elevate the Veterans Administration to a cabinet-level department. This work won him wide praise from veterans groups.

AMVETS National Commander Joseph W. Lipowski called Solomon "one of our foremost advocates in Congress." In 1989, Solomon was presented with the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award. The award, which is a silver replica of the World War II GI helmet, has come to be known as the "Veterans Oscar."

It is fitting that Solomon was laid to rest with military honors in Saratoga National Cemetery. From his key position on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Solomon was the driving force behind the creation of the cemetery and helped secure \$1.45 million to buy the land for the cemetery. Solomon loved the unique place in history held by Saratoga, as it was the turning point in the American Revolution.

In addition to serving as ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Solomon was Chair of the powerful Rules Committee. As the first Republican Chairman in four decades, Solomon used this chairmanship to promote the interests of New York.

Public service was clearly Solomon's life. Coming from a family full of firefighters and policemen, I would be remiss if I failed to note that Solomon also served for years as a volunteer firefighter in his home town of Glen Falls, New York.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Freda and their five children, six grandchildren, and his brother.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleague Mr. SWEENEY for offering this special tribute, and ask if the House would please Join me in pausing to recognize the distinguished life of Gerald Solomon.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important yet often overlooked month in our nation's landscape National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Each year, nearly 2 million women are victims of domestic violence. In fact, in the time that it takes me to complete this speech, eight women will have suffered some form of mental, physical or sexual abuse.

The problem of domestic violence is one that I have fought for many years.

In my district—the 31th district of California—domestic violence is a widespread phenomenon. When I first took office as state legislator in 1992, there were more shelters in my district for abused animals than there were for abused women.

But through the vigilant work and determination of our law enforcement agencies and the community, we've worked to reverse that trend. Today, we have a number of excellent shelters and non-profit organizations designed to help battered families rebuild their lives.

As pleased as I am that the shelters exist, though, I am still disappointed. Yes, every person who is the victim of domestic violence deserves as much help as possible to escape their current situation and find a better, more loving environment. But no one deserves to be placed in such a horrendous situation to begin with.

We as a nation have made remarkable strides in domestic violence legislation. We prosecute criminals. We assist victims with finding transitional housing. We help train battered housewives to reenter the workforce. These are all admirable actions. But we can and must do more.

We must work harder to ferret out the root cause of domestic violence. We know that children of batterers are more likely to become batterers themselves. We must work to ensure that these children have the necessary counseling to combat any such violent urges.

We know that immigrant women who are battered are much less likely to leave their abusers because they fear being deported. We must eliminate immigration barriers that prevent these women from getting help.

And we know that nearly one million women each year are victims of stalking. We must strengthen anti-stalking laws to protect women before violence enters the picture.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this commitment to eradicating domestic violence in our great nation, not only with our words but also with our deeds.

October 31, 2001

THE SERVICEMEMBERS AND MILITARY FAMILIES FINANCIAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2001 (H.R. 3173)

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, these are enormously challenging times for our country. Yet, we are doing what we can to meet these challenges. We are reaching across party lines to show national unity. We are reaching across social and ethnic lines, native-born citizens and immigrants alike, to show that we will not turn away from our nation's highest values, or from each other.

We are exercising caution and common sense. We are going about our daily lives. In my case, and that of my fellow members of Congress, going about business as usual has been a little more difficult in recent days. But—as this productive week demonstrates—it has not made our work impossible.

And, as parents, we are reminding our children how much we love them. Those are a few of the important steps that each of us is taking. And we can be proud of them. However, no group of Americans has made—or will make, as long as this effort lasts—as valuable a contribution, or as great a sacrifice, or will have as much to be proud of, as the people who are the men and women of our armed forces—full-time uniformed personnel, as well as reservists and members of the National Guard called up for active duty.

They are seeking peace for us and for our allies around the globe. Their own security has been put on hold so that we can go about our lives freely and free of fear. Last week, I introduced legislation to ease at least a handful of their many burdens.

My bill is admittedly a modest effort when compared to the full scope of challenges which they face. After all, I cannot give them the kind of blanket protection that I wish for them. I cannot ensure that no harm comes to them on the field of battle, or while in transit or training for their mission. However, it is worth remembering that among the many hazards and challenges faced by men and women in uniform, not all of them are found on the battlefield, or foreign soil, or on the high seas.

Some confront them here at home. Even while they are far from home. And, to make matters worse, they are challenges that face not only the men and women who sign up for duty—but face their family members too.

These challenges are financial. In various ways, members of the armed forces—and in particular, members of the National Guard and the Reserves who leave jobs, homes, and families at a moment's notice—face tremendous economic burdens as a result of their willingness to serve. It is at least within my powers to do something about that.

Last week, I introduced legislation, "The Servicemembers and Military Families Financial Protection Act of 2001", aimed at giving men and women called up for duty—and their families—new financial protection and peace of mind.

First, my bill will help ensure that members of the military who are called away from home