extensively for diverse purposes in our National Park and National Forests—supplying lighting to Tonto National Forest in Arizona and drinking water to hikers in the Rocks National Park in Lakeshore Michigan. The isolated research facilities at Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, California are powered by PV systems.

During disaster relief activities solar power systems step in quickly to supply efficient, easy to install, mobile power sources. In addition to solar power in federal buildings, national parks, communications, and disaster relief activities, solar power is used extensively in transportation support—bus stop lighting, parking lot lights, railroad signal lights, traffic monitoring and control, Coast Guard lighthouses, beacons and buoys. Furthermore, the government is leading the way with innovative technologies for solar powered vehicles. The Department of Energy is the chief sponsor of the American Solar Challenge, a Department of Energy officials announced that more than 100,000 solar energy systems had been installed in the U.S. since the beginning of the solar roof initiative. Under the Clinton administration, the Department of Energy had organized 51 partnerships from coast to coast—dedicated to working on

Through the efforts of the solar industry, with the support of the federal government, solar technology has made substantial progress in recent years. The cost has been reduced to $20 per kilowatt hour, and further reductions are expected. As a result, sales are increasing at a dramatic rate. Sales of photovoltaics within the United States has been growing at a rate of 25% a year. The United States photovoltaics industry is a strong exporter, with almost 70% of U.S. production going to export sales. There is room for growth in our exports. Currently, the U.S. has about 20% of the world market and Germany and Japan each has a larger market share than our country.

I believe that we need to continue the Federal government's role in promoting the development of this technology. The Federal government should continue to be a major customer, and help the technology reach its full potential. My bill will express Congressional support for the type of program established by the Clinton administration, and provide the necessary funding. My bill establishes a goal for the Federal government during the next five years to acquire photovoltaic systems for Federal buildings which will produce at least 150 megawatts of electricity. This will accomplish the goal of the 20,000 solar roof initiative. The bill authorizes appropriations of $210 million a year for the next five years, the level of funding needed to purchase approximately 18,000 photovoltaic systems. The bill also establishes a program for evaluation of the systems using Federal facilities to ensure that the government is encouraging development of the most advanced technology.

Mr. Speaker, using Federal government procurements to “jump start” a technology is not without precedent. In fact, photovoltaic technology itself is a product of space technology, and was advanced by NASA in the Hubble space station program. As a result, photovoltaic systems power nearly every satellite today as they circle the earth. Similarly, in the early days of the computer era the cost of microchips was prohibitive. Large-scale purchases by the government (NASA and DOD) helped bring the costs down to commercially competitive levels. As another example, the General Services Administration, using its FTS 2000 telecommunications contact, was also successful in promoting advancements and enhancements in telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the program established by my bill can make a major contribution to energy efficiency, protection of the environment and reduced dependence on foreign energy. I will be working to incorporate this program in any energy legislation passed in this Congress.

AMERICA HAS EARNED OUR RESPECT AND ALLEGIANCE EVERY DAY

HON. ROSCIE G. BARTLETT OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, our nation will commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an astounding historic achievement for liberty and freedom. It’s sad that in 2001, political correctness has replaced patriotism and respect for America’s achievements with cynicism and even disrespect.

James Merna, Past Maryland Commandant of the Marine Corps League brought this example to my attention during his speech entitled, “Heroes and Role Models for Today and Tomorrow,” at the Elk’s Club Flag Day Observance in Frederick, Maryland on June 10.

In May, Mr. Fran Parry, a track coach from Gaithersburg High School in Maryland was suspended for 12 days. Why? He confronted and reprimanded a student who was disrespectful during the Pledge of Allegiance.

The student replied that he wasn’t American and didn’t have to be respectful during the Pledge.

It took support and pressure from other students, parents and the community after the incident became public before Coach Parry was reinstated.

America has earned our respect and allegiance every day.

I submit Mr. Merna’s entire speech for the Record and I urge my colleagues and all Americans to read it.

REMARKS OF JAMES E. MERRIN, PAST MARYLAND STATE COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, AT THE ELKS CLUB FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE, FREDERICK, MD, JUNE 10, 2001

“HEROES AND ROLE MODELS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW”

Thank you for inviting me. I am honored to speak to the Elk’s, one of America’s largest and most influential fraternal organizations.

At the outset, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Frederick community, forged in years of friendship and admiration. Let me mention just three.

