

connection fees" primarily because of potential confusion resulting from the ambiguity of the term. The sponsors of the legislation were concerned that the IRS would use this ambiguity to exclude a portion of what the state regulators consider CIAC.

As part of our efforts, we developed a revenue raiser in cooperation with the industry to make up any revenue loss due to our legislation, including the three changes. This revenue raiser extended the life, and changed the method, for depreciating water utility property from 20 year accelerated to 25-year straight-line depreciation. As consequence of this sacrifice by the industry, our CIAC change made a net \$274 million contribution toward deficit reduction.

It is my belief that the final revenue estimate done by the Joint Committee on Taxation on the restoration of CIAC included all property treated as CIAC by the industry regulators including specifically service laterals. In an October 11, 1995, letter to Senator GRASSLEY the Joint Committee on Taxation provided revenue estimates for the CIAC legislation. A footnote in this letter states, "These estimates have been revisited to reflect more recent data." The industry had only recently supplied the committee with comprehensive data, which reflected total CIAC in the industry including service laterals.

I urge my colleagues to join with us in sponsoring this important legislation in order to ensure that American homeowners do not face further burdens.

TRIBUTE TO THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS, HIGH COURT OF THE CALIFORNIA NORTH/NEVADA NORTH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Independent Order of Foresters, High Court of the California North/Nevada North, on the occasion of their 43rd Quadrennial Session, for their commitment to providing fraternal and community services to their members and the northern California and Nevada communities.

The concept of Forestry originated hundreds of years ago when people formed groups called Friendly Societies to provide help for one another in times of distress. Based on the spirit of brotherhood and the desire to help in times of need, each family contributed to a fund from which they could draw when emergencies arose. In 1874 in Newark, NJ, a group of people carrying on these early traditions of mutual aid and fraternity started the Independent Order of Foresters.

Today, the 35,000 members of the California North/Nevada North IOF play a variety of roles in our neighborhoods and communities. IOF members are involved in youth scouting and athletic activities, fund-raising for nonprofit organizations, and confronting child abuse through community education and direct service to children and families in crisis.

These are people who care about and are engaged in their communities. This past year, the IOF has sponsored numerous organizations, including the Solano and Contra Costa Food Bank, the Make A Wish Foundation, the Atkinson Youth Center, the Young Life Capernium, Meals on Wheels, the Boys and Girls Club Shelter for Battered Women and Samaritan House, Young Life, the Yellow Brick House, Silver Dollar Court, and the Children's Crisis Center.

The California North/Nevada North IOF meets February 24, 2001, to celebrate their years of commitment to their families and communities. I know I speak for all Members when I thank the IOF for their positive contributions to our communities and wish them continued success in their endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN R. MEYERS, SAN LEANDRO CITY ATTORNEY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend Steve Meyers, upon his retirement after twenty-three years, for dedicated service to the city of San Leandro. Mr. Meyers has served as City Attorney and Redevelopment Agency Counsel to the city of San Leandro since 1979. He has worked with six mayors and four city managers during his tenure as City Attorney and Agency Counsel and has played a central role in many projects during his employment with the city. He has negotiated a number of real estate transactions for both the city and the Redevelopment Agency, which have resulted in achievements such as affordable housing and business expansion in San Leandro.

Mr. Meyers graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara and received his J.D. degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. Upon his graduation in 1973, Mr. Meyers devoted his practice to municipal law serving in the Sacramento City Attorney's Office until moving to San Leandro in 1977. He is admitted to practice in the State courts and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Meyers was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the State Bar Public Law Section in 1994 and served as editor of the Public Law Journal. He has served on the Legislation Committee of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities; served as president of the Bay Area City Attorney's Association and is a recipient of the John J. McCoy Fellowship in Urban Studies. He is currently chairman of the Board of the Bay Planning Coalition.

Upon his retirement from his position with the city of San Leandro, Mr. Meyers assumed the role of Special Counsel to the City on January 1, 2001. I join his friends and colleagues in thanking him for his past contributions and wishing him well in his continued service to the community of San Leandro.

MEDICARE OSTEOPOROSIS MEASUREMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Medicare Osteoporosis Measurement Act of 2001. This Act will extend bone density screening to men—as opposed to just women—being treated for prostate cancer, as well as groups of Medicare-eligible individuals clinically at risk for osteoporosis. Testosterone, the male sex hormone, is a major factor in stimulating the growth of prostate cancer. Testosterone suppression therapy is a well respected and often used treatment to control advanced prostate cancer. Unfortunately, the treatment also predisposes these men to osteoporosis.

Although osteoporosis is commonly thought of as a disease that affects only women, about one third of all men will suffer an osteoporotic fracture in their lifetime. These men often do not know that they are at risk until a bone fracture occurs because external symptoms are rarely present. This could be prevented with a simple and cost-effective test. The cost of bone density screening is less than \$200 and would be an effective way to decrease the \$14 billion spent each year on direct medical costs for osteoporosis and related fractures.

Osteoporosis affects more than five million men in the U.S. Early detection is a key component in containing the human and economic cost of this disease. Please join me in supporting this legislation to bring parity to the Medicare program and help combat this preventable disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I inadvertently missed a vote on rollcall 4, adopting the rules package. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted in favor of the measure.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Black History Month for 2001.

