

Whereas, the American experiment of government of the people, by the people and for the people stands as a beacon of freedom throughout the world; and

Whereas, the government and people of the United States of America are dedicated to the principles of freedom and individual liberty for all of the world's citizens; and

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, citizens of the United States and of the world were murdered in a dastardly campaign of inhuman atrocities, simply because they dared to live free; and

Whereas, the United States now finds itself at war both at home and abroad for the first time in its history; and

Whereas, the men and women of the United States Armed Services are tasked with the responsibility to defend the people and constitution of the United States of America; and

Whereas, many men and women of Leon County, Florida have answered the call to duty during this crisis.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that the men and women of Leon County who serve in the United States armed services are recognized as our ambassadors of freedom, and that they are further designated, along with their colleagues from every community in the United States, by the citizens of Leon County, Florida, as our emissaries of peace, and the best hope for peace and security for all the free peoples of the Earth. Let it be known that, as the elected representatives of the people of this community, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners declares no compromise possible on the principles of freedom, the requirements of security, and the natural right of every person to live free from the fear of terrorist assault. As such, we once again look to the men and women of our armed services, the finest in the world, to defend our lives, our freedom, and the sacred right of every person to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2001.

It gives me great pleasure to share with my colleagues the generosity of the exceptional people in my district. I hope that we can all stand behind declaration such as this one, and pray for the speedy return of the many soldiers that are putting their lives on the line in the name of freedom. They truly represent the very essence of the red, white and blue.

PATIENT CARE INNOVATION ACT  
OF 2001

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, The United States is facing a serious, long-term, shortage of health care professionals. For example, the demand for nurses will exceed the supply by 2010, when the first of the 78 million Baby Boomers begin to retire and enroll in the Medicare program. Across the board, working in patient care has become more stressful and care givers are leaving their profession as more sicker and elderly patients are entering our hospitals and nursing facilities. The future therefore, will require new models of patient care and the efficient use of the skills of our

increasingly scarce nurses and other health care professionals.

Care giving has always been a demanding profession. Those men and women who go into it—like those who go into teaching—do so out of commitment. Unfortunately, conditions in the work environment are making it virtually impossible for them to fulfill that commitment.

The nursing shortage has set off the alarm and the concern is appropriate. But before effective responses and solutions can be devised, policy makers need to realize that nursing and the health system have been at this crossroads before. Over the past several decades, nursing has found itself caught in a perpetual cycle of workforce shortages and shortsighted solutions that, over the long term, have failed. The result has been more demanding workloads for care-givers with sicker and more older patients and a weakened infrastructure to support patient care.

Nurses are increasingly spending more of their time away from direct medical care. From lifting and moving patients and providing hygienic care to increasing administrative support, over 40 percent of a nurse's hours are spent meeting non health related support activities. This inefficient use of nursing care has directly reduced the level and quality of patient care. Unfortunately, with operating margins the tightest they have ever been, hospitals have scaled back the number of skilled care givers and reduced the mix of qualified nursing personnel to a level where staffing ratios are inconsistent and mandatory overtime has become the necessity.

The "Patient Care Innovation Act of 2001" will lead to the establishment of new, more efficient, postures of patient care.

The legislation establishes a federally funded program of planning grants for the design, and demonstration grants for the implementation and evaluation of new innovative models of patient care delivery that provides quality patient care, recognizes and utilizes the professional competencies of nurses, and creates workplace environments conducive to nurse retention and recruitment, including care giver to patient ratios.

This is an important step. Health care providers need to fundamentally rethink the way in which they organize and deliver patient care to determine if there is a better way to deliver care for both the patient and the care giver. Nurses, health care providers and other direct care givers need to be involved in designing, testing and evaluating new and innovative models of patient care.

The development and testing of new and innovative models of patient care delivery must involve changes in organizational structures and processes; new management practices; greater nurse autonomy and involvement in patient care decision-making; more effective use of support staff; greater interdisciplinary collaboration and the expanded use of technology to reduce manual documentation and repetitive administrative tasks.

