Mr. Chairman, under current Federal law, minors aged 14 and 15 may not work for more than three hours a day and a maximum of 18 hours a week, when school is in session. It is also unlawful for 14- and 15-year-olds to work before 7 a.m. and after 8 p.m. so that work will not interfere with learning. Minors who are 16 and 17, however, face no federal restrictions when it comes to the number of hours they can work, and they are often required to work late into the night.

I recently introduced legislation, H.R. 961, the Young Workers Fairness Act of Rights, which would set sensible limits to the hours teenagers work in addition to their academic schooling. Mr. Chairman, I urge the Committee to consider including the provisions of this bill in your reauthorization of the ESEA. My legislation would reduce the hours 14- and 15-year-olds would be allowed to work while school is in session, while also setting standards for the number of hours that 16- and 17-year-olds can work while school is in session. My legislation caps the hours of 14- and 15-year-olds at fifteen hours per week. The hours for 16- and 17-year-olds would be limited to 20 hours per week. When one adds these hours onto the average amount of time a teenager spends in school, the student is still putting in close to 40 hours a week. This does not include time spent on homework, extracurricular activities, or time spent just being a teenager. I think we can agree that too many teenagers are working long hours at the very time they should be focusing on their education.

Mr. Chairman, I am unequivocally stating that I, and supporters of my legislation, do not oppose children taking on after school employment. We firmly believe that children are working long hours at the very time they face no federal restrictions when it comes to working. Furthermore, it is not our aim to discourage employers from hiring young people. Rather, our goal is to ensure that the employment opportunities available to young people are meaningful, safe, healthy, and do not interfere with their important academic responsibilities. A solid education—not after-school employment—is the key to a successful future. Mr. Chairman, as you and the rest of your committee began to debate the reauthorization of the ESEA, I strongly urge you to consider the sensible limits that my legislation sets forth. These common-sense limits provide American teenagers the ability to have both a valuable academic instruction, while learning the value of work.

TRIBUTE TO BEECH ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 2001, in Granville South Carolina, the Beech Island Historical Society will host the Fifteenth Annual Beech Island Heritage Day Celebration. As in the past, the theme of Heritage Day is 315 years of Beech Island history. To illustrate the theme, historians and craftsmen will demonstrate ancient skills practiced by Native Americans and early American skills that settlers brought with them to Beech Island. Re-enactors also recreate Beech Island history from Colonial days to the Civil War era.

The theme of this year’s 15th Heritage Day is the history of “Silver Bluff—A Celebrated Place.” Silver Bluff, located on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River about 10 miles from Beech Island, was visited in the 1500’s–1700’s by Spanish and English explorers and was the site of Irishman George Galphin’s trading post and plantation and British Fort Dreadnought, which was recaptured by revolutionary forces under Lieutenant Colonel Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee in 1781.

This year’s Heritage Day will feature a wide variety of Colonial and Early American craftsmen demonstrating traditional, but almost forgotten skills, such as: molding pewter, gunsmithing, hand sewing, blacksmithing, spinning, quilting, basket weaving and chair caning. Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in congratulating the Beech Island Historical Society for hosting this wonderful event.

HONORING SERGEANT PHILLIP THICK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise and pay tribute to the men and women of Lapeer County, Michigan, Sheriff’s Department. These brave men and women constantly and diligently work to improve and defend the quality of human life. On May 11, the Department will honor one of its own, as friends, family, and colleagues will gather to celebrate the retirement of Sgt. Phillip Thick after more than 30 years of service.

Phillip Thick was born in my hometown of Flint in 1949. His family moved to Lapeer, where he graduated from Lapeer High School in 1967. From there, Phillip went on and graduated the police academy, and later attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico. Phillip has enjoyed a tremendous career in Lapeer County. From his beginnings as a police cadet, he became a Detective/Sergeant in 1970, and has maintained this position throughout his career. During this time he became qualified as an expert in fingerprint identification, fire scene investigation, traffic investigation, photography, and drowned body recovery. He became a Deputy Medical Examiner and was state certified as an AFIS Operator last year. In 1995, Sgt. Thick was honored by his peer as Deputy of the Year. Sgt. Thick’s contributions outside the police force are just as significant. In addition to being a member of the FBI National Academy Association, he is a member of the AFIS Internet Association, and the Lapeer Masonic Lodge. His experience as a photographer has allowed him to become a member of Wedding and Portrait Photographers International. Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally proud to have a person in my district like Sergeant Phillip Thick. It takes a special kind of person to patrol our streets and ensure our citizens’ safety, and thanks to his dedication and commitment to justice, Lapeer County is a better
place. I would also like to recognize Phillip’s wife, Christina Lisa, and his children Matthew and Amanda. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating Phillip and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF CUB SPOUT PACK 180 OF HOLDEN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cub Scouts Pack 180 of Holden, Massachusetts. On this day, April 6, 2001, 6 young men completed one journey and are beginning another. They are Jake Abysahl, Carter Bame-Aldred, Matthew Esposito, Jason O’Connell, Connor Rooke, and Evan Shaughnessy. During a crossover graduation ceremony, they received the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award in Cub Scouts along with their Boy Scout’s Badge and Handbook. This ceremony begins their new adventures into Boy Scouts and continues their dedicated work to the community. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, sixty-one years after the horrible tragedy. Memorial Services will be held on April 7, 2001 at the Katyn Monument site in Jersey City, New Jersey.

