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 & MR. IHA 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 Chosin, 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 10th 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 Ankok 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 reintroduced the Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K). This legislation would provide a financial incentive to schools to vote 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 estimates that the most effective pre-kindergarten programs create savings to the government of