

still have a home to which they can return. When members are deployed and separated from their jobs, their household income levels often drop dramatically. Yet, there are still bills to pay—in particular, the monthly rent or mortgage payment.

My bill would prohibit the removal of an activated military member's family from their place of residence due to a failure to meet monthly housing payments. This protection would be in place during the term of active duty and continue for up to an additional three months after active duty is over.

If a landlord initiates eviction proceedings during that period, a judge would be directed to first rule on whether the family's income has been "materially affected" by the military service. An eviction can only occur only if a judge finds that the family's income has not been so impacted. This relief would apply to a service member's family whose monthly housing payment is \$1,950 per month or less.

Under current law—the Sailors' and Soldiers' Civil Relief Act—such relief is limited to families whose monthly housing payments are \$1,200 or less. I seek to increase of that threshold by about 37.5 percent. I think that my proposal is reasonable. If you have given up your bed, and the comfort of home and the security of having your own roof over your head . . . and have traded that for an army cot in a pup tent or a barracks—you are certainly entitled, when your service is completed, to return to your home. And, just as important, you are entitled to know that even if you cannot be at home, at least your family is there.

The second major element of my proposal ensures that a family will be well provided for in the event—the very rare event, I hope—that something unfortunate occurs. Again, our country's reliance on members of the guard and reserves helps illustrate the need for a change in current law. Our military cannot operate without the contributions of civilian soldiers—medical personnel, academics familiar with foreign countries and languages, engineers and people from a vast array of fields—who agree to give up good jobs and good wages here at home to serve where and when they are needed.

The economic needs of full-time uniformed personnel are just as great, and only increase with more years of service. As it stands right now, however, significant barriers prohibit those men and women from knowing with confidence that their families will be adequately safeguarded if something should happen to them.

Today, armed services personnel are eligible for life insurance paid through an affordable monthly premium, and administered through the Service members' Group Life Insurance program, or SGLI. However, current law caps payouts at \$250,000. Far too low.

Meantime, it is standard practice for private life insurance policies to include clauses that deny payouts for deaths resulting from incidents occurring as part of war-related service. My bill would enable personnel covered by SGLI to opt for considerably higher payouts for their beneficiaries—if they so desire and if they are willing to pay for it.

Under my bill, military personnel could opt for coverage in increments of \$250,000 above the current ceiling, up to a total of \$1 million.

This represents a potential increase of \$750,000 above the current limits for members of the Guard and Reserves; an increase of \$900,000 for uniformed personnel.

All increased benefits would be the result of higher premiums deducted from military paychecks. Coverage usually costs approximately 8 cents per month per every thousand dollars of coverage. Again, this would be optional and it would be achieved at no additional cost to the government.

In fact, assuming that the pool of policy holders remains steady and perhaps increases due to this added incentive, it could lead to greater revenues for government coffers. We know that military service is dangerous. But, the already significant risk should not be compounded by additional financial risks to one's dependents.

My hope would be that not a single family ever has the need to take advantage of this increased level in benefits. But, even if that is the case—it still will have done some good for all of us.

A member of the military can carry out duties better if there are fewer worries about what could happen to his or her family.

And finally—as long as we are updating current law to reflect the true needs of members of the military—I think it is crucial that the law better reflects the true composition of the military.

As we all know, that includes women.

The same holds true for our country's economy, and the earnings of the typical family. A family's loss of income does not simply occur when a father or husband leaves his regular job for service—but when a mother or wife does so. Unfortunately, current law inexplicably uses the phrase "wife" to describe dependents eligible for protection while a member is on duty. My bill replaces such references with gender-neutral language.

Such a change has practical value. Let's make certain that no court or agency denies a family relief on the basis that a mother or wife serves her country. Yet, if some people think that changing the language in this manner is mostly "symbolic"—so be it. This is a time when symbolism matters.

And, among our foes is a Taliban that degrades women to a degree that is beneath civility and decency. Let's take every opportunity to remind them—and ourselves—that our country's success and our country's strength is achieved because in our nation women can carry out any role that they choose for themselves.

I am confident that my colleagues will join me in agreeing that risking life and limb for one's nation should never be compounded by a family's potential loss of shelter or economic security. Please join me and cosponsor my bill, H.R. 3173.

