THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1991

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 3070, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure implementation of Medicare’s physician payment reform in a manner that reflects the intent of Congress when the payment reform legislation was enacted.

In 1989, the Congress enacted landmark legislation reforming the method for determining Medicare payments to physicians. Known as the resource-based relative value scale, or RB RVS, the reform made changes in the way Medicare pays physicians. The RB RVS was intended to increase fees paid for primary care services and services provided in rural areas. At the same time, the reform provided a rational methodology to establish fair payments for all services.

The RB RVS was not intended to save money—in fact, when it was enacted it was understood by the Congress and scored by the Office of Management and Budget as budget neutral. Its intent was simply to redistribute existing expenditures on a more rational basis.

This badly needed reform was enacted with the support of a broad coalition that included physicians, beneficiaries, and the Bush administration.

On June 5, the Department of Health and Human Services published draft regulations that could destroy this reform.

The draft regulations proposed by the Department include a series of policies that will reduce payments to physicians by billions of dollars over the next 5 years. The administration alleged that these policies are needed to ensure budget neutrality. However, by the administration’s own projections, these adjustments in fact will reduce payments to physicians by $7 billion over the 5-year transition period. Others estimate that the savings could exceed $15 billion.

These projected savings clearly violate the intent of Congress, and the pact made with physicians only 2 years ago.

I believe that this problem has been created by the administration, and I sincerely hope that the administration will solve the problem when it publishes the final regulations in late October.

A letter, signed by 35 of the 36 members of the Committee on Ways and Means has been sent to Secretary Sullivan strongly urging him to make the necessary changes to the draft rule.

Letters also have been sent to the Secretary by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Finance Committee. A letter signed by all 45 members of the House California delegation has been sent to Dr. Sullivan.

Clearly, there is strong sentiment in Congress that the Department should fix the problem it created.

However, there may be some officials in the administration who may attempt to block any attempt to restore this critical reform to its proper path.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Ways and Means, I am not willing to let the administration trample on the deal we made with physicians.

If for any reason the administration fails to act, Congress must be prepared to enforce its intent, and to enact legislation that gets Medicare payment reform back on track.

The bill I am introducing today, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991, would accomplish this by addressing three problems in the transition rules for phasing in the RB RVS.

The first provision clarifies the calculation to the transitional fees to insure that they are budget neutral. As currently drafted, this aspect of this extremely complex statute contains certain ambiguities. The administration has chosen to interpret this section in a manner that generates nearly $7 billion in savings.

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991 would clarify this section to insure that the transition rules do not, by themselves, reduce Medicare payments to physicians over the course of the transition.

The second provision addresses a somewhat more complex issue.

In the draft regulations, the administration proposes an additional arbitrary reduction in fees of over 10 percent.

According to the administration, physicians may respond to the implementation of the RB RVS by increasing the volume and complexity of the services they bill Medicare. Known as a behavioral offset, this adjustment is based primarily on the results of a single controversial study of a single State’s experience in the 1970s.

Using this study, the draft rule proposes an additional cut of over 10 percent to offset this projected response. The clearly stated intent of this adjustment is to correct prospectively for a projected, anticipated response.

While this adjustment has surprised people who are not familiar with the Byzantine nature of budget scoring rules, the adjustment is familiar to people who have worked on Medicare.

In fact, the payment reform legislation anticipated this issue by including an explicit mechanism for correcting for both expected and unexpected responses to implementation of the RB RVS.

Known as the Medicare volume performance standard system, or MVPS, this provision established an annual process to evaluate the cost growth in Medicare expenditures compared to a target. If Medicare costs exceed the target, Medicare spending bill be reduced in accordance with the process established under this system.

The key difference between this approach and that proposed by the Department is that the MVPS is retrospective while the adjustment in the draft rule is prospective. Given the uncertainty and controversy over the magnitude of the behavioral response, Congress clearly adopted the retrospective MVPS approach as an integral part of the OBRA 89 payment reform provisions.

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991 would reiterate this intent by explicitly prohibiting the use of any prospective correction for behavioral responses in implementing the RB RVS.

Taken together, these two provisions also eliminate the so-called tripling effect included in the draft rules.

Some will suggest that this bill would cost billions of dollars. In fact, it will not increase costs one penny above the amounts anticipated when the RB RVS reform was enacted in OBRA 89.

This bill would spend more than is included in current budget baselines that have been manipulated to reflect the phantom savings in the administration’s proposed rule.

To keep Congress’ intent from being thwarted by budget rules created after OBRA 89, the bill includes a declaration of an emergency and declares an exemption from the budget rules to prevent a sequester in future years.

My colleagues know that I am deeply concerned by the rapid rise in the cost of Medicare’s Part B Program. I am the first to say that Medicare payments for physician services are increasing too fast and must be slowed. I have sponsored a variety of bills, some enacted and some not, that are designed to slow the rate of growth in Medicare spending.

If the clarifications in this bill result in higher costs, I will work with my colleagues to recoup these costs through the MVPS system. If payments to physicians do not increase, then this bill will have saved the payment reform movement and kept our promises to our physician colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, and the issues it addresses, is not about how much we should pay physicians. Rather it is about whether our physician colleagues can do with the Congress in good faith.

I sincerely hope that Congress will never have to enact this bill.

But if the administration is unable or unwilling to implement the RB RVS in the manner in which Congress intended, then it will be necessary for us to act decisively to demonstrate our determination to keep the commitments we make.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill. Your participation will help demonstrate our resolve to the administration.
A summary of the bill follows:

**SUMMARY OF H.R. 3070, THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1991:**

Section 1. Title

Section 2. Adjustment for Symmetry of the Transition. The bill would amend the RB RVS transition rules to prohibit the Secretary from adjusting the conversion factor to reflect any asymmetry in the transitional fees.

In 1992, all fees would be reduced by 2 percent to adjust for the asymmetry of the transitional fees in that year. This adjustment would then be phased out by 1996. That is, the asymmetry transition reduction would be 1.5 percent in 1993, 1 percent in 1994, and 0.5 percent in 1995. There would be no adjustment after 1995 when the RB RVS transition has been completed.

Section 3. Prohibition of Behavioral Offset Adjustment. The bill would prohibit the Secretary from adjusting the conversion factor to take into account changes in expenditures due to behavioral responses relating to implementation of the RB RVS, including anticipated changes in the volume or mix of services.

Section 4. Emergency Legislation. The bill would designate this bill as emergency legislation under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Any spending resulting from this bill would not be counted for the purposes of calculating a sequester.

Section 5. Effective date. The bill would be effective on enactment and would apply to Medicare payments for services provided on or after January 1, 1992.

**THE DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. WILLIAM BAIR:**

**HON. SID MORRISON OF WASHINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Monday, July 29, 1991**

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to share with me today the good news that I have regarding one of my most distinguished constituents. On July 23, 1991, the Health Physics Society, at its annual meeting here in Washington, presented its Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. William Bair, who is manager of the Life Sciences Center at Battelle's Pacific Northwest Laboratories.

Dr. Bair, who was at one time elected by his peers to be president of the Health Physics Society, has been in the forefront of scientific developments relating to maintaining and improving the health of workers associated with atomic energy programs for nearly four decades. He is truly one of the outstanding scientists in the world dealing with radiation biology. He has long list of achievements and scientific papers, but I believe the simplest way for me to tell you about Dr. Bair is to enclose the citation that was part of his receiving the Health Physics Society Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award.