Obviously, one solution will not fit all environments. All the more reason for passage of the "Patient Care Innovation Act of 2001". A broad band of responses must be developed if we are to maintain quality patient care and stop the exodus of care givers from the health care profession.

Planning grants will be used to bring together multi disciplinary clinical and administrative teams to assess current patient care delivery systems, collect data, define work and care environment problems, evaluate new approaches and develop innovative models for delivering efficient safe and quality patient care.

Demonstration grants will be used to implement and evaluate innovative models of care to demonstrate and determine their effectiveness in providing quality patient care and increasing the professional satisfaction of nurses within various health care settings.

Health care providers are already struggling to maintain day-to-day operations under restrained payments by Medicare, Medicaid and insurance companies. Grant funding will enable providers to move forward more expeditiously to implement new methods of care while addressing the shortage of health care professionals before it reaches the crisis stage.

Patient care must remain the primary focus of our health care system. The nursing shortage will affect the health care of all Americans unless we act now to create and implement the means to ensure the highest quality of care for all patients. Ultimately, success will mean generating changes in attitudes and practices that have been entrenched in the health care system for decades.

Can the emerging shortage of health care professionals be turned around? To do so, policy makers and planners must go beyond discussing recruitment and increasing the size of educational programs. It will mean generating changes in attitudes and practices that have been entrenched in the health care system for decades. It requires that we engage in a reevaluation of how health care professionals are educated, credentialed and employed. In particular, employers need to create professional work environments that promotes and ensures high-quality, cost effective patient care and that recognizes and rewards the contributions that nurses and other health care professionals make to the very well-being of hospitals and our health care system.

Therefore, I strongly urge all Members of Congress to join with me and sponsor passage of this critical piece of patient health care legislation.

HONORING TWO ESTEEMED RAILROAD INDUSTRY LEADERS, WILLIAM J. DRUNSCIC AND ANTHONY M. LINN, FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF TENNESSE

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the State of Tennessee embarks upon an initiative to create a commuter railroad system, it is most appropriate that members of the U.S. House of Representatives recognize two esteemed leaders in the railroad industry. I am speaking of William J. Drunscic and Anthony M. Linn, whose personal involvement in the concept and planning of this project have had a tremendous impact and have caused this great

effort to stay on course and move forward at a constant and deliberate pace.

Mr. Drunisc and Mr. Linn began their involvement in the railroad industry in Tennessee nearly twenty years ago in March 1983. They have been recognized as leaders in the short line railroad industry for a long while. Today there are some 400 members of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. In Tennessee alone there are 17 short line railroads in operation. Mr. Drunisc and Mr. Linn are either principals or share affiliations with five of the 17 short line operations in the Volunteer State.

Mr. Drunisc, a resident of Manchester Center, Vermont, and Mr. Linn, a resident of Closter, New Jersey, have indeed registered a mark on the railroad industry in Tennessee and in the United States, worthy of this recognition. As Middle Tennessee, and specifically the 5th & 6th Congressional Districts, begin to explore the opportunities of a commuter rail system, these two men will certainly be hailed for their vision and their service toward making this long standing proposition a matter of reality.

Today we congratulate and thank Mr. Drunisc and Mr. Linn for their many contributions to the railroad industry, to the nation, and to the entire State of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH  
ISRAEL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST  
TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 280. This resolution expresses solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism following the recent attacks in Haifa and Jerusalem during the weekend of December 1-2, 2001. This resolution also urges the President to ensure that Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat carries out a sustained campaign against terrorism.

In the latest attacks in this troubled region, Palestinian terrorists took the lives of 26 innocent Israeli citizens and wounded at least 175 others. Those who are responsible for these attacks have committed brutal acts of murder, and no cause can justify their actions. I wish to express my deepest condolences to all of those who have been affected by these tragic events.

As we mourn for the thousands of Americans who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11th, we also mourn for the innumerable men, women, and children of Israel who have suffered at the hands of terrorists for decades. Now more than ever, the United States and Israel are bound together in the common fight for freedom, security, and tolerance for all.