1. The Shangri-La Marine Corps League. This great organization was originally formed here in Frederick, I believe, in 1948. After many years of service, it became somewhat inactive. A few of us came here in 1968, helped reissue its charter and get it reinvigorated, and today it flourishes as one of the most active detachments in the entire League. I made many good friends here, among them, your own Tommy Grunwell, Ken Bartgis, and the late Charlie Horn.

2. Ten years ago, when Coach Wright, your football coach here at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Earlier in his career, before he coached your Patriots, he coached three of my four sons where he was the head football coach at Roosevelt High School, in Greenbelt. He’s a true winner in every respect, athletically and morally.

3. My Son John Merna. Major, U.S. Marine Corps. Two summers ago, John commanded a reinforced Marine rifle company (Echo 2-5) on a five month cruise in the South China Sea. The float was part of the Seventh Fleet whose purpose, besides being a good will mission for the U.S., was to conduct amphibious exercises and training with designated Asian forces.

None of these achievements with cynicism and even disrespect.

We can start by asking ourselves, who still observes Flag Day today? We may see a few houses in our neighborhoods who will fly their flags on their porches or in their front yards. But, increasingly, we no longer feel compelled to honor the flag. This patriotic display is steadily being regarded as old-fashioned or tedious. Contrast today to a little more than 100 years ago when Flag Day in Independence, Missouri saw some 800,000 flags in Chicago alone. Unfortunately, powerful forces in our society, popular culture, and political circles oftentimes emphasize our cultural differences, rather than our unity as Americans.

Let me mention a recent incident that occurred only two and half weeks ago, just down the 270 Pike from here, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which should give us cause for concern. Many of you may already know the story. It was in the Washington Post on May 23rd. It involves a local high school track coach from Gaithersburg High School who was suspended for 32 days for confronting a student who was disrespectful during the school’s reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I was incensed as soon as I heard of this incident. How we have a 27-year veteran of the Montgomery County school system, a highly successful track coach who has won three state and 15 regional titles, suspended from his teaching and coaching jobs only because he attempted to get a student to show respect while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited in the school.

The coach’s name is Fran Parry. He lives a stones throw from here, in nearby Clarksburg. I called and spoke to Coach Parry...
Tuesday, just five days ago. He told me that it was a great day, that the Sun was shining. He, who is a football player and who was on the track team, rushed past the coach who asked him to stop while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited. The student responded that he wasn’t an American and didn’t have to. The coach told him that he was a bad attitude and that he had relatives who died for the freedom that the student enjoys. The student just laughed at Coach Parry and said “So what.” The coach told me he didn’t think too much of the incident until then he was surprised to see the principal’s office and told he was being suspended from his duties and placed on administrative leave.

So here’s the fact. Coach Parry told me 80 percent of his track team is African-American and they backed the coach 100 percent. There was not one dissenting voice among them. The coach met with the student’s parents, expressed regret over the incident but told them he wouldn’t change his message. He was the Deputy Principal at the time. The student was suspended for a week, then told he was being reinstated.

There’s more to this story, as I found out in talking to Coach Parry. As I said earlier, the student used to be on the track team at school, he and the coach knew each other well. The student sometimes ate his lunch in the coach’s office, used his microwave. Coach Parry even drove him home after track practice at times when he needed a ride. But the student had an attitude problem, and it came to the fore with his disrespect for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Where does Coach Parry derive his patriotic fervor? From his dad and his uncle who fought with the Marines on Iwo Jima, the bloodiest battle in World War II. His uncle was with the Third Marine Division. He landed on the beach at Iwo with 48 Marines in his platoon. When he left on a stretcher, 40 of the 48 Marines were killed. The remaining 8, including his uncle, were wounded. Coach Parry’s dad was with the Fourth Marine Division. After he learned that his brother was wounded, he visited him later aboard a hospital ship.

And if that isn’t proof enough of Coach Parry’s patriotic heritage, I learned that his great-great-great-grandfather served in the American Civil War with the 2nd Connecticut. His great-great-grandfather, a member of the 1st North Carolina, was wounded in battle near New Orleans. His great-grandfather was in the First Maryland Regiment, and was wounded in battle in New Jersey while pulling down a British flag. That a legacy. I mention this family history only to put in perspective the bottomline of all of it: as a coach, as a citizen and as a human being, Coach Parry is dedicated to the country and to his countrymen.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

June 28, 2001

“There is absolutely no group of men in the world as loyal to this country as is the military, and to each other as you fighting boys from St. Agnes. No doubt, as you move from place to place in your travels to all continents and mingle with men from all nations, you will find that patriotism is a tie more and more that Spirit of St. Agnes—the spirit that is so much a part of your daily lives.

