

June 29, 2001

President. As a community leader, Dr. Zini's recognitions include: 1998 Flight Safety Award, Federal Aviation Administration; 1997 Distinguished Citizen Award, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce; 1996 Alumni of the Year Award, University of Health Sciences in Kansas City, Missouri; 1991 Federal Aviation Administration Certificate of Recognition; Sigma Sigma Phi Honorary Osteopathic Fraternity; and 1972 Ordained Minister, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas.

James E. Zini, D.O., is a physician, advisor and friend to many. He has dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens as a leader in both his profession and his community, and he deserves our respect and gratitude for his priceless contributions. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to my good friend James E. Zini, D.O., on his successes and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT R.  
GREENLAW

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Robert R. Greenlaw, C.E.M., for his outstanding achievements with the Ridgewood Emergency Services and his contributions to the protection of the Ridgewood community. Bob Greenlaw, who is now the Director of Ridgewood Emergency Services, has served the public in emergency situations for over forty years. On July 4, 2001, we will be honoring him in Ridgewood for his tremendous service. His leadership in the development of a trained volunteer fire and police department is only one of his remarkable achievements and I commend him for his efforts. The results of his dedicated service are felt throughout the Village of Ridgewood. As a leader of the men and women who protect our community, he is an inspiration for all those involved in public service.

Bob began his protection of the public in 1957 as a volunteer firefighter in Ridgewood, which is also my hometown. After a long and dedicated service in our community, Bob has assumed numerous leadership positions within the fire and police department. He was named Captain of the Ridgewood Auxiliary Police while also involving himself with emergency management. In 1980, Bob received the first two of many awards for his service, as he was given both the Emergency Medical Services Medal of Honor and the Village of Ridgewood Mayor's Award of Excellence in the same year. Convinced that the fire and police departments could be structured differently in order to best serve the community, Bob asked the Village of Ridgewood to support a trained group of volunteers within the departments which would allow the fire and police professionals to focus on the most critical situations. Bob encouraged a handful of volunteers to join him in this program and today his inspiration has led to a department of 127 volunteers serving more than 500,000 hours each year.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

This has been a tremendous resource for the Ridgewood community and would not have happened were it not for Bob's vision and dedication.

As those who know Bob can tell you, he has continually placed the safety of his community at the top of his priorities. He demonstrates an outstanding commitment to the public and has worked selflessly in this role for over 40 years. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Chief Bob Greenlaw for his examples of service and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Chief Robert R. Greenlaw for all he has done for his community and for the outstanding example he sets for all of us.

THE LOW INCOME GASOLINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2001

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a bill I have just introduced, the Low Income Gasoline Assistance Program Act of 2001.

Let me begin my remarks by thanking the original sponsor of this legislation, Senator JOHN ROCKEFELLER, who in introducing this bill is attempting to address a very serious problem throughout our country. I also want to thank the original House cosponsors who have joined in this effort.

We all know the problem: skyrocketing gasoline prices have taken their toll on pocketbooks in a severe way. Gas station managers around New Mexico—and other parts of the country—say drivers are filling up their tanks and driving off without paying. Some say they have never seen it so bad, and it has forced them to change how things are done at the pump. A number of stations are now requiring customers to pay first because of so much lost revenue.

A common recommendation that we often hear when gas prices go up is for people to drive less. Walk, bike, or take public transit when you can. While I agree with that, unfortunately, that only goes so far, especially if you have no choice but to commute to work, to the doctor, or to school because public transportation is not available in your area. This is especially true for those who live in rural areas. These citizens have no other choice but to pay these prices in order to live their lives. This legislation attempts to address the problems that underprivileged citizens face in rural America with regard to the high cost of gasoline.

Our proposal is relatively simple. The current high price of gasoline is hurting people throughout the country. And perhaps no group is being hit harder than seniors and the working poor, especially in rural areas and places with inadequate public transportation. With experts predicting regular unleaded gasoline prices in excess of \$2.00 a gallon for much of the country this summer, I believe it is our responsibility to provide some immediate, short-term assistance for our most needy citizens.

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The Low Income Gasoline Assistance Program Act of 2001 or LIGAP, is modeled on the successful LIHEAP program that helps seniors and the disadvantaged pay for heating oil in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. Under this program, recipients would receive \$25 to \$75 per month for three months, as long as gasoline prices stay high where they live. If the price of gasoline does not fall back below the price at which the program triggers off, recipients would be allowed to re-apply for three additional months' benefit.

LIGAP will allow states to make grants to low- and fixed-income individuals and families to defray the cost of purchasing gasoline for travel to work, to school, or to regular healthcare appointments when the price of gasoline reaches or exceeds the unmanageable current levels. States will make LIGAP grants to income-eligible families who meet the distance requirements of driving at least 30 miles a day, or 150 miles per week for work, school, or medical care appointments. States are also encouraged to use their welfare reform block grant to provide transportation stipends to parents who meet the same distance standards.

This measure will enable states to operate the program through their Community Action agencies or welfare departments. Thus, states will have the flexibility to set income-eligibility standards similar to the current eligibility for LIHEAP. The prices at which the program triggers on and subsequently releases will then be set for each jurisdiction through consultation between the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Energy.

LIGAP is not meant to be a substitute for the long-term energy solutions we all seek for our nation. Each of us understands the necessity of a comprehensive and balanced approach to energy development, but we must realize that in every state there are hard-working people and elderly individuals whose monthly budgets are being stretched to the breaking point by the cost of gasoline. While we must approach this country's energy demand with the willingness to make the tough, long-range choices demanded of us, it is equally important that we heed the immediate damage being caused by the current high prices. We must show a willingness to provide some comfort for those Americans who are most at risk.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that people are suffering and that something must be done to help with the high cost of gasoline. I urge my colleagues to join us in this proposal that is both forward thinking and comprehensive.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
FIRE CHIEF JACK FOWLER, JR.

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to honor a life spent serving others, the life of Jack Fowler, Jr. Jack was a man that selflessly dedicated his life to protecting the lives of others. On Sunday,