HONORING JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jarvis Christian College, the Tom

Joyner Foundation's historically black "College of the Month" for October.

All too often, a student enters college only to encounter financial challenges that force him or her to drop out of school. As a nationally syndicated radio personality, Tom Joyner uses his platform to raise money to help students continue their education at black colleges. Every month, the foundation selects an Historically Black College or University to receive funds raised during that month. During the month of October, Joyner will encourage individuals, groups, organizations, and Jarvis alumni to make financial contributions to Jarvis.

Over the past year, the Tom Joyner Foundation has raised more than \$500,000 for deserving students. The money is given directly to the school and its students. Additionally, the Ronald McDonald House Charities has pledged to provide 50 cents for every dollar, up to \$333,000 donated, for this year.

I am very proud of Jarvis for being chosen by the Tom Joyner Foundation to receive these important funds for its students. Located in Hawkins, Texas, Jarvis Christian College has lived up to its mission to provide a quality liberal arts education that prepares students "intellectually, socially, and personally to function effectively in a global and technological society."

Founded in 1912, Jarvis Christian College held its first formal classes in January 1913, with 12 elementary-level students. Only two years later, the school began officially teaching high school courses. Further, until 1937, it was the only accredited high school exclusively for African Americans in the area.

In 1927, Jarvis began offering junior college courses, and the school was accredited as a college the next year. Since that time, Jarvis has been an East Texas institution, an excellent choice for students who wish to develop their skills and talents to their highest levels of ability.

For 90 years, Jarvis Christian College has given hope and opportunity to the African American community of East Texas, guaranteeing students a quality education within a solidly Christian environment. This year, Jarvis was ranked among the top "Comprehensive Colleges" in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

I would like to thank the Tom Joyner Foundation for its mission to support Jarvis Christian College's motto: "The college with the personal touch, where dreams come true!"

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Women's Caucus and add my strong support to the struggle against domestic violence.

October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is an opportunity for us to remember those who have been victims of abuse, to support those who are survivors, and to assist

those who labor on a daily basis to put an end to this horrible violence.

While the devastating physical and emotional consequences of domestic violence have been well documented, less attention has been paid to the economic reasons women stay victim to their abusers. Far too many victims remain in abusive relationships because of their inability to financially support themselves and their children.

Lack of affordable childcare, inaccessibility to job training and healthcare programs, and low wages are a few of the obstacles women face when they wish to leave an abusive home. Those who are able to find employment often find it difficult, if not impossible, to keep a job because of the consequences of domestic abuse such as: lower productivity, reduced attendance, and the higher risk of insurance and healthcare costs to employers. In addition, employed victims of abuse live with the added fear of losing their job if they take time off from work to seek help for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, current law does not specifically allow women to take leave from work to effectively deal with the abuse in their lives. Nor does the law often allow women who leave work as a result of domestic violence to collect unemployment compensation.

These realities faced by abused women often hinder their ability to seek or maintain employment. As a result, far too many women are left with the terrifying choice of staying with their abusers or becoming homeless, often with their children. In fact, the Downtown Women's Center of Los Angeles recently conducted a needs assessment among 400 homeless women in Los Angeles. Of those interviewed, 58.5 percent had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, and 39.5 percent had experienced domestic violence as recently as the previous year.

To address the needs of victims of abuse, I have introduced the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act in the House of Representatives. My legislation is specifically designed to help victims of domestic violence retain their employment and financial independence, by ensuring that they are allowed to take time off from work to make necessary court appearances, seek legal assistance, contact law enforcement officials or make alternative housing arrangements, without the fear of being fired or demoted. Further, to ensure victims can retain the financial independence necessary to leave their abusers and avoid having to rely on welfare or become homeless, my bill requires states to provide unemployment benefits to women who are forced to leave work as a result of domestic violence. This legislation currently has the bipartisan support of 106 of my colleagues in Congress.