In 1991 recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, Dr. William J. Bair, is well known to health physicists for his extraordinary contributions to radiation biology over a career of four decades, and for the strong and vital scientific leadership he has exercised over the years. A 1949 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Dr. Bair was awarded a Ph.D. in Radiation Biology from the University of Rochester in 1954. That same year he joined the staff of the Hanford Laboratories and began a distinguished and productive career that has gained him deserved world renown for seminal contributions to inhalation toxicology, carcinogenesis, and the biology of the transuranium elements.

It is not possible to briefly comment or list the many scientific contributions Dr. Bair has made over the years. Although the space permits, I will add here a few comments about some of his work. The first is his work in developing the balanced budget mechanism to protect the Medicare trust fund. This work was in partnership with colleagues at the University of Rochester in 1984. Today by later generations of researchers.

The JOG Program, a statewide school-to-work program, operates in 14 Ohio cities. This unique program assists high school seniors in developing job skills. These skills include employment interviews, decisionmaking, public speaking, and telephone techniques. More importantly, the JOG Program instills in our youth the confidence, determination, and incentive that is necessary to enter today's competitive job market.

My office has again had the good fortune of participating in the regional competition. I proudly extend special congratulations to Tiffany Speignor of Cleveland Heights High School, who tied for third place in the State in the employment interview competition. I would like to recognize the other students who took part in the 1991 career development conference.

Cleveland Heights High School: Mike Ferrara, Brian Lesniak, Bill Macheroni, Carla Maneage, Robert Piros, Mike Vekas, and Mike Weed.

Health Careers Center: Natasha Burge, Rafeel DeJesus, Kim Hall, Julia Kalliom, Jennifer Nelson, Anitoinette Pace, Murchia Perry, Carmen Petit, Leasana Sanders, Andrea Smith, Jacqueline Walker, Tawana Warren, Darrell Williams, and Tiara Young.

Cleveland Heights High School: A. Cavs, Cory Haywood, Nathaniel Hulm, Crystal McCreary, Pamela Odom, Anwan Petersen, and Tiffany Speignor.

Shaw High School: Cheryl Austin, Jocelynn Dennis, Angela Love, and Ben Steel.

Jane Addams Business Careers Center: Brian Cook, Almea Dzevezin, Andrew Johnson, and Wallace Wigley.

Aviation High School: Alex Abrams, Ken Barnes, Antonio Hall, Brian Jones, Lebron Parker, Ron Robinson, Darrell Stovall, and Maria Tirado.

**TRIBUTE TO LEO BLACKBURN**

**HON. BOB MCEWEN OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Monday, July 29, 1991**

Mr. MCEWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a most remarkable man whose life exemplifies service above self.
Extensions of Remarks

July 29, 1991

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an excellent essay written by Jennifer Carol Earhart of Hopkinsville, KY.

Jennifer Earhart, a 17-year-old senior at Christian County High School, was the Kentucky winner in the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars’ Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest.

I am very proud of Jennie. I have read her essay, and I am impressed with the deep understanding she has of our democratic system. It is my hope that all of the young people in this country will develop the same keen awareness and interest that Jennie has so aptly displayed in this excellent essay.

Jennie is the daughter of Carlton and Barbara Earhart, and I commend her for a job well done.

The essay is as follows:

**Democracy—The Vanguard of Freedom**

What is democracy? To a child it might simply be something studied in history class. To a leader it might mean the right to choose. Adults visualize democracy as the privilege enjoyed by Americans thanks to the sacrifices and dedication of our forefathers. The word democracy means so much more than democracy though, would be vanguard. A vanguard is one who leads, or an advanced party. In this sense, everyone has the right to make decisions in different situations in order to protect our freedom.

The fact is the world is changing so fast and so dramatically that we can barely see its details, let alone its scope. Yes, the changes are stunning, but we go on. The trend toward freedom and democracy is promoted not only by a deep inner drive for human dignity, but by the growing realization that democracy works best. Our forefathers, such as Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the Declaration of Independence and the vanguard of democracy in America, proved this in saying that, “America is the last hope of mankind.” It still is!

Our democratic values have helped us build the most dynamic, open society in recorded history, a source of inspiration to most of the world. It is a promise of a better tomorrow for the many people who have never known the gifts of human freedom. For instance, the people of Russia longed for democracy, much as Americans enjoy. Mikhail Gorbachev is seen as the vanguard of democracy in Russia for his attempts at freedom. Obviously, the movement of countries toward a more democratic form of government is not going to be smooth! The outcome may not go towards Jeffersonian perfection, because there will be setbacks and compromises. Even in a world where democracy and freedom are traded off for threats of terrorism, hostage-taking, repressive regimes, and unpredictable rulers all require a strong and engaged America.

Politicized nations usually order nations to war out of ignorance, greed or anger. Yet, soldiers fight for notions, not nations. By far the greatest of these notions is loyalty. Jefferson, as well as Lincoln, knew that the success of America lay not in the greatness of its presidents, but in the greatness of its people. A democracy, unlike a dictatorship, depends not on extraordinary men, but on ordinary men and women doing their jobs extraordinarily well. These ordinary men and women are our war heroes who live on, some in flesh, others in the memories of those who buried them on foreign shores. Out there—a very few real heroes still walk among us. They are the vanguards of our freedom today.

In this world of increasing interdependence, the lessons for the United States and the Soviet Union—the most important security relationship in the present era—are evident. We cannot escape from one another. We are bound together in an equation that makes the security of each of us dependent on that of the other. We must try to live together, and the best way to do that is in a democracy.

CROATIANS, SLOVENIANS, AND ALBANIANS DEMONSTRATE FOR DEMOCRACY IN YUGOSLAVIA

**Hon. "Dick" Swett**

Of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. Swett. Mr. Speaker, 12,000 Americans of Croatian, Slovenian, and Albanian descent assembled on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol on behalf of freedom and democracy for their native lands. These people were expressing their serious and profound concern about the recent excessive violence and repressive action taken by the central Yugoslav government, the Yugoslav National Army, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia. It is vital that we, in the United States, support the forces of freedom and democracy in Croatia, Slovenia, and Kosova against the forceful repressives of the Government. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the Record my statement to this distinguished group.

**Statement of Hon. Dick Swett**

The winds of freedom and democracy are blowing across Central and Eastern Europe. The past two years have witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in the forces of freedom over the forces of communist tyranny that have dominated this part of the world for the past half-century. In the last year we have seen free and democratic elections in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Macedonia. Freedom-loving peoples around the world have rejoiced as democratic governments have been elected to represent the will of these people.

The one counter-trend to the democratic upsurge in this part of the world are the communist dominated government of the Republic of Serbia and the still-communist dominated central government of Yugoslavia. These reactionary forces in Yugo-
slavia are the principal reason for the recent violence and bloodshed in Slovenia and Cro­
Atia and for the longstanding violence and repression against the Albanian majority in Kos­

ova.

