

fell in love with Fresno and its people. He is proud to make Fresno his home, as Fresno has been very good to him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tony Valtierra for his commitment to improving the lives of people in the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Valtierra many more years of continued success.

THANKS WOODBINE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a brief moment of our time today to give my hearty thanks to the people at Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Woodbine is a 307 bed healthcare center, located near Old Town Alexandria, providing long and short-term healthcare and a full range of rehabilitation therapies. It is at Woodbine where I found myself after my recent knee replacement surgery.

The people of Woodbine cared for me as if I was a member of the family. I could not have asked for better care while I was there. I want to thank Dianne Defusco, the Director of Admissions, and all the people who took their time to care for me and look after me while I was there.

My family and I are all grateful for their hard work and commitment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD
ASWAD

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward M. Aswad, Photographer & Author, as he will be inducted in a star ceremony in the Binghamton Sidewalk of Fame.

This recognition honors the professionalism, integrity, and artistic vision that Ed has demonstrated throughout his years in the photography business and his talent and success as an author. Ed calls his camera "a passport to many facets of life."

Ed received his first camera as a child living on Cypress Street in Binghamton, NY. Since that time his life has been entwined with photography. During military service from 1954 through 1958 he received intensive training and opportunities in the art of photography working in the headquarters of the United States Army Signal Corps.

He earned recognition and promotions as a photographer/correspondent, recording events of military, government and civil importance. His work has been featured in military publications, court records, and civilian newspapers both in the United States and overseas.

Ed received a letter of commendation for serving above and beyond the call of duty on a burning ship docked in Honolulu, Hawaii. He entered the hold of the ship with a cadre of

firefighters who were removing vats of kerosene before the fuel could explode. He spent three days and two nights on the premises recording the crisis, and was cited for his dedication, professionalism and award-winning photographs.

Upon discharge from the United States Army, he returned to the Triple Cities and began his professional career as an industrial photographer for General Electric in Johnson City. During eleven years with this company, Ed received numerous professional awards. In 1969, Ed became a partner in Carriage House Photography, where he expanded his reputation for technical and artistic abilities.

His recording of buildings, now gone, and of the current use of these sites, his views of parks, rivers, events, and the people whose lives shape our area, have made his photographs synonymous with Broome County. His work is prized and featured in local businesses, the Broome County Chamber of Commerce, civil and government releases, and is in use as background sets on local television stations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to salute Ed for his many years of devotion to the art of photography. Ed is a most deserving honoree of the Star.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Chairman JIM WALSH and our Ranking Member ALAN MOLLOHAN and all the staff that assisted in crafting this bill VA—HUD FY02 Appropriations bill. Faced with the allocation provided to the subcommittee, I believe the bill before us is a good and balanced product, which I support and plan to vote for today. The allocation, however, was simply inadequate to take care of our veterans and their truly pressing needs. All around our country veterans wait too long for doctors appointments, are disabled by substance abuse and mental illness, far too many are homeless, and surely it is nothing less than a crisis that a backlog of more than 500,000 claims for compensation and pension benefits are pending before the VA today.

I am, however, happy to note that this report does provide an important first step toward ensuring that veterans suffering from schizophrenia have greater access to new and vitally important atypical anti-psychotic medications. Under the provision, a physician's practice of prescribing atypical anti-psychotic medications must not be used as performance indicators when evaluating the physician's work. The provision also clarifies and reiterates the policy that physicians are to use their best clinical judgment when choosing these critical anti-psychotic medications.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is provided with \$7.9 billion —\$74 million than the FY01 funding and \$587 million more than requested. The measure provides full funding for EPA enforcement activities and staff. I am pleased that changes were made from the House bill that would have significantly reduced EPA enforcement staff and shifted more enforcement duties to states.

The Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) is funded at a level of \$30.1 billion—\$1.7 billion more than FY01 appropriations, but \$433 million less than requested. It includes funding for 25,900 new Section 8 rental vouchers to provide housing assistance to additional families. There were increases in the Conference report for housing programs for the elderly, disabled, and persons with AIDS.

I am disappointed that the Conference did not provide the Senate's appropriation of \$300 million for HUD's Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program. This program fits several of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's main strategic goals: improving quality of life, promoting economic vitality, and keeping communities and neighborhoods safe. Housing authorities are specifically required to develop, in cooperation with local police, plans that ensure safety and crime prevention. Crime statistics show that crime has dropped nationwide and especially in our cities and public housing facilities since this program was created. I again am very disappointed that his program has been eliminated, with no clear replacement that is accessible to localities.

The National Credit Union Administration provides \$1 million for the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund for loans to community development credit unions. Of this amount \$350,000 is provided for technical assistance to low income and community development credit unions. Technical assistance grants are available to low-income designated credit unions and those credit unions that expand service to low-income communities or investment areas. The purpose of these awards is to strengthen these credit unions by funding the following activities: improved technology and service delivery systems; economic development; consumer and entrepreneurial education; micro-enterprise business development; employment opportunities for through community business development; and credit union infrastructure and staff development.

Once again, I appreciate the hard work behind this bill but am deeply concerned that as we prepare to honor veterans on Veterans Day that an inadequate allocation will prevent us from providing this nation's defenders and protectors of liberty with the services and benefits they deserve.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY
INDIVIDUALS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragedies that befell our country on September 11th

claimed many lives and caused our Nation great pain. These tragedies have given us a strong reminder and renewed our understanding of what extraordinary work our public safety professionals do on a daily basis. These men and women symbolize bravery and courage, two of the founding pillars that laid the framework for our great Nation.

As they proved on September 11th, our public service professionals are a lifeline to those whose lives are in danger. They are the brave souls who risk life and limb to save our own, and for that we are eternally grateful. They are the rock we lean on when it seems like things are caving in. They are quite simply heroes.

