

mistreatment of the Montagnard peoples represent a grave threat to the process of normalization of relations between the governments of the United States and Vietnam.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Montagnard peoples of Vietnam by cosponsoring this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL  
BUSINESS WELFARE BENEFITS  
PROTECTION ACT

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative NEAL (D-MA) and I introduced the Small Business Welfare Benefits Protection Act which deals with Welfare Benefit Plans governed by Section 419A of the Tax Code. The Code currently allows a deduction for contributions to multiple employer welfare benefit plans.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide some clarity to this section of the code in a fashion that protects pension tax law while allowing small businesses to provide important benefits, such as life and health insurance, long term care insurance and severance benefits to their employees. While any employer can utilize Section 419A plans, they allow small business to compete with large employers in attracting and retaining talented staff by enabling them to offer meaningful benefits like the ones I just mentioned.

Section 419A plans are independently trusted and administered ensuring employees that the funds set aside for their benefit are there when they need them most, when a company is facing economic difficulties. This is the right policy and we should do everything in our power to encourage small businesses to protect their employees against the proverbial rainy day.

In terms of clarifying the Code, my legislation would ensure that all full time employees benefit. The allowable deduction would be limited to the cost of the benefit for the year in which the deduction is taken. Finally, the bill would prevent an employer who terminates participation in plan from pilfering the assets of the plan at the expense of the rank and file employees.

This legislation will ensure that 419A plans work the way they were intended to by Congress, namely for the employees, especially small business employees.

ACKNOWLEDGING ALL THOSE SUFFERING WITH THE DEADLY DISEASE OF HIV/AIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, while we take into account the millions who die each year in Africa from this deadly disease we know as

HIV/AIDS, we must also focus our attention on the Caribbean, as the second largest population to become infected with this devastating disease, as reported in the front page of the Washington Post on June 19, 2001, for those who may have missed it, I submit it for the record.

Two-thirds of all those diagnosed with the AIDS virus in the Caribbean are dead within two years. What is even more outrageous is that AIDS is the leading cause of death in the Caribbean for those aged 15 to 45 and the numbers are growing.

About one in every 50 people in the Caribbean, or 2% of the population has AIDS or is infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS; more than 4% in the Bahamas, and 13% among urban adults in Haiti.

The UN estimates that there were 9,600 children infected in the Caribbean. Further, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) as well estimates that the overall child mortality rate will increase 60% by 2010 if treatment is not improved.

Clearly, there is a need not only for the United States government's assistance but also for those major private foundations that provide AIDS money for Africa to also develop programs that will come to the aid of those in the Caribbean.

I proudly commend Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN and her efforts to raise awareness in the community, as this disease is kept silent. I also commend the government of the Bahamas as being the only country in the region that has offered universal antiretroviral treatment over the last several years.

While we simply take medical services and treatment for granted in this country, as the number of AIDS cases decreases per year in North America and increases in the Caribbean; it is our obligation to help provide assistance to these governments in order for them to provide a simple service to their people, enabling them to live prosperous and healthy lives.

A TRIBUTE TO LT. AUGUSTUS  
HAMILTON, JR. AND THE MEMBERS OF THE FORCED LANDING  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today is June 28th. We are only a few days away from the July 4th Independence Day celebrations. As fireworks light up the sky, houses are adorned with crisp flags, and children gaze in wonder at the passing parades, we must not forget the many brave men and women who courageously sacrificed their lives to preserve the freedoms and ideals we all enjoy as Americans.

Throughout our short history, America's security as a nation has been tested and tried. It is truly a blessing that our youth have been spared the horrors of war. However, for all those who have known war and have died for the sake of this great country, let it be said that they did not die in vain. The gratitude felt

by all Americans and our many allies throughout the world is immeasurable.

Let us extend particular thanks to the veterans of World War II. During World War II, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime came alarmingly close to achieving world domination. It is difficult to envision what our world might have looked like had Hitler succeeded but, thanks to the heroism of World War II veterans, we will never have to find out.

I'd now like to share a story about one very special World War II veteran, a man by the name of Augustus Hamilton, Jr., and a remarkable group of people in France who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that the memories of World War II veterans endure. This story was told to me by Mr. Hamilton's niece, Beth White from Chicago, Illinois, and I want to thank Ms. White for taking the time to contact me.

Augustus Hamilton was born on January 4, 1922. At the age of twenty, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps the day after Pearl Harbor and quickly advanced to First Lieutenant of the 358th Fighter Group, 365th Squadron. By all accounts, he had always been a family hero—an athlete (amateur golf champion for the state of North Carolina and football star who attended the University of North Carolina on a football scholarship), good student, caring brother, and loving son. He was also a new husband and when he went overseas, his wife was pregnant with their child.

Lt. Hamilton served as a fighter pilot in World War II and was awarded an air medal with two oak leaf clusters. According to an excerpt from Thunderbolts over High Helden by Graham J. Hukins, "Lt. Hamilton was last seen diving on a flight of four enemy planes with another four on

At the time of his death, Lt. Hamilton had never met or seen a photo of his only son, for the baby was born when he was overseas. He had named his fighter plane after his wife and son, "Mrs. Ham/Lil Ham 3rd." Following the crash, several of his family members persisted in denying his death. He had told his family that if he were ever seriously injured in combat, he would not come home because he didn't want to be a burden. Remembering these words, his family hoped that he had somehow survived the crash but had decided not to come home due to his injuries, or perhaps had developed amnesia and could not contact them.

In 1993, almost half a century later, the gift of emotional closure was finally given to Lt. Hamilton's surviving family members by a French man named Jean Luc Grusson and his volunteer organization, Forced Landing Association. In an amazing demonstration of appreciation for the U.S. soldiers who fought in World War II, the members of Forced Landing Association devote themselves to finding each of the more than 150 crash sites reported within a 30 kilometer radius of Tillieres sur Avre, an area of intense air battles because of the close proximity of three German airfields. The Association was established in 1986 and has 11 members who live in France. To date, its members have discovered 30 crash sites, including that of Lt. Hamilton.

M. Grusson uncovered Lt. Hamilton's plane in 1993. He then spent a full year tracking down Lt. Hamilton's surviving family members