the battle. ''They gave us the order to land over a loud speaker and we headed for shore. There were bodies floating in the water.''

Mike delivered 8,000 Marines on Saipan's beach in less than an hour. It was the beginning of one of the bloodiest fights in the Pacific. On the shore looking at all the Americans coming toward him was the man who pulled the trigger on the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo. After the battle, almost 29,000 Japanese had been killed. The Marines, the 27th Army Infantry and the Navy were victorious. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask Congress to recognize and honor Mike Lucero for all that he did for this country in World War II. Mike was just a boy when he was thrust into battle, but his bravery and the bravery of those who fought and died for this country will forever be etched in our minds. Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute Mike for all he has done.

HONORING RICHARD A. LUOMA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard A. Luoma upon his retirement from the Hatboro-Horsham School District in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania after 29 years of dedicated service.

Dick graduated from Fitchburg State College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to an advanced degree from Boston University. He first taught math and science at Groton Middle School in Concord, Massachusetts and later he was promoted to Assistant Principal. Following his move to Montgomery County in 1972, Dick became the principal at Keith Valley Middle School and Loller Middle School. He was promoted to the position of Assistant to the Superintendent in charge of Curriculum and Instruction and finally Assistant Superintendent in Hatboro-Horsham.

He has been a dedicated citizen of his community as well. Dick has been a member of the Horsham Rotary for 28 years and has also served as president and secretary of that organization. He has been active in politics for the Republican Party in Towamencin Township. An avid golfer, Dick was president of the Men's Golf Association at Oak Terrace Country Club and continues to serve on the Board of Directors at the Talamore Golf and Country Club.

I am honored to recognize Richard A. Luoma and his long and productive career dedicated to our children. He has never wavered in his belief that our youth are our future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 146, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea''.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, due to an airline delay on Monday, May 21, 2001, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 126, the vote on H. Con. Res. 56, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. If I were present, I would have voted ''yea''.

THE FEDERALIZATION OF CRIMES UNIFORM STANDARDS (FOCUS) ACT

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, almost one year ago, to the day, I introduced the Federalization of Crimes Uniform Standards (FOCUS) Act. I rise today, to re-introduce that legislation.

The bill lays out what the appropriate Federal activity—response—is to an offense against the Federal Government. Under the bill, Section 6, an offense, or federal crime, is an activity with respect to which a clear need for uniform Federal law enforcement exists. This includes an activity that involves conduct of an interstate or international nature, or of such magnitude or complexity that a State acting alone cannot carry out effective law enforcement with respect to that conduct; or, that involves conduct of overriding national interest, such as interference with the exercise of constitutional rights. The criminal conduct must be an offense directly against the Federal Government, including an offense directly against an officer, employee, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

The idea behind this is to set a standard definition to what constitutes a federal crime. The current method seems to be that a federal crime is whatever Congress deems it to be, without any true consideration of the constitutional issues involved. Therefore, under the current methods, political will is the only thing that keeps us from federalizing crime. Political weakness in the face of media sound bite criticisms, forces Congress to act again and again to federalize crime—even when there is nothing but rhetoric to suggest that ''something must be done!'' to fight crime.

Sometimes less is better. It's high time that Congress takes a serious look at the federalization of crimes in the United States. The State and Federal Courts together comprise an intertwined system for the administration of justice in the United States. The two courts systems have played different but equally significant roles in the Federal system. However, the State courts have served as the primary tribunals for trials of criminal law cases.

The Federal Courts have a more limited jurisdiction than the State Courts with respect to criminal matters because of the fundamental constitutional principle that the Federal government is a government of delegated power in which the residual power remains with the States. In criminal matters, the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts should compliment, not supplant, that of the State Courts.

The 1999 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary shows how its caseload has grown:

> One hundred years ago, there were 108 authorized federal judgeships in the federal judiciary, consisting of 71 district judgeships, 28 appellate judgeships, and 9 Supreme Court Justices. Today, there are over 850—including 655 district judgeships, 179 appellate judgeships and 9 Supreme Court Justices. In 1900, 13,605 cases were filed in federal district courts, and 1,093 in courts of appeals. In 1999, over 320,194 cases were filed in federal district courts, over 54, 6000 in courts of appeals, and over 1,300,000 filings were made in bankruptcy courts alone.

It is apparent that some growth of the federal court system should occur over time due to increases in population. But what also has grown substantially is the scope of federal jurisdiction. Federalization of the states criminal codes is something that politicians, especially here at the federal level, cannot seem to help but engage in from time to time. It has been over time, in response to criminal concerns nationwide, that Congress has again and again federalized crimes in the name of fighting crime and protecting the nation's populace. But, is the federalization of crime really an antidote for our nation's crime problems? Is it really proper to federalize crime so politicians can ''prove'' their effectiveness? These are important questions that must be asked. We all must look in the mirror and ask ourselves whether there is a sound justification for having two parallel justice systems.

Americans should not be subject to different, competing law enforcement systems, different penalties depending on which system brings them to trial, and an ever-lengthening possibility that they might be tried for the same offense more than once.

In 1999, the Senate Government Affairs Committee held hearings on the issue of ''controlling the federalization of crimes that are better left to state laws and courts to handle.'' The hearings were held in part as a response to questions raised by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist regarding the federalization of criminal law. The hearings also focused on the American Bar Association's Task Force on the same issue. The Task Force, which was chaired by former Attorney General Edwin Meese, concluded that in order to maintain balance in our Constitutional system of justice, there must be a ''principled recognition by Congress for the long-range damage to real crime control and to the nation's structure caused by inappropriate federalization.''

Some might suggest that this is a Republican's attempt to weaken the laws of the land. My reply is simply that federalization of crime does not make anyone safer. Simply adding more laws to the federal code will not necessarily help the citizenry. On the contrary, it could end up hurting those we want to help.