In this century, we have witnessed total­itarian governments and repressive govern­ments which have learned and used the real will of their people. We have seen the vi­
cious brutality of Fascism and Com­

mism. But as we enter the last decade of this century, it has become abundantly clear that you cannot permanently stop the demo­

cratic will of the people. In the past few months that truth has again been brought home in Slovenia, in Croatia, and in Kos­

ova. It is essential that our government's policy toward all nations—and toward these people in particular—reflect our support for demo­

cracy and for the right of people to democratic­

determination of their future. The State De­

partment and the White House must know that a policy which prop up forces of repres­

sion and thwarts the democratic will of the Slov­

enes, the Croats and the Albanians in Kos­

ova can never succeed.

A policy which supports communism and repression against freedom and democracy is doomed to failure. The State Department and the White House must remember the les­
sions of the Berlin Wall, the lessons of Solid­

arity in Poland, the lessons of the candle­

light vigils of the "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia, and the lessons of the vio­

cent uprising against the tyranny of the Oas­

seus in Romania.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for­

themselves." The infringement of the free­
dom and democratic rights of people any­

where is a threat to the freedom and demo­
cratic rights of men and women everywhere. That is why it is vital that we here in the United States stand up for the rights of the Slov­

enes, Croats, and Albanians in Kos­

ova.

A DAUGHTER'S VIEW OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

HON. LES ASPIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. ASPIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read some poems that were handed to me while I was back home in Wisconsin. These heartfelt poems were written by 12-year-old Jessica Messick to her father, U.S. Army Warrant Offi­
cer Kenneth W. Messick, who was serving in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. These poems would be an inspiration to any parent who has to leave children be­
hind when they went to serve their country. I found Jessica's poems to be very moving and I would like to share them with my colleagues here today.

A DAUGHTER’S VIEW OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

(By Jessica L. Messick)

I SAW GOODBYE

I said goodbye to my dad today.
He went to war today.
It made me proud, it made me strong.
It made me cry, it made me long
For the Persian Gulf to be over so soon,
So my dad can be back under the U.S. moon.

FREEDOM

My daddy has gone far away

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

To another hour in another day.
He fights for oil and much, much more,
For the freedom of a country I'd never heard of before.
When people ask what my daddy does,
I say he fights for freedom, and he does it be­
cause I believe that all men have the right to be free.
The Kuaitais, the Irquis, the Americans and me.

BODYSNATCHERS

My dad flies a chopper with a big red cross.
His job in the war is to minimize loss.
He belongs to the 102nd Med. Co.
When a soldier is down, it's his job to go.
He flies through the air, in danger or not,
To save a brave soldier where others have fought.
He risks his own life so that others may live.
I know to the troops his life he may give.

A LETTER

Dear Daddy,
I'm writing this letter today,
To tell you I miss you, you're so far away.
Are you eating O.K. and sleeping enough?
Have you gotten our letters and boxes of stuff?
I'm helping Mom like you asked me to do.
I'm studying hard, playing saxophone too.
My friends have been nice, but they don't un­
derstand.
What it's like having a dad fight in a far­
away land.
Mom is just fine, but it's hard on her too.
I know that she worries each day about you.
Adie is good, says she misses "Papa."
She can say "Persian Gulf" in two-year-old talk.
Take care of yourself, come home on the double.
Always be safe and stay out of trouble.
I'm proud of you Dad, in whatever you do.
You are my hero, and your "Dolly" loves you.

A DAUGHTER’S FAIRY

Dear God, bring my daddy home to me
From far away, across the sea.
I love him, I need him, I want him right here.
To hug me, to hold me, and always be near.
But if, dear God, my prayer cannot be
Please and love take care of my daddy for me.

Jessica turned 13 on Saturday, Happy birth­

day, Jessica.

BETTY WELDON RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a truly outstanding individual, Betty Goshorn Weldon of Jefferson City, MO. An honorary literaturar doctorate de­
gree was awarded to Mrs. Weldon during the commencement ceremonies at William Woods College in Fulton, MO, on May 11, 1991.

Mrs. Weldon was also the commencement speaker. As the president and publisher of the Jefferson City News-Tribune, Mrs. Weldon has developed the Tribune into one of Missouri's most highly regarded newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to rec­
ognize Betty Weldon and her accomplish­
ments. She is truly an outstanding Missouri leader. Through the years, she has shared her remarkable leadership abilities with her com­

munity and State. I herewith insert her com­

mencement address at William Woods Col­

lege:

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY BETTY GOshONR WELDON

Good morning! I'm glad to be here and, hopefully, several minutes from now you will not be too sorry that I am.

Incidentally. last year I was granted an honorary degree and none of my family came. Today, one of them is here and I know why she wants to hear the truth, nothing but the truth, and don't mis­
lead you.

When President Barnet invited me to address you, my first inclination was at once to reply "no," what can I possibly tell them? Then I thought... well, I have a lot in com­

mon with those young women. We do have similar educations. I went two years to an all girls boarding school and was graduated from an all girls' college. In retrospect, I have to laugh at my very good life. Our younger daughter, just this past week, said "Mom, you have had a full life," and I have. There is no doubt that my life would not have been as bright and continuing without my education. Believe me, I have never regret­
ted it.

The "obituaries" that are written about speakers are always flattering—they're sup­
posed to be. But let me assure you I'm no ge­
nius. I believe in this respect I was a great disappointment to my mother; she was a ge­
nius. She was graduated from Iowa Univer­

sity at age 19, Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in Latin and minorin in Greek. Latin was al­
most my ruination. When I took college board's, I had to have six years of a foreign lan­
guage and I still cringe to recall that Latin exam. I probably barely passed. Then I had two years of French. The mademoiselle said I spoke French with a Spanish accent so, when I went to college, I decided natu­

rally to take Spanish for the two required years. Well, it seems then I spoke Spanish with a French accent. That finished my lin­
guistic efforts.

I'm telling you a favorite story of my fami­
ly's—except I do believe they exaggerate. We were touring a magnificent Spanish castle and I was intrigued with all the little skulls probably over a hundred—all wound and keeping perfect time. They say I asked our guide about the el clockos!

Are they the attributes of a successful individual? What goals should a person set? What is the "formula for success"? I don't pretend to have answers for those questions. Looking back over the years, I know that I have experienced and what I have learned. I can truthfully say at least eighty percent of my own problems have been ones I have made for myself although, goodness gra­

cious, I had no idea I was doing so at the time. I am not including in this, of course, the unending tragedies which we all take in.

Looking back at some of the questions: How successful is an individual? What goals should a person set? What is the "formula for success"? I don't pretend to have answers for those questions. Looking back over the years, I know that I have experienced and what I have learned. I can truthfully say at least eighty percent of my own problems have been ones I have made for myself although, goodness gra­

cious, I had no idea I was doing so at the time. I am not including in this, of course, the unending tragedies which we all take in. There is no quicker way to gain the respect of your associates than to work hard.

There is so much talk today about equal rights for women. I never heard of it and I
didn't feel disadvantaged. In working, there are several other things I have done. I have always liked to work. In my working life—although I may be old-fashioned in this regard, I have never worn pants to the office. I think I have gotten along fairly well with men—I respect them as men and, hopefully, they respect me as a woman and an associate. I have not, however, let them walk over me, from time to time I told him how wrong he was and, occasionally I do lose my temper. Anyway, from time to time I told him how wrong he was and, occasionally I do lose my temper. How well I can remember making outs of slugs of type. Now and then, I personally miss the noise of the Linotypes.

