Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, we have always looked to those who risked themselves for a greater purpose. Some of our heroes left their mark with a flourish, and some carried out their role with only silent dignity, yet we have always respected them with our gratitude and our honor.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge is a simple piece of cloth; a musket bordered by a wreath on a pale blue background. But the risk, sacrifice, and indeed, heroism that it represents is real.

To these forty-three brave American soldiers, we owe a great debt. Decades may have passed since that November morning they stood tall and protected us, but the memory shall not fade. History will never forget their courage.

GETTING OUR GIRLS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (GO GIRL!)

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what’s wrong with this picture? Females make up slightly more than 50 percent of this country’s population, yet, less than 30 percent of America’s scientists are women. Even fewer engineers are women—less than 10 percent.

In 1994 there were 209 tenured faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—15 of them were women!

Of course, these figures aren’t surprising when you learn that in 1985 women earned less than thirty percent of the bachelor degrees in the physical sciences, and, less than ten percent of the bachelor degrees in engineering.

You don’t even want to hear the percentage of Ph.D.s in science and math-based fields that are earned by women. Just to give you an example, about eight percent of the Ph.D.s in physics in 1988 were awarded to women.

My colleagues may be asking themselves, “So what . . . is this some national problem?”

Yes—this is a big problem. A big problem for employers; a big problem for women as future wage earners; and a big problem for our nation as we compete in the global marketplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that between 1994 and 2005, the number of women in the labor force will be growing twice as quickly as men.

A recent study of school-to-work projects found ninety percent of the girls clustered in five traditionally female occupations. My colleagues do not need me to tell them that careers in traditionally female occupations pay far less than careers in science, math, and technology. For example, a data analyst can earn more than $100,000 a year while a licensed practical nurse makes less than $25,000 a year. And a kindergarten teacher makes only $18,044 a year.

In addition, the National Science Foundation reports that the jobs facing workers will require higher skill levels in science, math, and technology than ever before.

The NSF report is verified by a letter I recently received from the American Electronics Association. They wrote to tell me that today the hi-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers. And, the future looks even worse. A recent AEA report showed that the number of degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics have actually declined since 1990.

Quite clearly, there is no way that America can have a technically competent workforce if the majority of students―females―continue not to study science, math and technology.

That is why today I am introducing a bill to help school districts encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology. Although my bill is formally titled “Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act” it will be known as “Go Girl!”

“Go Girl!” will create a bold new workforce of energized young women in science, math and technology. “Go Girl!” is modeled on the Trio program, which has successfully encouraged two million low income students, whose parents never attended college, to attend and graduate from college. Similarly, the lack of female role models has channeled female interest in studying science, math, and technology.

Girls, and their parents, first, must be able to envision a career in these fields for themselves and their daughters. Then, they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements.

“Go Girl!” follows girls from the fourth grade, the grade in which girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, through high school.

To encourage girls’ interest in math, science and technology in the early grades, girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models. Older girls will visit college campuses and meet with students and professors in these fields.

“Go Girl!” participants benefit from tutoring and mentoring, including programs using the internet, such as the “design your future program” started by Carol Bartz, the president of Autodesk Software Company.

American school girls are close to fifty percent of America’s future workforce. If they turn away from careers in science, math, and technology, we will be short changing our employers and our young women.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending a new message to our girls in school—a message that says, “you go, girl!” to a career in science, mathematics and technology.

WAGE AND LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAN TERRITORIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the ongoing wage and labor rights violations in factories operating in some of our American territories, and I ask that my colleagues join me in passing legislation that will bring our American territories into compliance with the federal laws that protect workers throughout the United States.

The issue: Allegations that Asian workers were forced to work at an American Samoan garment sweatshop under inhuman conditions have resulted in federal charges here. Human rights and labor abuses uncovered on the Northern Marianas Island of Saipan three years ago embarrassed U.S. garment manufacturers, resulting in lawsuits and federal legislation targeted for the islands north of Guam. Sweatshop conditions as bad if not worse in American Samoa have prompted criminal charges in federal court.

The two cases suggest that U.S. territories in the Pacific have been vulnerable to such abuses far more than had been assumed. Reform legislation that failed in the last Congress should be rejuvenated and broadened to include all U.S. possessions.