During the past 15 months of violence in the Middle East, the Palestinian leadership has turned a blind eye to terrorist activity within the Palestinian territories. Terrorist groups have

actively recruited new members, planned attacks and carried out violent acts against innocent citizens with little or no fear of punishment by the Palestinian Authority.

Despite numerous commitments made by Mr. Arafat to take action against these terrorists, the violence has continued. The time has come to call on Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to demonstrate a true commitment to the eradication of terrorism in all its forms. We must insist that Mr. Arafat validate his words with real actions and a demonstrable effort to arrest, prosecute and punish perpetrators of terrorist attacks. We must make clear that we will not tolerate terrorism!

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the current challenges to the Middle East peace process are monumental. The prospect for peace is not only contingent on the ability of the Palestinian Authority to combat terrorism, but it is also dependent on the level of commitment from the Israeli leadership. Both sides of this conflict must accept certain compromises, or peace efforts will be in vain. However, we must not abandon our vision of peace, security, and opportunity for all Israelis and Palestinians.

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IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL J.  
BURKE

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Burke, a community leader, a friend and a constituent who passed away on December 6.

Mike was a managing partner of the Cincinnati law firm of Keating Muething and Klekamp, PLL, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of KMK Consulting Company, LLC. He was dedicated, giving, and generous. One of the founders of the law firm, John Muething, said of Mike, "He was a true leader . . . and a constant source of energy and inspiration to others . . ." Don Klekamp, a partner of Mike's for 33 years, recalled that "Mike was an outstanding entrepreneurial business lawyer, but he was more than a lawyer to clients. He was a confidant and trusted advisor."

Very active in his community, Mike was President of Our Lord Christ the King Parish Council, President of the Education Committee, and co-chaired its Capital Campaign to build a parish center. At Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati, Mike was Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Long Tenn Planning Committee, and Chairman of the first Capital Campaign. In 1998, I had the honor of helping to present Mike with the Heart of Gold Award by Boys Hope/Girls Hope. He was also honored as Man of the Year by the Cincinnati Club of the University of Notre Dame.

A graduate of Newport Central Catholic High School, Mike received his B.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the University of Cincinnati, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. He was devoted to his wife, Marcia, and their five children: Tricia, Jennifer, Michael, Brian and Anne.

A close friend, Jim McGraw, managing partner of KMK Consulting, said, "While his journey was cut short, [Mike's] incredible spirit is forever ingrained in the lives of all who worked beside him." All of us who were so enriched by Mike's energy, courage and faith will miss him.

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KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY  
PROMISE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong disappointment with the rhetoric coming from both sides of the aisle on this resolution. We do a disservice to our constituents and to future generations when we bury our heads in the sand and ignore the very real financial challenges facing the Social Security system.

Everyone who has examined the financial outlook of the Social Security system understands that we need to take action to make sure that Social Security remains strong for future generations. The Commission to Strengthen Social Security is to be commended for presenting proposals which deal with the financial deficits facing the Social Security system in a responsible and forthright manner.

Those who cry foul on the Commission's recommendations have a moral obligation to tell the American people how they would address these challenges. While it is easy to criticize those who try to deal with this issue, it is far more difficult to put together a plan that can hold up under a thorough actuarial and budgetary analysis. I would say to my colleagues who have come to the floor to criticize the efforts of the Commission that I look forward to seeing your plan to strengthen Social Security.

There is no way to eliminate the \$20 trillion unfunded liability facing Social Security without making some tough choices somewhere. Folks who insist that we must preserve benefits exactly as promised under current law must explain where the money will come from to fund these promises.

We can either make some tough choices today to honestly deal with the challenges facing Social Security or we can leave a fiscal time bomb for our children and grandchildren. I, for one, do not want my grandchildren to look back sixty-five years from now and say that if only our granddad had done what he knew in his heart had to be done when he had the chance, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in today.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND  
SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 10, the