Obviously, we cannot legislate the problem of domestic violence away. An important step we can take, however, is to create a system that gives women a fighting chance to remove themselves and their children from abusive environments. As a nation, we must develop and implement laws that provide the support necessary to ensure the safety and security of our most vulnerable citizens. No woman should ever have to choose between physical safety or financial security for herself or her family.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN SWANN ON HIS
ENSHRINEMENT IN THE NA-
TIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
HALL OF FAME

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to San Mateo County native and former Pittsburgh Steeler, Lynn Swann, on his recent induction into the National Football League Hall of Fame. Enshrinement in the NFL Hall of Fame is the greatest honor of any football player's career and is only bestowed upon the most deserving athletes. Lynn is unequivocally one of the greatest wide receivers ever to play professional football and is most deserving of this honor.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, Lynn's NFL career spanned nine years, and included four Super Bowl victories and three Pro Bowl appearances. During his career, Lynn caught 364 passes for a total of 5,462 yards and 51 touchdowns. Known for his acrobatic and graceful catches, he saved his best performances for the big games, making key plays in Super Bowls IX, X, XIII, and XIV.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn's football success got off to a spectacular start at Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, California, in my Congressional district. He became a member of the Padres Varsity Squad as a Freshman where he was coached by Coach Jesse Freitas, Sr. Lynn was instrumental in Serra High School's 1967 and 1969 West Catholic Athletic League titles. After graduating from high school, Lynn attended the University of Southern California where his gridiron accomplishments brought him honors and recognition. He graduated with a degree in Public Relations in 1974.

Lynn Swann was the number one draft pick by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1974, and his impact on the team was felt in Pittsburgh immediately. During his rookie season Lynn immediately established himself as a fierce competitor. Although he suffered a concussion in the 1975 AFC Championship Game, he recovered in time for the Super Bowl two weeks later, giving a MVP performance. During Super Bowl XIII, Lynn had yet another extraordinary performance, catching seven passes and the game winning touchdown.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition during his career. He was named an All-American player at USC in 1974, and All-Pro recognitions in 1976, 1978, and 1979. He was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl X in 1976. Lynn received the prestigious NAACP image award in 1981. He is a member of the Steelers Hall of Fame Team of the 1970's Decade, and the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl All-Time Team. He is also an inductee to the San Mateo County Sports Hall of Fame, and will be inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

Much of Lynn's success in life, both on and off the field, can be traced directly to his parents, Mildred and Willie Swann, who continue to work and maintain their residence in my district. His parents taught him the value of

hard work, and more importantly, how to carry himself with class and dignity. Today, Lynn thanks his mother for urging him go to Serra High School and teaching him the value of a good education.

Since his football career ended in 1982, Lynn Swann has been involved in numerous charitable involvements. These included his work as the National Spokesperson for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Additionally, he created the Lynn Swann Youth Scholarship Fund in association with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, Lynn was one of the first wide receivers to practice ballet in preparation for football, a practice followed by numerous professional football players to this day. Lynn pioneered this unique "cross training" method after recognizing that the gracefulness of ballet would be a considerable asset to a wide receiver in the National Football League. In 1981, he created the Lynn Swann Youth Scholarship Fund in Association with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre school, which has benefitted hundreds of talented students. Lynn's commitment to the Ballet School continues to this day, by contributing a portion of the sales of his number 88 Pittsburgh Steelers jersey, to aid the Pittsburgh Ballet, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh.

Throughout his distinguished career both on and off the field, Lynn Swann has never forgotten nor neglected his close personal ties to San Mateo. He is, indeed, an icon and role model for our young people. Lynn Swann is an extraordinary athlete who is truly deserving of induction into the National Football League Hall of Fame. He has given selflessly of his time to worthy causes. Lynn's character can best be summed up by his former High School history teacher and coach, John Carboni, who, when asked about his former student, chose not to comment on his athletic ability, but rather on his personality. As Mr. Carboni stated, "When it comes to a classy athlete to come out of Serra, Lynn Swann rules the roost."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Lynn Swann, an excellent athlete on his enshrinement in the National Football Hall of Fame.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALF EVERS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements and tremendous life work of a dear friend of mine, Mr. Alf Evers of Shady, New York. I have known Alf for more than thirty years, working with him on environmental and other issues in my district. Alf Evers is the pre-eminent historian of the Catskill Region of New York State whose writing and passion for storytelling have become part of the rich history of our area. As part of this year's New York History Month, I am proud to join in saluting Alf's significant contributions to furthering New York history.

Spanning more than seven decades, Alf Evers' professional writing career continues today at age ninety-six as Alf completes a history of Kingston, New York. He is best known