“No one but a St. Agnes boy could understand that deep loyalty and respect you have for each other. Stick together in war as you did in peace. Let the Sisters back home know where you are and what you are doing. Whether a private or a captain, you all speak the same language; you all have the same ideals and you are all heroes in my book. The Sisters feel likewise. They are bursting with pride and joy over your accomplishments.

“That’s the type of man Coach Jim Faulk was—always caring, inspiring, encouraging and motivating St. Agnes men to excel and achieve. And many St. Agnes graduates have been commanding officers, Flight test pilots and top recruiters the Marine Corps ever had. Coach Faulk told me that the community was one of a kind: the family of the community, the family of the country. They are in the Forts, the Air Force, the Navy. They are also their leaders. Let me tell you about another great coach—one who I regarded as the best coach in America—my high school coach at St. Agnes High School in New York. He was one of the two orphanages where I was raised.

His name was Jim Faulk, an inspirational leader or a coach. When he was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1978, the program citation read: “Jim Faulk not only was the coach, he was the loveship of St. Agnes. He lived it all.” He was the athletic director, the guidance counselor, the social worker, the disciplinarian, the trainer, the varsity and J.V. coach for all the sports, which included football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and golf. In his spare time he also ran a full sports program for the alumni. He even drove the school bus.” In his acceptance speech, he said, “I made it only because of the gutsy kids I coached at St. Agnes.” I know he said it because it was true.

Jim Faulk was a true American. He’s All-American, first base All-American. He was the first St. Agnes kid to attain the rank of Captain. I could go on and on, but as Coach Faulk said, these were gutsy kids, and true heroes they were. They were my legacy, they are yours, and they are America’s.

Literally hundreds and hundreds of St. Agnes men, including two brothers and myself, joined the Marine Corps, inspired by the example set by Coach Faulk. I had two other brothers join the Navy. Coach Faulk was, in my opinion, probably the greatest nonofficial recruiter the Marine Corps ever had.

Jim and his wife Betty were never blessed with children. We took care of that. Some of us named our children after him. My oldest son is named James Faulk Merna. Coach Faulk was very proud of his namesake and visited him with much pride when he was a student at the University of Notre Dame.

Jim Faulk’s daughter named her son after her father, and his great-great-great grandfather served in the American Civil War. Coach Faulk was our football coach. I always dreamed of them as being superheroes, just like the rest of us. I was in Korea during that war, “One character trait that I admired in all of you St. Agnes men—you went out into the world with your feet on the ground, not to be embezzled, gave your all for your country when it asked, and, now, most of you are...”
June 28, 2001

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

raising families who can truly say—my fa-
ther came up the hard way.''

Now you can see why I said earlier that
someone like Coach Faulk was the greatest
coach that I have ever known. Our nation
needs strong coaches like Coach Faulk,
Coach Parry, and Ben Wright, because they
are doing as much to build the character of
our future leaders as any other group of men
or women.

One last final thought. Our nation is in the
midst of a huge nostalgia fest with the Sec-
ond World War. A number of “Greatest Gen-
eration” books have been written, the best
by Tom Brokaw of NBC News, box-office at-
tendance records have been set for the new
blockbuster movies like “Saving Private
Ryan” and now “Pearl Harbor.” There has
also been significant publicity about the
World War II Memorial now finally approved
for the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Let us build on this momentum. We have
elections coming up next year, and another
Presidential election in 2004. As George Will
pointed out recently, during the last admin-
istration, at times, we had a president, a CIA
director, a Secretary of Defense, a Secretary
of State, and a National Security Advisor,
none of whom had any military experience.
It’s almost as appalling in the Congress. Ac-
cording to the National Association for Uni-
formed Services, in 1965, 82% of the members
of Congress and 80% of the staffers had mili-
tary experience. Now less than ½ of Congress
and 5% of their staff have had any military
experience. And on the civilian side, only 6%
today of Americans younger than 65 have
ever served in uniform.

Those numbers by themselves are not
alarming because it’s recognized that we are
not at war and we have at present an all-vol-
unteer military. We just need to be sure that
we elect public officials who have a greater
understanding and a strong commitment to
support our national security and defense by
deeds, not mere words. We need their solid
support, as well as from local school board
officials, for military recruiters who were de-
nied access to high school campuses 19,228
times in 1999.

Thank you for inviting me to participate
in your Flag Day celebration today. As mem-
bers of the Benevolent and Protective Order
of Elks, you have long set an example the
rest of us must try to follow if we are going
to preserve for our future generations the
same priceless treasures of liberty and free-
dom which our forebears passed on to us.