Anyway, I was heartbroken about losing Dad and knew that we might very well even lose him once a week in the evening. How well I can remember making outs of slugs of type. Now and then, I personally miss the noise of the Linotypes.

It is obvious that we finally were granted the TV franchise and eventually that of CBS. The station's initials—KRCG—are my Dad's, Robert Charles Goshorn, and the location is on property we owned because we couldn't afford to go anywhere else. Since that time, the property also has become the site for Callaway Hills Farm.

My mother was always the best judge of talent and she didn't know how I hooked him. I am not suggesting anyone can become a famous success but it does always help to let your associates in the work place—and out—know you are successful.

I probably have two other personal attributes. I am generous and I do genuinely care about other people. Undoubtedly these were traits my parents encouraged. As a child raised in the Christian faith, I have always had a strong faith. I have never doubted and have always believed that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. I was a better example of what a Christian should exemplify, but I do keep trying. Incidentally, I have been called "Pollyanna" by my good husband so this year-after naming him the granddam of the dam of Shriver. Nothing that may amuse you graduates is that in those days, we didn't just automatically get all the network programming. I had to either sell our area to national firms or the local salesmen had to sell shows to local businesses. We did have two hours of television and these shows would every now and then go off the air—not, of course, due to anything we did—just the connections. Well, guess who would call and complain—not the women, but the men. We learned that men were going home for lunch to watch them!

I went to school and have memories I have. After all, I did marry a terrific man.

We all worked hard and struggled—we were so poor; never knew if we would meet our monthly payroll. We did have a reputation for absolutely everyone in television around the country—from San Francisco and Los Angeles to Boston and New York, knew and respected him. Basically, our troubles were taken care of, most often just by a phone call from him. He often had said he didn't know how I could know so little and even get the "TV station in operation—but I knew enough to marry him, also to work very hard.

Incidentally, a special bonus for working hard is that I remember being bored, honestly, and I always look forward to tomorrow—or, sometimes more than enough to marry a terrific man.

I don't recall ever having goals; yet I certainly don't think I have ever drifted. Rather, I guess you might say I have grabbed the opportunities as they come by. Dare to do the impossible.

No goals, no "formula for success,"—but, on my, I have had my dreams and most of them have been about horses. I have been called "Pennyroyal's Pride." One of the very few things that may amuse you graduates is that in those days, we didn't just automatically get all the network programming. I had to either sell our area to national firms or the local salesmen had to sell shows to local businesses. We did have two hours of television and these shows would every now and then go off the air—not, of course, due to anything we did—just the connections. Well, guess who would call and complain—not the women, but the men. We learned that men were going home for lunch to watch them!

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SALUTE TO THE 1991 GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE RECIPIENTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, the importance of a high school education cannot be overemphasized. Unfortunately, there are many Americans who never complete high school. Today, I rise to pay tribute to the general education degree recipients of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School District and to the tutors, volunteers, staff, and families who so graciously gave their time and support.

Recently, 45 students received their general education degrees and were honored at the Adult Basic Education Program and reception at Cleveland Heights High School in Cleveland. The district's superintendent, mayor of University Heights, OH, presented certificates at the ceremony, and students were allowed to make brief statements.

Mr. Speaker, these students spoke of their plans to attend college, begin military careers, and enter the work force. However, the students all had one similarity in their remarks. Each spoke of how they are doing something with their lives they could not have done without a diploma.

These graduates are to be commended for their efforts, and I am proud to salute each of them.

GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE GRADUATES


Tommy Gray, Lincoln Greer, Willie Hamp, Laverne Hill, Jone Hilliard, Christopher Hockey, Patrick Joyner, Thomas Krivac, Contrelle Lewis, Eline Maddox, Emanuel Marico, Dheri W. McPherson, Robert Millhuff, Jacqueline Myles, Earl Peck.


HON. BOB MCEWEN OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MCEWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House to join me in support of legislation I introduced today to establish a House Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. This resolution would permit the House to proceed directly toward answering troubling POW/MIA questions.

Unresolved POW/MIA questions have created an emotional and serious problem. The Communist governments in Southeast Asia and North Korea continue to drag their feet on this issue. There are even questions being asked regarding the U.S. Government's handling of POW/MIA matters.

Mr. Speaker, these charges are serious enough to warrant further investigation by a Select Committee of the House. A Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs to address the concerns of many Americans who are not satisfied that all possible efforts have been made to achieve the fullest possible accounting of every brave American soldier who has not returned home from war.

This expression of congressional interest would also send a clear message to North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia that the American people are not satisfied with the cooperation of these countries in addressing the POW/MIA issues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to address the POW/MIA questions that continue to frustrate many Americans. This firm commitment to action is the least the House can do to match the service and sacrifice that the brave Americans now listed as POW/MIA gave to our country.

TRIBUTE TO SAM AND VICTORIA HAMRA

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and Victoria Hamra. On July 20, 1991, in Steele, MO, the Sam Farris Hamra Community Center and Victoria A. Hamra Auditorium was dedicated in their memory.

Hamra's life is symbolic of the American dream. He arrived in this country as a young boy and through hard work and dedication he attained his goals. He took advantage of the opportunities offered by this land and the country. He wanted to do something back. He and his wife Victoria were active members in all aspects of community life. Sam Hamra's interests ranged from the Boy Scouts to the charter presidency of the industrial corporation which brought Steele its first factory.

Indicative of his concern for the future of his community, he established a scholarship that is awarded annually to a graduate of South Pemiscot County High School. He was a man of numerous accomplishments who was known and respected throughout the State of Missouri.

But the most important legacy of Sam Hamra is his family. He and Victoria instilled in their children the values that defined their lives: Love for each other, respect for God, pride in their country, concern for the welfare of others, and the dignity of hard work. I know this to be true because his son Sam F. Hamra, Jr., has been my friend for many years.

The Sam F. Hamra Community Center is a fitting memorial to a man who believed in and
acted upon the power of the average citizen to be a force for progress in the community.

THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH AMENDMENTS OF 1991

HON. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
OF MAINE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce, together with my colleague, Representative BRUCE, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Re-search Amendments of 1991. This bill extends the Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease, the Council on Alzheimer's Disease, and research efforts to services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and their families, as originally authorized in Public Law 99-660. This legislation which Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced in 1986, and in which Senator METZENBAUM also played a leading role. Senator Grassley and Senator Metzenbaum are introducing a similar bill in the Senate.

For many years, I have been greatly concerned about the mental, physical, emotional, and financial devastation which Alzheimer's disease inflicts upon its victims, including the hidden victim, the family caregiver. And since 1983, I have been actively involved in introducing legislation, holding hearings and sponsoring forums focusing on biomedical research for Alzheimer's disease and the needs of family caregivers.

As you are probably aware, Alzheimer's is a ravaging disease which gradually erodes the mind, and finally leaves the patient totally physically helpless and unable to care for themselves. Victims can live as long as 20 years, and account for at least half of nursing home residents. It is the fourth leading cause of death of adults in the United States, affecting as many as 4 million older Americans. The incidence increases dramatically with age, particularly with the over-85 population which is projected to increase fivefold in the next 50 years. Conservative estimates of the current direct costs only of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease are about $40 billion per year—other estimates exceed $50 billion per year.

