

have no natural disasters or wars. I hope Congress will show strong discipline in cutting spending. I hope we can protect our family farmers without disaster payments. I hope energy price spikes won't slow down our economy. I hope all of these things occur, but I am certainly not willing to put at risk our children and grandchildren's future based on such hopes becoming certainties.

Cutting taxes by over a trillion dollars may be politically popular, but by voting "no" on this bill and voting "yes" for paying down our \$5.6 trillion national debt, I believe I can look my own children in the eye and say, "I did what I believed was right for our country and its future."

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. OPAL LUCAS
OF LONDON, KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I use this means to sadly inform the House of the passing of Opal Lucas, a great American, woman, and friend. She will be remembered as a teacher, mentor, counselor, confidante, and inspiration.

Mrs. Opal Lucas of London, Kentucky passed from this life to eternal life at the age of 95 on June 2, 2001.

Opal was born in 1905 in Jackson County, Kentucky. Her father was a farmer, fertilizer salesman, and minister. Her mother spent her life raising children. From these humble beginnings, Opal learned a devotion to family, God, and her community.

A devoted wife and mother, Opal saw the best of times and the worst of times. Her husband, Fred Lucas, was a former State Senator in Kentucky. Her eldest son, Fred Lucas II, joined the navy at the age of 16 during World War II. After surviving near death experiences, he was forever scared by the experiences of war. Her second son, James, was born paralyzed from the waist down, but Opal and the family never allowed this to deny him a full life. James was a volunteer fireman with the help and love of family and friends.

During her life, Opal served her local and national community in numerous ways. She began as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse. She and her husband owned and managed numerous businesses in Laurel County. She served as State Governor of the National Federation Woman's Club and in many other civic organizations.

Opal and Fred helped recruit industry into Southeastern Kentucky when this area of the state had no industry. They were instrumental in proving that these hard-working men and women that labored on the land could be excellent workers in industry. They proved their point and today the fruits of their labor are multiplied each year.

Opal was a dedicated Republican, as she served her party in nearly every capacity. She served as the National Committee Woman for Kentucky to the National Republican Party for a decade. She chaired campaigns for successful Congressmen, U.S. Senators, Gov-

ernors, and numerous other offices. She counted as her very close friends former Senators John Sherman Cooper and Thurston Morton, and Congressmen Tim Lee Carter. I too, relief on Opal for sage advice, wisdom, and friendship.

Titles partially describe the accomplishments of this lady but they do not give full justice. Her rewards were never personal. She enjoyed victory but true victory was seen on the faces of families who benefited from good government, opportunities to work and provide for their families.

Opal was a unique person that possessed the most amazing ability to make everyone feel they were the most important person in her life. She radiated self-confidence and total relaxation with the person she was. You never saw her caught up in false pretenses or ulterior motives.

She can be described as a wonderfully calm charming lady speaking in soft tones, comforting and encouraging us to do our best—always confident in our abilities to accomplish anything we truly desire. She had a smile that would warm your heart. She was comfortable with her life and her own self-identity and never seemed to have a need for the trappings of public adulation.

Opal was consumed by the spirit of our Lord and it was evident in her every action but it was not something she has to speak of or point to like a plaque of recognition hanging on the wall. She was a Christian lady that always held her belief in God close to the heart. When you looked at her, you saw the Spirit of God within her.

There are individuals that pass through life that contribute more than can be measured and are truly the ones who epitomize all that is good within our society and nation. Opal Lucas will be missed, but she surely made her community, Kentucky, and this nation a better place in which to live.

CHILD CARE QUALITY INCENTIVE
ACT OF 2001

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will make high quality child care available for children regardless of their families's incomes. This bill is entitled the "Child Care Quality Incentive Act of 2001" and already has 28 original cosponsors. I feel this initial response is a testament to the importance and value of this legislation.

We all recognize the importance of a child's early development, however, we must make an investment early on if we are going to succeed in providing a meaningful and accomplished system that helps those who are trying so hard to help themselves. This help will come in the form of supplemental block grant funding to providers in order to cover the true costs of their services. In addition, this bill helps raise the level of care to those who can already afford the market rate. Small businesses also benefit from this legislation—more money means more providers.

Finally, this bill has the support of many national, state, and local organizations and providers, including USA Child Care, the Children's Defense Fund, YMCA of the USA, Catholic Charities of the USA, and the National Child Care Association.

I ask my colleagues to move swiftly to bring decent and affordable child care to America's children—those who are the least able to take care of themselves.

REMEMBERING OUR PACIFIC
AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the second annual Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony that occurred on May 27, 2001 at the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Virginia and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

This celebration honors the sacrifices of thousands of Pacific Americans who have served our nation in our Armed Forces. What was once a veil of silence surrounding the contributions, courage, loyalty and dedication of our Pacific American veterans to our nation has now been lifted.

By honoring our Pacific American veterans, and those who continue to serve our nation, we honor also all our veterans who call the Pacific their 'aina.

Their names are being placed on scrolls that will serve to remind us their loyalty, courage, leadership and compassion.

On August 7, 1999 the Board of Directors of the Pacific American Foundation, a national organization dedicated to improving the lives of all Pacific Americans wherever they live, concurred with the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct the first ever Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony to recognize the dedicated service and outstanding contributions of Pacific American veterans—American Samoans, Chamorros, Fijians, Hawaiians, Maoris, Tahitians, Tongans—and those veterans who call the Pacific their 'aina, to our nation.

The Pacific American Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Kaumakapili Church, Veterans Affairs Regional Office Center Hawaii, veteran organizations in the Pacific and families of our veterans is proud to continue to host the annual Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony.

Already research has revealed that Pacific Americans had served on the Confederate ship Shenandoah and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg.

All our veterans are special, and by honoring our Pacific American veterans I salute all of America's men and women who answered the call to duty.

The names of our Pacific American veterans on these scrolls will remind us forever of our nation's debt to their sacrifices.

This celebration could not have happened without the leadership of the Pacific American