About 14,000 workers, mostly young women, from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand were lured by promises of good wages to pay fees of up to $10,000 to enter the labor force in the Northern Marianas. In 1998, federal lawsuits accused 32 contractors on Saipan of beatings, forced abortions and rat-infested quarters in essentially a prison environment surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards.
Major clothing retailers in the United States that have been targets of lawsuits in Saipan settled lawsuits by agreeing to establish a $1.25 million fund to finance monitoring, compensate workers and create a public education program.

Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii won Senate approval of a bill to extend U.S. immigration and minimum-wage laws to the Marianas and allow “Made in the USA” labels only on garments on which more than half the work had been done by American citizens. The measure died in the House.

Mr. Speaker, John Fristachi and his wife Betsy have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off “fair winds and following seas.”

**TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN FRISTACI**

HON. JERRY LEWIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander John C.P. Fristachi, who served with distinction and dedication for almost three years for the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as a Principle Assistant in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in April of 1998, Commander Fristachi has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associated staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our country.

Mr. Speaker, John Fristachi and his wife Betsy have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off “fair winds and following seas.”

**NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK**

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Each year, the second week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators.

Telecommunicators are civilians across this country who provide the vital link between the public and emergency service responders, be they police, fire or EMS. They provide the radio, telephone, computer and other communication services that save lives and keep our communities safe and secure. Too often, the importance of this job and the contribution these individuals make, go unnoticed.

Today, I would like to recognize and thank the telecommunicators who serve the 20th District of Illinois. They are: Karen Giese, Lora Furlong, Michelle Tarvin, Teri Roado, Nancy Pohlman, Sarah Richey, DeAnna Fare, Lora C. Furlong, Robert I. Castens, Lillian I. Rutherford, Tammy S. Giacomelli, and Sherri M. Deeder.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest appreciation to these and all telecommunicators for taking distressed callers through CPR, calming hysterical crime victims, and making the difficult decisions using limited information to save lives and reduce property damage on a daily basis.

**STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PROTECTION ACT**

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Structured Settlement Protection Act. This legislation protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements and brings a final resolution to the issue known as “factoring” of structured settlement payments.

In introducing this legislation, I am joined by my colleague Mr. Stark and by a broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee, including Mr. Houghton and Mr. Coyne, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member respectively of the Oversight Subcommittee which held a hearing on the structured settlement factoring issue in the last Congress. There are a total of 19 Ways and Means co-sponsors of this important legislation.

I am a long-time supporter of the use of structured settlements to compensate victims of physical injuries. Structured settlements constitute a private sector funding alternative to taxpayer-financed programs to meet the ongoing, long-term medical and living needs of seriously-injured victims and their families. Structured settlements enable these injured people to live with dignity, free of reliance on government. For these reasons, Congress adopted special tax rules to encourage the use of structured settlements to provide long-term financial security to injured victims and their families.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act that I am introducing today addresses concerns which have been raised over the “factoring” of structured settlement payments, in which factoring or settlement purchase companies buy up part or all of the structured settlement in exchange for future payments for cash. My legislation is part of a single overall package of complementary Federal and State legislation that has been agreed upon by the structured settlement industry and the factoring industry to resolve these concerns.

Under the Structured Settlement Protection Act, the States are given the consumer protection role. The Act relies upon a State court review process to govern a proposed factoring transaction to ensure that the structured settlement serves the purpose Congress intended—providing long-term financial security for the injured victim and the victim’s family—while enabling the victim to get access to future payments should the court determine that such access is in the best interests of the victim, taking into account the welfare and support of the victim’s dependents, and does not contravene other applicable statutes and existing court orders.

The complementary State model legislation agreed upon by the structured settlement and factoring industries specifies the process for State court review. Legislation similar to the State model has now been enacted in 19 States and is being actively considered in some 20 other States during the current State legislative cycle.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements by providing the threat of an excise tax sanction to ensure compliance with State regulation in light of the multi-State nature of the factoring business, as well as resolving Federal tax uncertainties which factoring has created for the other parties to the structured settlement.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act is similar to legislation that I introduced in the last Congress along with Mr. Stark and a similarly broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee.

This legislation has been agreed to by the National Structured Settlements Trade Association (NSSTA) on behalf of the structured settlement industry and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers (NASP) on behalf of the factoring industry. In light of the