In recent years, Congress has substantially increased appropriations for biomedical research on Alzheimer's disease—but the problem remains that relatively few of approved, meritorious grant applications actually receive Federal funding. However, although there have been few dramatic clinical breakthroughs in recent years, there have been a steady stream of significant research advances and the goals of understanding the cause of the disease and possible ways to treat or prevent it are now more clearly in sight.

The Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease, which this bill reauthorizes, was established by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Services Research Act of 1986 to advise Congress and the executive branch about emerging issues and priorities in research and service delivery regarding Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Since then, new epide-miological data which suggests that the prevalence of this disorder is considerably higher than previously estimated, reemphasizes the importance of a rigorous program of research and proper planning for services.

In its two published reports, the Panel of outstanding experts evaluated the current status of, and made recommendations for legislative and administrative initiatives in four major areas: biomedical research, research relating to services and their families, systems of home and community-based services, and health care and social services financing. Recommendations were also made on research funding, appropriate components of a long-term care system for Alzheimer's patients, and staff training and recruitment. Further annual reports to Congress will focus on values and goals underlying care of Alzheimer's patients; ethnic, cultural, and minority group issues; and the impact of law and regulation on Alzheimer's patient care. Significant unfinished business remains such as: State-level issues in providing care; biotechnological advances relating to new drug development and biomedical research relating to biological and medical research to uncover new areas for possible interventions for potential risk factors, such as head injuries, heart attacks, and environmental toxins.

Given the magnitude of the disorder, the number of still unanswered questions, the unfinished work of the Panel, and the need for further advice to Congress and the executive branch about new directions in research and the provisions of care, the Panel needs to be reauthorized in order to complete its work. The significant growth in both knowledge about Alzheimer's disease and increases in funding for research further underscores the importance of a readily available expert advisory body to monitor progress and advise the Government about the most scientifically and fiscally sound approaches to take.

Likewise, the immense and diverse problems associated with Alzheimer's disease relate to the research interests and expertise of multiple programs and agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]. The Council on Alzheimer's Disease was established to coordinate continuing research on Alzheimer's disease throughout the Department, to identify mechanisms to use the results of research. The Council is also required to submit an annual report to Congress. The Council has been very effective in facilitating effective coordination and collaboration among these numerous DHHS programs and agencies, within a broad-based research framework entailing seven major areas of activity. The need is clear to also extend the Council.

In order to make effective biomedical research, it is imperative to enhance focusing on finding the best ways to care for people with Alzheimer's disease, and to alleviate the stress of and strengthen and support family caregivers. So far, systematic research on how to meet the needs of caregivers, and financial services for Alzheimer's care has been slow, scanty, and has usually lacked evaluation as to whether programs meet their goals. Important findings from research on the difficulties of functioning as a primary caregiver and on family stress indicates significant so-sial, economic, and emotional burden by such as stress-related illness, abuse, anger, and depression. Studies being funded by the National Institute of Mental Health have found evidence that the chronic impact of caregiving affects immune functioning, thus increasing the incidence of infectious diseases. The need for services research is clear.

Therefore, the bill which I am introducing today reauthorizes services research by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. This includes research relating to: The optimal range, types and cost effectiveness of services, and specialized care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families; and for improving the organization, delivery and financing of services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Including special care units in nursing homes. Until the cause, cure, and treatment is found, the human and fiscal costs of Alzheimer's and related diseases will accelerate precipitously with the rapidly expanding older population. The reauthorization of the Advisory Panel and Council on Alzheimer's disease, and of services research, will help to coordinate and give expert guidance to ensure a stronger and more coherent, focused Federal response to this devastating disease.

LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE HOME EQUITY FROM STUDENT FINAN­CIAL AID NEEDS ANALYSIS

HON. PATSY T. MINK
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation with my distinguished colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. Jack Reed, to exclude the value of family homes and farms from the calculation of need for Federal student aid programs. As many homeowners in America have found out, the value of real estate fluctuates dramatically around the nation. This fluctuation has a direct and harmful impact on many college-bound students. Under the current student financial aid needs analysis those students and families who live in high-cost areas are penalized for the escalated value of their homes.

In the last decade many families across the Nation have seen the price of their homes soar to levels that they themselves could not afford today, and as a result, these families are not able to qualify for desperately needed financial aid. The assessment of home equity in the student financial aid eligibility is an unfair barrier that hurts many middle-class families and students in our country. The legislation we have introduced today addresses the financial realities of today's American family and restores equity into the federal needs analysis formula.

Mr. Speaker, in Hawaii families are saddled with a cost of living that is approximately 22-
percent higher than the national average and the highest average sales price of a single-family home in the Nation. With the average middle-income homes appraised between $300,000 and $400,000, families in Hawaii have been excluded from much needed financial assistance to send their children to college.

Hawaii, is not the only State effected, the New England States and California have had similar experiences. Other families in the Midwest are penalized because of the value of their family farms. As we are all aware, America's farmer has so often borne the brunt of our changing economy. To now say to our farm families that the worth of their farm on paper prohibits them from sending their children to college, regardless of how tight money may be for them, is one injustice too many.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of Congress when we first enacted financial aid for college was to provide a means for students to be included rather than denied access to higher education. For this reason I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and restore equity in our Federal financial aid system.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE FATE OF THE SHARPEVILLE SIX

HON. TOM LANTOS OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, South Africa has made substantial progress toward the elimination of its racist policies. All of us in the Congress wholeheartedly welcome these changes that have been made. At the same time, however, we urge the South African Government to go further.

The Government of South Africa has yet to satisfy one of the provisions of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, the legislation that imposed economic sanctions against South Africa. The international community has not witnessed the release of all persons persecuted for their political beliefs or detained unduly without trial.

Witness the fate of the "Sharpeville Six." In a trial that raised serious questions about South Africa's criminal justice system, Reginald Sefatse, Reid Mokoena, Oupa Diniso, Theresa Ramashamola, Duma Khumalo, and Francis Mokhele—known collectively as the Sharpeville Six—were found guilty and sentenced to hang for the murder of a South African township counselor. The official was attacked after he opened fire on a large crowd during a mass protest against increased rents and taxes.

At no time were the Sharpeville Six accused of actually murdering the South African official. Instead, they were tried under an insidious statute employed by the South African legal system to bludgeon political dissent: the Doctrine of Common Purpose.

In essence, they were convicted and sentenced to death by hanging because of their proximity to the scene of the crime and for having a supposed common purpose with those who actually murdered the official. There was no attempt by the prosecution to establish that the six were guilty of committing the murder.

The Doctrine of Common Purpose and the judicial proceedings which resulted in the Sharpeville Six verdict were so antithetical to civilized standards of law, that the international community was outraged. Due in part to that response, the death sentences of the Sharpeville Six were commuted.

Many observers in the international community thought that since the Sharpeville Six were classified by the South African Government as common criminals and not political prisoners they would spend most, if not all, of their lives in prison. However, after a review of the case, South African officials recently released Oupa Diniso and Duma Khumalo.

The news of their release was heartening. Still, the imprisonment of the remaining four is intolerable. Reports that their cases are currently under review has raised the hopes of the international community for an early release.