Beginning in 1926 we have set aside a special time to celebrate Black History. Mr. Carter G. Woodson established this period for one week in February, the month that includes the birthdays of President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both of whom made immense contributions to civil rights. Today, we set aside the entire month of February to celebrate Black History, and the men and women who

have made that history. So many of these men and women have yet to receive the credit which they justly deserve for their many contributions. As this new millennium goes forward we must continue to educate our country of these outstanding great African-American men and women.

African-Americans have been fighting for the United States since before our Independence was declared and have continued throughout the course of history. The first American to lose his life to the Revolution was Crispus Attucks, a free black man of Boston, Massachusetts during the infamous Boston massacre. Since then African-Americans have served in every great war. Many fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War, and at least 400,000 African-American men fought in World War I. During World War II more than 1 million African-American men served in the Armed Forces, and at least 4,000 women also served the U.S.

African-Americans have also taken leadership roles and involved themselves in the politics of the nation. During the 19th century, many African-Americans were Abolitionists fighting against the injustices of slavery. Some examples of these great abolitionists included Frederick Douglass, a former slave and established writer, and Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, who helped organize the Underground railroad as well as their fight for the rights of women.

After the success of the Civil War, African Americans such as W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington fought to bring the lingering discrimination to its de facto conclusion. They wrote and spoke out against the Jim Crow laws of the south. Their intentions were furthered towards the latter half of the 20th century by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, both of whom fought for racial equality in a country that still had not reached its potential. Because of these accomplishments, there have been many African-American men and women serving in the United States Congress. We have had in our Supreme Court and still have African-American Justices, beginning with Justice Marshall and currently with Justice Thomas. And with the new administration that we have just ushered in, we have Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, and Condoleezza Rice as our National Security Adviser.

African-American men and women have contributed greatly to other facets of our society, constantly improving it for future generations. They have been artists, musicians, athletes, educators and scientists. Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to play for a major league baseball team and will be memorialized as the man who broke the color barrier. Today, there are African-American athletic heroes like NBA star Michael Jordan and Marion Jones, member of the U.S. Olympic team. With the onset of the Harlem Renaissance musicians like Scott Joplin and Ella Fitzgerald flourished, leading the way for other African-American musicians. Writers like Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes led the way for contemporary writers such as Toni Morrison. Many African-Americans have taken great strides in science and medicine. Dr. Charles Richard Drew organized the concept of blood banks and ran the first full time blood

bank during World War II. Several African-American men and women have worked with our Space Program including Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the first African-American female astronaut.

In my home in Orange County, NY, a recently published book entitled "Genealogical History of Black Families of Orange County" by local author Robert W. Brennan, traces the history of our local African-American families. It underscores the bittersweet truth that the crime of slavery was NOT, as many lead us to believe, an unpopular crime against humanity confined to certain southern states. In fact, the book makes clear that while slavery was abolished in New York State on July 4, 1827, the lingering residue of racial bigotry continued for many, many years afterwards—and, in some ways, right up to the present.

Black History Month is an appropriate time to look forward as well as to the past. We must continue to fight against inequalities. We must continue to push all of our children to reach their potential and to achieve their goals.

Our society's strength rests within all its inhabitants. Today, and throughout this month we rightfully honor the African-Americans who have added to the strengths of our great nation as well as all of humanity. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to express their appreciation for the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation.

NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that I believe is vital to the safety of our children as they make their way to and from school. The introduction of this legislation is especially timely as we observe National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 12th–16th.

Each day, parents in this country send their children off to school believing their young ones will arrive safely. However, since 1985, close to 1,500 people have died in school bus related accidents. These numbers reveal the need for action to make school buses safer. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians gave their support and endorsement to identical legislation in the last session of Congress.

The basic design of the large yellow school bus has not been changed since 1977. While the design of high-back padded seats known as "compartmentalization" provides protection in head-on collisions, it does nothing to secure passengers during rear-end, side-impact and rollover collisions. In these situations, children can be thrown from their seats, into one another or into aisles, blocking quick evacuation.

My legislation would require seat belts on school buses by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, delivery, or importation of school buses without seat belts. In addition, the measure would impose civil penalties for those that do not comply.

Daily, 23.5 million children are taken to and from schools and school-related activities by roughly 440,000 public school buses. Since these buses travel nearly 4.3 billion miles each year with young people on board, it is imperative that every precaution be taken to ensure their safety.

Since I last introduced this legislation, the states of Florida, Louisiana, and California have joined the states of New Jersey and New York to require seat belts on school buses. I commend the action of these states, and I urge my fellow colleagues to support the legislation to help make the trip to and from school safer for all of our nation's school children.

MR. AMIGO 2000

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2000 "Mr. Amigo," Jorge Muñiz, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries. Their selection honors a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 23–27 and will include parades and appearances by Mr. Muñiz. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. As Mr. Amigo 2000, Muñiz will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexico border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future. The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen.

The 2000 Mr. Amigo, Mr. Muñiz, is a singer and TV host. The selection of Jorge Muñiz, cohost of the weekly music TV show "Al fin de semana," comes almost 10 years after his father, another Mexican singer, Marco Antonio Muñiz, also served as Mr. Amigo. The realization that he followed his father with this honor was quite emotional for him.