fairness to our daily policy, but consumers of fluid milk across the nation will also benefit from this reform. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ON LOYALTY DAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a fine group of men and women who share a profound commitment of patriotism, comradeship and service to our nation’s veterans, both in times of war and in times of peace.

These outstanding men and women of every race, creed and ethnic background will celebrate Loyalty Day on May 1, 2001. This day is set aside as a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Yet, this day does not belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars alone; it belongs to all Americans. We should all pledge ourselves to maintain a free society in which loyalty is always encouraged and respected. We should let the world know that Americans are behind their country and that, because of this, America is still a strong and vibrant nation.

I would like to specifically recognize the people in my district who have dedicated their time to support a Loyalty Day celebration. The Third District Commander Walter Liptak and Ladies Auxiliary President Diane M. Pencak, in conjunction with Loyalty Day Chairman James F. Davis, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Barbara Maruszak-Sparr and Anthony S. Maruszak and the local community are gathering on Sunday, April 29, 2001, to commemorate Loyalty Day.

I commend all our Veterans of Foreign Wars on this Loyalty Day, May 1, 2001 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

HELP MORE FULL-TIME WORKERS BRING HOME A DECENT PAYCHECK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 7 I introduced the “Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act” legislation to mandate a livable wage for employees under Federal contracts and subcontracts. Seventy representatives currently cosponsor this important legislation.

Nearly a third of the members of the U.S. labor force work full-time, year-round and still do not earn enough to sustain a family of four at no less than the poverty threshold of $17,650 per year for a family of four. Employees who work hard at full-time jobs should be paid a wage that assures they will not live in poverty.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

To address this problem, this Act requires that:

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts of more than $10,000 be paid the greater of $8.49 per hour or the hourly wage necessary to reach the poverty level.

Individuals hired by the United States government also receive a living wage, helping thousands of more workers to stay above the poverty level.

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts and individuals hired by the United States government receive benefits such as medical or hospital care, vacation and holiday pay, disability and sickness insurance, life insurance and pensions.

Although Congress passed laws such as the Davis Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act to help ensure that employees of Federal contractors earn a decent wage, thousands of federal workers and federally contracted workers still do not earn enough to support themselves or their families.

This legislation will allow hard-working Americans to earn quality wages and to increase their savings for such essential needs as their retirement and their children’s education. We believe the Federal government must take reasonable, workable steps to reward working Americans and to help keep them out of poverty. This bill represents a practical step toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of this meaningful legislation for the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

H. R. 927
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
The Congress finds the following:

(1) According to data from fiscal year 1999, approximately 162,000 Federal contract workers represent 11 percent of the total 1.4 million Federal contract workers in the United States.

(2) As of September 2000, 14,356 workers employed by the Federal Government earned less than the poverty level for a family of four.

(3) A majority of workers earning less than a living wage are adult females working full-time. A disproportionate number of workers earning less than a living wage are minorities.

(4) The Federal Government provides billions of dollars to businesses each year, through spending programs, grants and Government-funded financing.

(5) In fiscal year 1999, the Federal Government awarded contracts worth over $338 billion.

(6) Congress must ensure that Federal dollars are used responsibly to improve the economic security and well-being of Americans across the country.

SEC. 3. POVERTY-LEVEL WAGE.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other law that does not specifically exempt itself from this Act and except as provided in subsection (b), the Federal Government and any employer under a Federal contract for an amount exceeding $10,000 (or a subcontract under such a contract) shall pay to each of their respective workers—

(1) an hourly wage (on a salary equivalent) sufficient for a worker to earn, while working 40 hours a week on a full-time basis, the amount of the Federal poverty level for a family of four (as published in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)); and

(2) an additional amount, determined by the Secretary based on the locality in which a worker resides, sufficient to cover the costs to such worker to obtain any fringe benefits not provided by the worker’s employer.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

(1) A small-business concern (as that term is used in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(2) A nonprofit organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)), the ratio of the total wages of the chief executive officer of such organization to the wages of the full-time equivalent of the lowest paid worker is not greater than 25 to 1.

(c) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—It shall be unlawful for any employer subject to subsection (a) to terminate or suspend the employment of a worker on the basis of such worker’s allegation of a violation of subsection (a).

(d) CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.—Any contract subject to subsection (a) shall contain a provision requiring the Federal contractor to ensure that any worker hired under such contract (or a subcontract thereof) shall be paid in accordance with subsection (a).

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines (in a written finding setting forth a detailed explanation of such determination), after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, that a Federal contractor (or any subcontractor thereof) subject to section 3 has engaged in a pattern or practice of violations of section 3, the following shall apply to such Federal contractor:

(1) CONTRACT CANCELLATION.—After final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the United States may cancel any contract (or the remainder thereof) with the Federal contractor that is a part of the pattern or practice of violations.

(2) RESTITUTION.—A Federal contractor whose contract is cancelled under paragraph (1) shall be liable to the United States in an amount equal to the costs to the Government in obtaining a replacement contractor to cover the remainder of any contract cancelled under paragraph (1).

(3) CONTRACT INELIGIBILITY.—After final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the Federal contractor shall be ineligible to enter into, extend, or renew a contract with the United States for a period of five years after the date of such adjudication.

(4) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice describing the ineligibility of the Federal contractor under paragraph (3).

(b) SAFE HARBOR.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if—