Mr. Speaker, Reginald Sefatse, Reid Mokoena, Theresa Ramashamola, and Francis Mokhele are victims, not criminals. They desire freedom. The President may have lifted the sanctions against South Africa, but the fight for racial justice in that torn country continues. The Government of South Africa still has much to do in the way of proving to the international community its commitment to reform. The government should continue the course of change with the immediate release of the remaining Sharpeville Six.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TAX ACT OF 1981

HON. V IN WEBER
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. WEBER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a joint resolution that will celebrate one of the most important pieces of legislation in the last decade: the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Many critics of the Reagan era are trying to water down the positive effects of ERTA. They claim that only the rich were helped by across-the-board tax cuts, and that the Reagan package did virtually nothing for the middle class and poor. On the 10th anniversary of ERTA, we need to set the record straight.

This law was passed to spur economic growth, create jobs, and put America on a road to recovery. It was a response to a country mired in sluggish growth, with soaring inflation and high interest rates.

The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 was President Reagan's solution to a crippled economy. He, along with Congressman Kemp and Senator Roth, knew that the only way to spur the economy was to reduce the tax burden on American workers and industry.

Looking back on this piece of legislation, we can see that the progrowth strategy of 1981 proved that cutting taxes and increasing work and investment incentives is the successful route to recovery. Ten years later we need to remember that the economy still needs low taxes, a sound monetary policy, and less Government regulation.

Many of us have been working hard over the last decade to extend the policies set by this progrowth package, and in these times it is even more imperative that we strive for these goals.

During the eighties we saw the longest peacetime expansion in this Nation's history. We were able to create 20 million jobs, increase the median family income by 12 percent, and double manufacturing productivity.

Also, without the 1981 tax cut, the average American family would now pay $1,500 more in income taxes every year. The tax cuts also led to a decrease in the share of income taxes paid by low and middle-income taxpayers.

Today, I ask that you join me in recognizing the 10-year anniversary of this great act. By supporting this resolution, we are showing America that we will continue to take steps to reduce taxes and create the opportunities for employment that can be found only in this country.
CONGRESSIONAL CALL TO CONSCIENCE

HON. ROBERT J. MRAZEK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MRAZEK. Mr. Speaker, remarkably, at last week's G-7 meeting in London, Mikhail Gorbachev stood side-by-side with the leaders of the major industrial nations. If this isn't a sign that Soviet-global tensions have re-treated, I don't know what is. Yet, even with the many positive steps taken among nations, we still have a lot to accomplish. While a significant number of Soviet Jews have left for new countries, mostly Israel, the doors still remain partially closed for two major reasons.

First, changes in the Soviet passport law cast an uncertain future on Soviet emigration. Before the change, Soviet citizens who wished to leave the Soviet Union were required to obtain exit visas. While the process of obtaining these visas was long and complicated, it is now unclear how cumbersome the new law will be. However, the Soviet Government is assigning international passports instead of the exit visas. However, it is too early to tell how Soviet Jews will be affected by this new law in the long run.

The second reason is a result of U.S. emigration policy. While world events have transformed our relationship with the Soviet Union, changing events has not caused our country to alter its quota system. Soviet Jews who wish to enter our country must meet one of two major requirements if they want to emigrate: 50,000 per year or face direct persecution. Even with these strict criteria, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is now handling over 10 times the number of requests it handled just 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the cold war era, our government called upon the Soviet Union to stop its ruthless persecution of Jewish citizens and allow them to emigrate to the United States. While thousands of Soviet Jews had applied for exit visas each year, almost all of them were denied emigration by the Soviets. With the arrival of glasnost came a new hope that the Soviet Jews would be freed from this oppression and be allowed to emigrate to the United States.

Clearly, we must reassess our policy after we have pressured the Soviet Government for so many years to relax their emigration policies. In 1990, Israel received 1 million requests for emigration from Soviet Jews while settling over 100,000 throughout their small country. For many years, Congress, at the urging of many Americans, has actively pushed the Soviet Government to relax its policies. Now, by continuing the 50,000 person limit, we are turning our backs on those people we have been trying to help.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

At the same time, the Soviet Union has continued to establish roadblocks for Jews who want to emigrate to the United States. The case of Svetlana Sorkin and her family is a good example.

The Sorkin family first applied for emigration in February 1988. They were rejected by Soviet authorities on the grounds that Svetlana's husband Roman had access to state secrets when he worked at an electrical plant from 1977 to 1983. They reapplied for visas in March and September of that same year and were finally approved in November 1988. When the Sorkins were all prepared to leave, the Soviet authorities revoked their visas at the last minute. The local KGB told the Sorkins that the Means of Communication Industry was responsible for the cancellation. When the Sorkins contacted the ministry, they told the family that the ministry had no objection to the family's emigration. For 2½ years, this bureaucratic nightmare has continued and the Sorkins regrettably still are living in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, the plight of the Sorkin family is not an isolated incident. The Sorkins are only one of the many Soviet Jews who are denied exit visas each year and are either denied or are delayed from leaving. Constituents throughout my district have brought to my attention the unfortunate case of Svetlana Sorkin and her family. I am campaign for visas in the Soviet Union. The travesty of this unfair is that many of these families are seeking exit visas that wish to enter our country. The Sorkin family, sponsored by their first cousin, Lorraine Buchsbaum, has been trying to leave the Soviet Union since February of last year. The Vileneks are the closest relatives to Ms. Buchsbaum aside from her scatter. They are related to Ms. Buchsbaum's family through their mutual acquaintance in the late 1960s.

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TRIBUTE TO COL. JAMES P. (PAUL) KING HON. BOB CLEMENT OF TENNESSEE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representatives Tom Bevill and Bud Cramer of Alabama, Representatives Hal Rogers and Carroll Hubbard of Kentucky, Representative James Whitten of Mississippi, Representatives James Quillen, Marilyn Lloyd, Harold Ford, Don Sundquist, Bart Castle of Tennessee, Representative Rick Boucher of Virginia, to recognize the accomplishments of Col. James P. (Paul) King, the outgoing commander of the Nashville District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Since assuming command of the district in 1989, Colonel King has demonstrated outstanding leadership, and enthusiasm by fostering a command climate that emphasizes effective utilization of human resources and a high standard of professionalism. In all occasions and circumstances, he has led by example and inspired the employees of the district to do their very best.

Colonel King has maintained a genuine and compassionate interest in the people under his command. During the first weeks of his tenure, he saved a civilian employee's life by administering CPR after the employee collapsed from a heart attack. At the same time, he established a series of town meetings at corps field projects to listen to employee concerns, and instituted a safety program to curb a rising accident rate.

Mr. Speaker, under Colonel King's supervision, the Nashville district has realized significant accomplishments in many diverse areas, including:

In partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Colonel King negotiated an agreement in which the corps will design and construct a $361 million project at Kentucky lock. He successfully orchestrated the transfer of the completed Big South Fork River and Recreation Area to the National Park Service under an extremely tight schedule.

He altered the disposal areas of the $2.8 million Harlan tunnels project in order to provide fill material for a new school site.

On the project level, the levee-overflowwall highway project at Pineville-Wellsand was completed, and construction began on the improvement of the Barbourville, KY, flood control levee.

Additionally, he engineered the selection of the Nashville District as the Hazardous and Toxic Waste Design Center for the Ohio River division. The Nashville District enjoys a 98.2-percent generator availability rate, which is the highest in the corps, a 96-percent rate on 60-day turn-around for permit auctions, national recognition as leaders in natural resource management with over 47 million volunteer hours last year, and outstanding partnerships with the navigation industry.

