that the Lyme disease is greatly under-reported. Thus, we must urge CDC to re-examine its surveillance system to see where improvements can be made. There are both fine examples of the permanent imprint that Iron Workers 17 has cast on thousands of structures in the state. This community of working people who dedicated men and women that comprise the Iron Workers Local 17 is evident across the landscape of Northern Ohio. The bridges that span Ohio’s beautiful rivers and The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are both fine examples of the work of its members. In the turbulent years that followed, union iron workers learned how to deal with steel industry giants, often initiating strikes to gain fair labor practices. By the end of World War I, the unions successfully established the eight-hour day and five-day workweek.

Local 17 thrived in the midst of the great industrial expansion of the 1920’s. In this decade, the largest building project in Cleveland’s history, The Cleveland Union Terminal complex including the landmark Terminal Tower, was completed. During World War II, iron-workers, dedicated to the ideals of the United States, served in all branches of the military and were even recruited to work as “seabees” by the Navy to repair aircraft carriers and battleships. Iron workers on the homefront associated with war and the workers around the country building power plants, hydroelectric facilities, and dams needed in the war effort. In the decades following the war, iron workers were busy rebuilding the bridges and highways in disrepair after many years of use. Presently, Local 17 is enjoying renewed respect with growing membership and cordial relationships with contractors.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the thousands of dedicated men and women that brave tough conditions at great personal risk to keep Cleveland growing.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR ACT OF 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 802, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, which would create a national medal for public safety officers who exhibit extraordinary heroism in the line of duty.

As someone who once aspired to serve in law enforcement and a proud member of both the Congressional Law Enforcement and Firefighters Caucus, I deeply admire those who devote their lives to public safety.

We are blessed to have dedicated men and women public safety officials throughout this country who consistently protect their lives on a daily basis to protect our families and communities. It is absolutely critical that we recognize these local public servants and ensure that the risks that these brave individuals assume in the course of their duties are not taken for granted.

Although many local public safety organizations honor those who have demonstrated bravery, the federal government does little to reward and recognize these individuals. By passing the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, Congress would have the unique opportunity to express its appreciation for the unnoticed acts of valor committed by public safety officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Further, this legislation will help send a positive message across the country that our public safety officers deserve our utmost respect for their service and sacrifices.

I will continue to applaud the courage and dedication to duty of all public safety officers and would strongly urge my colleagues to support the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act.

INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2001. This bill would provide regulatory relief to small and mid-sized telephone companies that generally serve small town and rural communities. The current regulatory burdens on these small companies are the same as those placed on large companies; but, because of their size, these regulations are very costly and time-consuming. The regulatory burdens tend to discourage competition in rural communities by impeding the entry of new companies into these markets. These burdens also pose obstacles to the development in rural communities of advanced services such as broadband Internet access.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 provided for reduced regulations and greater competition in our country. This has fostered many new telecommunications and information services including advanced services. However, the benefits of these technological advances have been enjoyed by urban and suburban communities much more than by persons who live in small towns and rural communities. Large telephone companies and other entities tend to have the resources required to develop these advanced services and find the urban and suburban markets more attractive. The deployment of advanced services in urban areas contrasted with the difficulty of small companies offering these services in rural areas has exacerbated the digital divide.

We must find ways to bridge this divide. Relieving certain regulatory burdens may help achieve this objective. The proponents of this bill and many small telephone companies promise that they will use the savings resulting from the elimination of these regulatory burdens to extend advanced services. Some question whether the savings resulting from this measure would simply increase profits of the small telephone companies with no corresponding increase in services. Some note that this bill does not impose a reciprocal obligation to extend services following the relaxation of current regulatory requirements, and does not include any enforcement mechanisms. We hope that the small telephone companies which benefit from the adoption of this bill will do the right thing and act in the best
Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, next month marks the start of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I am honored to introduce the CASTLE program on this important occasion and look forward to celebrating the care, comfort and protection our society has made for our nation for his courageous and exemplary service, was given the opportunity of joining the elite Navy Seals. Petty Officer Danielson served our nation supporting Task Force Falcon during Operation Guardian in Kosovo. During his outstanding career, Petty Officer Danielson earned several medals and commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Mr. Speaker, America lost one of her finest with the untimely passing of Petty Officer Second Class Scott Michael Danielson. His passing reminds us of the danger that the men and women of our military face in both times of peace and war.

Our grateful nation mourns the loss of Petty Officer Second Class Scott Michael Danielson and extends its sympathies to Scott’s loved ones. His family should be proud of the life he lived and should never doubt the gratitude of his nation for his courageous and exemplary service.