In September, 1939, Poland was invaded by Soviet troops, while boldly and courageously fighting the Nazi invasion in the West. The Polish army, which was hopelessly over-extended fighting both the Germans and the Soviets, succumbed to those incredible odds.

In April and May, 1940, in an area called the Katyn Forest, over four thousand Polish soldiers, army officers, intellectual leaders, prisoners of war, members of the intelligensia, and Polish civilians were executed by Soviet troops and the Soviet secret police on direct order from Joseph Stalin. An estimated 21,000 Polish citizens died in Katyn, Miednoye, and Kharkiv, as well as other areas. These horrendous crimes are commemorated as the Katyn Forest Massacre.

On September 16, 2000, the Polish American Congress, the Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee, and the Siberian Society of Florida sponsored a memorial service in honor of the victims.

Today, I honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. I commend their courage and sacrifice. They fought against terrible aggression, and not only fought for their own freedom, for the world’s freedom as well.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. And I ask that we honor their sacrifice for freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, due to a cancellation of an airplane flight from my district yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and thus absent for three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for roll call vote number 76, “yea” for vote number 77, and “yea” for vote number 78.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KATSUYA MIYAHIRA & M. I. SEIKICHI SENSEI

HON. MIKE ROGERS OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Katsuya Miyahira who has had a distinguished career in martial arts. Currently, he is the President of the Okinawa Shorin Ryu Shido-kan and continues to teach children the art of karate. His teachings are in accordance with Master Itosu, whom he studied under as a student. The form of karate he was taught was of the Chibana Choisin, of which he is the successor and heir.

Mr. Miyahira has lectured about the value of karate to young people and from the “Seven Virtues of Martial Arts” has said, “Martial arts forbids violence, suppresses an uprising, keeps one from corruption, establishes honor, for one, pacifies the public, makes harmony among people, and makes one rich. These are the seven virtues of martial arts.” He continues to say that martial arts “can be a helpful tool for one’s life; it adds value to one’s ability, secures a sure means of living, and even makes one rich.” Mr. Katsuya Miyahira lives by these words and teaches his pupils by these words also.

In addition to his teachings, Mr. Katsuya Miyahira has been honored by the Japan Martial Arts Association and is a judan I0th dan as a karate Hanshi (master). Furthermore, as an elder in karate he is in charge of the Okinawa Karate Conference while continuing to teach his art to others.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Iha Seikichi Sensei, who is also an accomplished martial arts expert. He presently runs his own center in Lansing, Michigan called the Original Okinawa Karate Dojo. Furthermore, he is the United States Branch Chief of Okinawa shorin-ryu Karate-do Association.

Iha was taught by the infamous Itosu Anko and is an authority of Shuri-te. He was chosen by Miyahira Katsuya in 1963 to teach his Shorin-ryu techniques at the dojo of Latino Gonzales in Manila, a distinguished honor. Furthermore, he continued to teach others in this art including United States Marines stationed in Okinawa.

In addition to his teachings, he is recognized as the first Okinawan Master Instructor of Shorin-ryu to teach in California since 1927. In 1989, he reached rank of Hanshi 9-dan certification, making him the highest certified Okinawan living in the United States.

On July 26th through the 29th, 2001, there will be a celebration honoring the 25th anniversary of Iha bringing Shido-kan Karate to North America sponsored by the North American Beikoku Shido-kan Association. Iha is one of the top people practicing Shido-kan Karate in the world. The Grand Master, Miyahira Katsuya, who lives in Japan is the highest person participating in this type of karate.

Therefore, I would like to personally congratulate Iha for his accomplishments and for teaching many people the art of Shido-kan Karate for the past 25 years. He has brought another form of martial arts to the Lansing, Michigan area and has made a significant impact on the lives of my constituents.

PROVIDING RESOURCES AND EDUCATION FOR KIDS ACT (PRE-K)

HON. RON KIND OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduced the Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K). This legislation would provide a financial incentive to schools to devote resources to establish pre-kindergarten programs. This is a critical step in helping states meet the difficult task of providing early learning services.

Pre-kindergarten programs are crucial for preparing young children for the rigors of the classroom as they begin school. The first five years of a child’s life are critical for development. Pre-kindergarten programs during those years will contribute to children’s long-term success in school achievement, lead to higher earnings as adults, and quite probably decreased involvement with the criminal justice system. Today, however, kindergarten teachers estimate that one in three children are not ready to take on the challenge of classroom learning. Many children simply do not have access to pre-kindergarten programs. It is time for us to assist states in tackling this important issue.

Good quality early education helps children develop, improves their learning skills, and prepares them to enter school ready to succeed. In fact, studies of several state pre-kindergarten initiatives offer convincing evidence of the benefits of early education, particularly for children at risk of school failure. These benefits include higher mathematics and reading achievement, increased creativity, better school attendance, improved health and greater parental involvement.

Furthermore, pre-kindergarten programs have proven cost-effective over time. The Rand Corporation along with a team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin estimated that the most effective pre-kindergarten programs create savings to the government of...