Mr. Speaker, we urge our colleagues to join us in honoring Col. James P. King as an exemplary and caring leader. His outstanding and diverse technical and managerial accomplishments will be sorely missed by the people of the Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers.

KENTUCKY JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM TAKES THE GOLD

HON. ROMANO L. MAZZOLI OF KENTUCKY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to advise our colleagues that the Kentucky Junior Volleyball Association [KJVA] won the gold medal at the 1991 U.S. Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships which took place in Tampa, FL, earlier this month.
INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1991

HON. RICK BOUCHER OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to strengthen the National Science Foundation's (NSF) activities in support of environmental protection and tourism control in Antarctica. A summary of the provisions of the bill follows this statement.

Antarctica is a unique scientific laboratory of great value to the international community: the upper atmosphere over the pole is a screen for viewing the results of interactions of solar plasmas and the Earth's magnetic field, and for detecting evidence of space physics processes. The extremely clean, stable, and dry atmosphere enables astronomers and astrophysicists to probe the universe with unprecedented precision from a ground-based site.

It is an ideal biological laboratory for studying such effects as adaptation of organisms under extremes of light, temperature, and moisture, where, for example, a fish has developed natural antifreeze.

Antarctica's extreme climate, which can induce social, psychological, and physiological stresses, provides an appropriate location to study human health and performance. NASA will use this natural lab for human studies tied to the manned space program.

Antarctica is also a major part of the global heat engine that determines world climate. The vast Antarctic ice sheet interacts with oceanic and atmospheric circulation to modulate global climate. Accordingly, the behavior of the ocean-atmosphere system in Antarctica is expected to provide an early warning of climate change.

The 2-mile-thick ice sheet covering the pole is a repository of the past climate record of great benefit to climatologists and other scientists.

Many naturally occurring global events are greatly magnified in the Antarctic environment, with the result that changes such as ozone layer depletion and climate change are detected there first.

In sum, Antarctica is one of the world's most valuable scientific research platforms, and it is essential to ensure its continued availability for a broad range of research.

The NSF has been responsible for support of research in Antarctica from the beginning of the U.S. presence on the continent. Since 1971, NSF has been responsible for budgeting and managing the U.S. national Antarctic program, including logistics support. Among other responsibilities, the Foundation must ensure American compliance with the environmental protection measures contained in the Antarctic Treaty, its protocols, and other informal agreements among nations signatory to the treaty. NSF is also responsible under the Antarctic Conservation Act for overseeing the activities of U.S. citizens in Antarctica and ensuring conservation, the protection of native flora and fauna, and preservation of the ecosystem.

For the past several years, NSF has received criticism for inadequate stewardship of the U.S. Antarctic Program as it affects the Antarctic environment. Specific actions by NSF, such as maintaining a landfill, allowing open air burning of solid waste, and failure to remove toxic substances, have received particular criticism.

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the activities of tour operators in the Antarctic region, creating the need for better regulation of tourism and its interface both with the research community and the Antarctic environment.

The purpose of the legislation is to specify actions NSF must take to ensure that environmental assessment, monitoring, and control occurs for all U.S. activities in the Antarctic and institute better tourism control.

The bill will require NSF to implement a comprehensive solid waste management plan for all U.S. stations, including deadlines for implementation. It requires environmental assessments of all significant activities, establishment of a long-term environmental monitoring program, and a thorough environmental audit by experts from outside the NSF.

Also, the bill calls for a review of the effects of the growing tourism industry in Antarctica and requires NSF, on the basis of the study, to issue regulations for control of tourism.

Mr. Speaker, the value and importance of Antarctic research are well understood. At the same time, it is recognized that the research activity itself will cause some environmental disturbance in this pristine region, where traces of human activity are preserved virtually forever. The goal must be to weigh the environmental effects against the value of the science and develop rational ways to minimize adverse effects. Clearly, a better job must be done in the future than has been done in the past. I believe the proposed legislative measure will help ensure that this desired goal is reached.

PROUD TO RECOGNIZE LISA ROMANI, CRIS SIMMON, AND TAMMIE TRUPP

HON. GUS YATRON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. YATRON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three young women from the Sixth District of Pennsylvania. These women are talented, bright, and determined members of the Girl Scouts of America.

On August 8, 1991, a special ceremony will be held in their honor at the Christ Lutheran Church in Reading, PA, at which time they will be awarded the Girl Scout's Gold Award. These three young women have successfully fulfilled the requirements for this award, which includes participation in activities for merit patches, exploration of career fields, development of leadership skills, and involvement in community interest projects.

20303
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 29, 1991

OUTDOOR CATHEDRAL

HON. CHARLES WILSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the first Member of this body to bring the Big Thicket of east Texas to the attention of Congress now sits in the White House. For nearly 30 years the formation of a Big Thicket Preserve and the expansion of that preserve to protect sections of this unique and beautiful part of Texas has been dear to the hearts of many of my friends at home.

One of those friends is Howard Peacock: Author, folklorist, and lover-of-the-outdoors. Howard's talent with words far surpasses mine, and since legislation to add very important parts of the Big Thicket to the preserve is now before both House and Senate committees I feel it is appropriate to share an article he wrote this past spring celebrating his enjoyment of the Big Thicket.

[From the Beaumont (TX) Enterprise, Apr. 5, 1991]

OUTDOOR CATHEDRAL—BIG THICKET TRAILS
OFFER NATURAL TRANQUILITY

(By Howard Peacock)

One early April afternoon this past year, with the spirit of Pooch's Day still lingering on, the litter of bills, deadlines, problems, and unanswered correspondence on my desk suddenly became an insult to life and reason. The sight of it in front of me sense of freedom as a citizen with paid-up taxes and my heritage as a 64-year-old child of God. Where, therefore, have I gone and got behind the wheel of Old Blue, my 1980 Chevy, and drove to the Pitcher plant bog east of Warren, down a red-dirt road whose name, if it ever had one, I've never known.

Talk about luck. I hit the bog at the hour when the young spring sun had just tilted into the western sky, casting a Rembrandt glow over the fat, buffy-yellow blooms of these strange plants that eat animal flesh. Their scientific name sounds like a sultan's prima belly-dancer, Sarracenia alata. At this moment, thousands of these blooms were carpeting acre after acre of the clearing, framed by tall pines. Sun-struck, the entire scene shimmered and gleamed like a vast sheet of alabaster gold.

"Surely," I murmured to no one, "this is a day of days, a trail of trails, in the Big Thicket.

The first time I'd experienced awe of the Big Thicket—Ol' Arch Fillingim, the great country newspaper editor, called it "The Holy Ghost Thicket" when I was 9 years old and got to go with a troop of Cub Scouts to Camp Mitigwa on Village Creek.

At the time I was a city boy, growing up with trucks and sock-eights and Harold, a powdery doing my best to swing a bat like Hank Greenberg, hurl a fastball like Schoolday Rowe, heroically spore line drives like Mark McGwire, but at Camp Mitigwa I glimpsed for a second world—an ever-new cosmos of wild plants, bugs, snakes, birds, furry creatures, sols, and water... blessed swimm'min' hole; it had b'charact'ristic Vill's Creek.

Since then I've walked 50, maybe 100 or 200, trails in various parts of the Big Thicket, and would have cut a path to a right turn out in my old age to be my favorite.

