are seeking solutions to this terrible crisis, I am introducing this bill in an effort to formulate a long-term energy plan.

The Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act will provide tax incentives for the construction of energy efficient buildings. Structures of this nature could potentially cut energy usage by as much as 50 percent. This would result in a nearly 6 percent reduction in air emissions over the next 10 years—equivalent to taking 40 percent of the automobiles off the road.

The bill will offer tax incentives to encourage the production and sale of technologically advanced, energy-efficient buildings and equipment. The legislation is structured to promote the creation of competitive markets for new technologies and designs that are not widely available today, but have the possibility of being cost effective to the consumer in the future. The incentives will apply to:

- Efficient new residential buildings that save 30 percent to 50 percent in energy costs compared to national model codes, including a higher incentive for higher savings.
- Efficient heating, cooling, and water heating equipment that reduce emissions and peak electric loads by about 20 percent (lower incentives) and 30 percent–50 percent (higher incentives) compared to national standards.
- Efficient commercial buildings with 50 percent energy and power cost savings.
- Residential-scale solar hot water and photovoltaic equipment.

The design and administration for these energy efficient structures is based on the track record of successful state programs over the past decade. Buildings account for some 35 percent of air pollution emissions nationwide, and cost their owners over $250 billion a year in energy costs. They also contribute to well over half of peak electric power demand. If enacted promptly the incentives in this bill will begin to mitigate electric peak reliability problems by the summer of 2001.

This bill will help both families and businesses reduce energy costs, saving over $80 billion in present value over the next decade. Energy costs of businesses are deductible under current law, so reductions in energy costs means billions of dollars in saving to the Federal government.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act. Together we can provide for a cleaner environment and help reduce energy costs of businesses reduce annual energy costs, saving over $80 billion in present value over the next 10 years—equivalent to taking 40 percent of the automobiles off the road.

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RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE GULF WAR

SPECH OF
HON. TAMMY BALDWIN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 10th Anniversary of the cease-fire that ended the Gulf War, to recognize those who served in our country’s military during this conflict. Across this nation families and friends will honor the many who served and sacrificed for our nation. I deeply honored to observe this day and I salute all those who served in our nation’s military during this time of war, of containment, and of peace-making, and peace-keeping.

I believe that we must take every opportunity possible to honor our service members, veterans, and their families. We must honor them for giving their time and energies and, too often, their lives in the service of our nation. In addition to honoring them through words, we must also honor them through action. Too many Gulf War service members and their families have been forgotten in the years that have followed the War. They have been left on their own to discover why their lives have changed forever because of fatigue and sickness that cannot be explained. Today, I ask that we all commit ourselves to honoring those who served in the Gulf War by doing everything within our power to solve this ongoing mystery. We must do everything within our power to assure that the men and women who have served our nation in its time of need are being served in their time of need.

To all who served in our nation’s military and their loved ones who waited and worried at home, we honor your service and your sacrifices. Not just today, but every day.

H.R. 775: IMPROVING OUR ELECTION LAWS

SPECH OF
HON. STEPHEN HORN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to today join with our colleague, Mr. HOYER, and others in introducing the Voting Improvement Act of 2001. As we all know, the past election produced a great deal of confusion, turmoil and uncertainty. Although there were a number of factors in producing that confusion, one major factor in Florida and other states was the continuing use of outdated and even antiquated punch card voting systems.

The bill we are introducing today tackles this problem immediately and directly by establishing a grant program for the states to replace all punch card systems before the next national election in 2002. In short, this bill provides a proven solution to solving some of our most troublesome voting equipment problems.

As Mr. HOYER has noted, punch card systems have the highest rate of error among all voting methods—one study by MIT and Caltech recently estimated that the nationwide error rate for punch cards is 2.5 percent. In a nation wide election, that would mean nearly 1 million votes are thrown out and never counted due to mistakes caused by punch card systems. Clearly, we need to make replacement of these antiquated systems a high priority.

In addition to immediate equipment replacement, this bill establishes an ongoing grant program to assure that new voting systems are developed and deployed so that voters have up-to-date systems in the future. The bill also assures that voter education and training of poll workers are given increased attention and support. And, it establishes a permanent bipartisan commission to act as a nationwide resource for information gathering and studying the “best practices” for ballot design and other basic election needs.

Mr. Speaker, the Voting Improvement Act is one of several proposals being introduced for overhauling our election laws and making certain that we never repeat the chaos of the past election. All of these demand careful review and the development of a bipartisan consensus for sound reform. This bill sets clear priorities and offers practical solutions that must be part of any final reform plan. I urge our colleagues to join us in this effort.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES JAMES B. GOLDEN, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

SPECH OF
HON. RUSCH D. HOLT
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I speak in recognition of James B. Golden, Jr. and his ongoing dedication to serving the growing needs of Central New Jersey families. I join with the Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the dedication Director Golden has shown working to address the needs of a diverse community.

On March 13, 2000, James was appointed Director of the Trenton Police Department. In this capacity he oversees a department of 511 sworn and civilian employees who protect and serve more than 88,000 citizens in and around New Jersey’s capital city.

Prior to joining the force in Trenton, Director Golden held the position of Chief of Police with the Saginaw, Michigan Police Department.

Director Golden comes to Trenton with a long and outstanding career. He is a graduate of the 1979th session of the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) at Harvard University, and the Temple University Public Service Management Institute.

He is a Past President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). While in Saginaw, he served on the Advisory Board of the St. Mary’s Medical Center; he was a member of Boys and Girls Club Board of Trustees and was the immediate Past Chairman of the Saginaw County Crime Prevention Council.