In keeping with honoring those who symbolize bravery and courage, I rise to recognize the public safety professionals from across the 9th Congressional District of Texas. Their professionalism, dedication and strong work ethic make me extremely proud to call myself a Southeast Texan. Words cannot express the gratitude that I, along with my fellow Texans, share for the work that our uniformed officers do.

And as I rise to recognize our public safety individuals, we must never lose sight of how critical they are, not only in times of need, but in our everyday lives. Let us today reaffirm our support and commitment to all of the Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and all other uniformed professionals as they selflessly serve their communities.

EVERYONE A SOLDIER

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a well-written essay by a constituent of mine, Silvio Laccetti of Fairview, New Jersey. Mr Laccetti is a professor of humanities at Stevens Hoboken Institute of Technology where he is developing leadership programs. I ask that the text of his essay, "Everyone a Soldier," be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all Americans may read his words. In the post-September 11 world, Mr. Laccetti captures the new reality that all Americans are in a sense, "soldiers". My hope is that Mr. Laccetti's piece helps us to gain an even greater appreciation for our freedom and our country.

EVERYONE A SOLDIER

(By Silvio Laccetti)

It may not always have been well observed, but for the last two centuries the wartime line between civilian and military personnel was pretty clear. Not any more.

In the 21st century, with wars fought against agents of terror, there is no clear distinction between a combatant and a non-combatant. Hijacked planes attack office towers. Anthrax arrives in postal envelopes. The government periodically issues high-alert warnings, suggesting imminent danger.

In America today, there is a sense that anything can happen to anyone at anytime. Everyone's a target, so everyone must be a soldier.

If we are all soldiers, what then are the "weapons" we carry? What will get us through these wars and how will traits that are especially American help us triumph?

First, we have to be fit. The old catchphrase "stick to your guns" applies in this case. For today's American, it means to focus anew under stress. So, go to your work, go to play, honor your obligations and dream about a better future as soldiers always have. And let's become inspired and energized to do the best we can ever do in our daily roles. Recall Dan Rather's own response to terrorism—a desire to produce the best journalism he has ever done. After the initial shock of 9/11, America seems now to be undergoing a resurgence of excellence. Excellence is a fitness that never fails.

Love of freedom and creativity stored in our arsenals of democracy will also empower each of us in our battle against terrorism. As Paul McCartney sang out in his original song dedicated at the Concert for New York, we will fight for our right to live in freedom. And in that fight we will employ the kind of creativity few soldiers or armies ever get to enjoy. When things are snafu'ed, the individual soldier finds a solution on his or her own. Witness the creativity of the heroes on Flight 93 who prevented another attack by giving their own lives. Acts of heroism, great and small, will mark the vigilance and determination of a free people. Freedom and creativity are the ordnance of our Free Americans.

All soldiers need leaders and to have faith in them. We've been blessed with great ones in this crisis. Mayor Giuliani and President Bush have been extraordinary. Others, like Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld have demonstrated reassuring leadership. But because we are in the unique situation of everyone a soldier, we must assume self-leadership. Each American must motivate himself/herself to take command of their fears and hesitation. This means we must get on with life, today and tomorrow, and look for God's presence in the trenches. Self-leadership is always a good thing. If you are forever in fear and uncertainty, you already live in terror.

America. Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. We will lead lives undaunted and cling to the heritage and ideals that guide America in the war against terror. In this war, everyone is a soldier.

FAST TRACK AND ANY FREE TRADE LEGISLATION MUST REFLECT THE NEEDS OF RURAL AMERICA

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, the House may soon vote on fast track legislation, to swiftly move another massive free trade bill through this body.

Mr. Speaker, I am not opposed to free trade.

In fact, I support any trade measures that increase production and commerce in our country, and create new jobs for our people.

But I am reminded of the old saying that goes: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me!"

I am concerned that any future trade agreement could have devastating consequences similar to those of NAFTA.

Since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, many American manufacturing plants shut down when they took their business elsewhere to take advantage of pitifully low wages and tax environmental laws.

They left thousands of dedicated American workers in the lurch and forced local small businesses to close.

Many of these plants are located in rural areas. Small rural towns depend on the success of one plant. If that factory closes, it destroys the economy of the town, or even an entire county. Workers have no place else to find work.

In rural areas, when a factory shuts down, there are no jobs to be re-trained for! Once-vibrant American communities become ghost towns.

In Mississippi, walk down the main streets in places like Prentiss, or Mendenhall, or Monticello, or my hometown of Bassfield, and you will see what I mean.

NAFTA took away jobs and tore communities apart. We must be mindful of the similar unintended consequences of any future free trade agreements, and not repeat this calamity.

We must protect the people and communities that might otherwise lose jobs if we do not build-in protections for them. We must not turn people into simple statistics. We should not leave any community behind in the name of progress.

Future trade agreements need to address the needs of rural America. I stand ready to work with advocates of Fast Track and other trade agreements if we know they reflect these needs.

But if they don't, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that my colleagues from rural America and I won't be footed again!

DENNIS KOONS: BANKING ON THE FUTURE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close and longtime friend Dennis Koons as he prepares to end the chapter of his life as Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Association of Realtors. Dennis has led many battles during his tenure, but in doing so he has always equally earned the respect and friendship of those on his side as well as those with other viewpoints.

I have known Dennis since our early days as staff members in the State Legislature and it comes as no surprise that his organizational and leadership skills have been instrumental both in his success and in the success of the Michigan Association of Realtors. Dennis has guided this 26,000-member statewide trade association with a steady hand and an eye to the future. His efforts to develop long-range strategic planning will provide untold benefits for the association for years to come.

Dennis has worked hard over the past six years to identify achievable goals and to put the full force and influence of the organization's membership to work in advocating for