

had been pulled and replaced by an unstudied substitute, the contents of which remain largely a mystery to even many senior members of the Judiciary Committee. At nearly two hundred pages of esoteric and technical language, the bill is beyond the length that a member of this body may be reasonably assumed to have read and understood.

By opposing this unfair rule, I am standing in support of fairness and the democratic process. I fully understand the need to implement new measures that will allow law enforcement to respond to the new threats posed to the United States by those who would do us harm, but I must urge my colleagues to oppose the rule. By defeating this rule, we will allow sufficient time to pass so that we may, in good conscience, examine this new bill and cast our votes confident that we understand its contents and its implications for law enforcement and democracy.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIM GREGURICH

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pleasant Hill, Illinois, as well as all Americans who have given their support to the cause of bringing home our POWs.

Like thousands of other Americans, Kim is the owner of a POW/MIA bracelet—a copper band inscribed with the name of a soldier who was either listed as missing in action or as a prisoner of war during our time in Vietnam. The name on Kim's bracelet is Lieutenant Commander Robert Shumaker, a pilot shot down in 1965. She has had the bracelet for over thirty years; she bought it to show her support of our armed forces, and promised never to take it off unless her POW was released. These bracelets were a method of putting public pressure on the Vietnamese government to send our soldiers home.

It worked. Lieutenant Commander Shumaker was released on the Flight to Freedom in 1975 in part, he says, because the Vietnamese knew how closely the American people were watching them. Ms. Gregurich heard that happy report on the radio and was finally able to take off her bracelet.

Now, twenty-six years later, she has decided to go one step further—she has taken the initiative to locate Mr. Shumaker and send him the copper band. "I wasn't sure if it would be a bad memory," she said, "but I just wanted him to know that there was one more person thinking about him while he was gone."

But Mr. Speaker, while Ms. Gregurich's tale is heartwarming, it is also a sad reminder—many Americans have not yet been able to take off their bracelets. There are 1,948 Americans that are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War; there are another 58,000 whose fate we know all too well. These men and women will never come home; so, like Ms. Gregurich, I will hold a bracelet for each of them in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gregurich and others who put their hearts into this support deserve our thanks; and them men and women who fought

and died for our country deserve our eternal gratitude. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to note the vital contribution the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) has made to the daunting clean up task at the World Trade Center's "Red Zone," better known as "Ground Zero." The IUOE's National Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Program is based in Beaver, West Virginia. I am proud to represent them in Congress as part of the Third Congressional District of West Virginia.

Don Carson, the Director of IUOE's Hazmat program, and a team of workers from the Beaver facility were among the first out-of-state workers to be sent to work at Ground Zero immediately after the September 11th terrorist attacks. Mr. Carson has sent me heart-wrenching pictures of the twisted metal that show the depth of the tragedy and the danger of the rescue work. But that danger has not deterred any of the workers who have been involved in the rescue, and now recovery, effort.

Ever since the tragedy occurred, IUOE, and the Hazmat Center, have played a major role in the rescue and recovery effort. In fact, Mr. Carson has been coordinating the Hazmat workers' activities based out of a command post trailer parked on the right field warning track of a baseball field near Stuyvesant High School.

Today, Mr. Carson sent me an article from the New York Daily News. The article describes how Mr. Carson "has been handing out respirators, hardhats and protective vests since the attacks."

The workers' health has come into question as the long weeks pass since the attacks. They have developed a cough that doctors refer to as the "World Trade Center cough." Don Carson and IUOE's Hazmat Center are trying to tackle this. They are working with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the New York City Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a respirator fit test and orientation for all workers assigned to Ground Zero. The workers must have a DOH sticker affixed to the credentials in order to work in the Red Zone.

After the workers take their respirator fit test, they will be given an American flag hard hat.

The News article notes that these workers "battle constant danger, fumes and fatigue, as well as their own emotions. 'Our guys have seen things that God never intended,'" said Bobby Gray, 46, the union's master mechanic. "But they soldier through."

The IUOE workers have "pulled bodies from the rubble, cleared hills of jagged steel and recovered million of dollars in gold bullion trapped under the fallen towers."

The farther down the workers go below ground level, the more dangerous it gets. They must drill 8-inch cables into the concrete retaining wall—the "bathtub wall"—that circles the World Trade Center site to make sure it is anchored to the bedrock.

If the "bathtub wall" would burst, the Hudson River would rush in and flood the site. But the IUOE workers press on, risking this incredible danger as they drill the holes.

The News article follows the IUOE workers' tasks as they operate "twenty five cranes, 75 excavators and countless front-loaders, pay-loaders and machine drills." For example, crane operator Steve Nolan operates a 438-foot crane, navigating a one-and-one-half ton man-basket from inside the rig's cab.

"A crane like this is not to be run by the seat of your pants," Nolan said. "If you have an oops" on a job like this people are dead."

"Even when I'm wrecking a building, it's usually a happy job because we are replacing it with something new," said Steve Nolan. "When I sit in the crane, I ask myself. 'What kind of sick hatred could do this?'"

#### NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVES STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to recognize a great partnership of the public school system and private sector in my congressional district in North Carolina, "Bright Ideas." Bright Ideas is sponsored by North Carolina's 27 electric cooperatives. Each cooperative and their statewide association, the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, make grants directly to classroom teachers. Bright Ideas allows teachers with imagination and creativity to go the extra mile and, of course, students and the educational process are the ultimate beneficiaries.

As a democratic nation, we enjoy and cherish unmatched rights and freedom. We are a land where individuals, regardless of background and circumstances of birth, can aspire to do great things. We need more "Bright Ideas," not only in North Carolina but also throughout the nation. And we must make sure there is no pulling back, no reduction of support for our public schools as a result of the crises we face. It would be yet another tragedy if we somehow lost sight of our priorities and our public schools suffered. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle said 2500 years ago that, "The fate of empires depends on the education of youth." As we work to ensure a secure future for our nation in light of unprecedented assaults on our way of life, it is important to remember this fact.

During these uncertain times we must not lose sight of education as the foundation of our democratic and free society. We invest in our people by investing in our public education system. As we fight to preserve our way of life, public education—that solid rock upon which our society is built—absolutely must remain a top priority. And support must continue