One time, the late Harold Nicholas guided me through a maze of ashlog baygalls south of Saratoga that dazed human sight. After an hour in those shadowed regions, the reflections of trees in the groundwater literally turned the world upside down. The sensation was so novel that it didn't matter if you might be lost. Harold, a protege of the legendary Lance Rosier and a self-taught watercolor artist who painted the wildflowers of the Thicket with lyrical delicacy and precise details, took this trail to a certain Black Oak. The old tree was so huge that its trunk at neck height made Harold, a powerful man with massive shoulders and chest, seem downright puny alongside.

Sixty miles or so northeast of those baygalls, the Kirby Nature Trail, 4 to 5 miles north of Kountze, is the preeminent living savant of such matters. Geraldine Watson of Silsbee is the preeminent living savant of such matters. She can show you vistas and nature's ways that enlarge life itself. A good way to start is to ask the National Park Service, please be sure to bring a packet of Big Thicket Trail brochures.

About 1,000 kinds of wild flowering plants grace the trails of the Thicket, according to Eugene Brooks on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Thicket, about seven miles north of Kountze. These woods hold a diversity of plant and animal life that seems to me phenomenal. Here is a forest in transition, evolving from timber harvests of several decades ago toward climax maxima 100, maybe 200 years ahead. Generally, the showiest blooms unfold in the springtime and summer parade. Truth be told, some such. You're especially lucky if Maxine Johnston of Kountze or Pete Gunter is in your boat. Both are delightful companions and knowledgeable Big Thicketseers for all the paddling, portaging around fallen logs, and fishing. At lunchtime you'll find the noontime demolishing of fried chicken, sandwiches, and apples on a sloping sandbar. For a short day's float, put in where Village Creek joins the Neches, or downstream at the Larsen Sandylands.

The most inspiring trail in the Thicket today is the Kirby Nature Trail. Here are kingly oaks and soaring bull pines, baygalls is another favorite trail. It leads to the Kirby Nature Trail off Farm Road 1,000, about seven miles north of Kountze. These woods hold a diversity of plant and animal life that seems to me phenomenal. Here is a forest in transition, evolving from timber harvests of several decades ago toward climax maxima 100, maybe 200 years ahead. Generally, the showiest blooms unfold in the springtime and summer parade. Truth be told, some such. You're especially lucky if Maxine Johnston of Kountze or Pete Gunter is in your boat. Both are delightful companions and knowledgeable Big Thicketseers for all the paddling, portaging around fallen logs, and fishing. At lunchtime you'll find the noontime demolishing of fried chicken, sandwiches, and apples on a sloping sandbar. For a short day's float, put in where Village Creek joins the Neches, or downstream at the Larsen Sandylands.

The most inspiring trail in the Thicket today is the Kirby Nature Trail.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD EUGENE BROOKS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 29, 1991

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Donald Eugene Brooks on the occasion of his retirement after 42 years of invaluable...
able service to the police department and citizens of Montgomery County, MD.

Donald Brooks, with unwavering diligence and a commitment to excellence, rose through the ranks and was appointed chief of police in 1999. Working in partnership with affected communities and governmental agencies, Chief Brooks helped to avoid the dramatic rise in such crime that was experienced elsewhere. With the development of innovative strategies to combat crime, the transition of Montgomery County had far fewer impediments.

For a man with such a long and varied career, it would be difficult, at best, to list all of his accomplishments. Chief Brooks never lost sight of the reason he joined the Montgomery County Police Department; to serve the citizens and provide them with the very highest quality police service. He will be honored at a retirement celebration on August 23, 1991.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleagues, I am pleased to introduce the Assault Weapon Act of 1991.

This bipartisan measure, sponsored by 35 Members of Congress, will:

First, ban both the future domestic manufacture and importation of only those firearms that have specific provisions designed to accept a silencer, a bayonet, a grenade launcher, or a flash suppressor for night-time shooting, or a folding stock;

Second, ban the future manufacture and importation of all semiautomatic shotguns with a fixed magazine of more than 7 rounds—like the 12-round riot shotgun known as the Street Sweeper;

Third, ban the future manufacture and importation of all ammunition magazines of 10 or more rounds;

Fourth, ban the future manufacture of the aftermarket do-it-yourself kits which enable a firearm to accept a silencer, bayonet, flash suppressor, grenade launcher and which enable a firearm to accommodate a folding stock—intended to make the weapon more concealable; and

Fifth, impose a mandatory minimum Federal prison sentence of 10 years for the use of those firearms in a crime of violence or a drug-trafficking crime—30 years second offense.

In July 1989, the Bush administration banned the importation of 43 types of foreign-made semiautomatic assault rifles—totaling over 700,000 rifles—in an effort to address the increasing use of specific types of firearms—the AK-47, for example—in crimes of violence or drug-related crimes.

The administration banned these firearms because they violated the existing Federal firearms law that imported firearms must be "suitable for, or adaptable to, sporting purposes." The administration issued its complete report on the issue after an exhaustive study and review. For the first time, the executive branch developed constructive criteria to justify its decision and distinguished the difference between military-style semiautomatic assault rifles and common, conventional semiautomatic firearms used for hunting or sporting purposes.

The Stark/Green bill is based primarily on the criteria developed by the Bush administration to regulate the proliferation of drug-related semiautomatic assault rifles. This measure addresses the ammunition magazine issue. The Stark/Green bill proposes to ban the future manufacture and importation of 10 or more rounds of ammunition, unlike the Bush administration's crime package proposal which banned ammunition magazines of 15 or more rounds.

Though the President's import ban was an important and commendable effort, the administration has inexplicably failed to address the proliferation of domestic-made semiautomatic assault rifles with a fixed magazine of 12 rounds. Later, the Reagan administration prohibited the importation of a South Korean 12-round riot shotgun named the S.A.S.-12. Not surprisingly, the import ban has been easily circumvented by a U.S. manufacturer, who is today producing the domestic version of the Sticker 12, affectionately renamed the "Street Sweeper." Who on earth would name, let alone defend, the manufacture of a 12-round riot shotgun named the "Street Sweeper?"

In a letter to me earlier this year, the Bush administration revealed that in 1989 almost 100,000 semiautomatic assault weapons were manufactured in the United States with special provisions to accept a silencer or bayonet—a 51 percent increase from the previous year. What legitimate sporting purposes do silencers and bayonets have?

Silencers have been prohibited since the 1934 National Firearms Act. Yet last year, 406 Federal criminal cases involved silencers. Weapons designed to accept these attachments are popular with drug dealers and terrorists. No legitimate hunter or sportsmen in my congressional district would defend silencers, bayonets, Street Sweepers, or 95-round ammunition magazines.

The Bush administration took the first significant step toward curbing the proliferation of semiautomatic assault weapons with its 1989 import ban. The Congress, together with the White House, should address the domestic question.

Statistics show that these laws can, and do, have an effect. For example, California's Semiautomatic Assault Weapon Act took effect in July 1989. One year later, the city of Oakland, in my own congressional district, reported a 37 percent cut in criminal misuse of these weapons for drug-related crimes and crimes of violence.

From 1985 to 1989, the Oakland Police Department kept meticulous records of assault weapons used in crimes of violence or drug-related crimes, such as AK-47's, MAC-10's, TEC-9's. In 1985, it was 12; in 1986 it was 55; in 1987, it was 113; in 1988, it was 214. In 1990, what happened when the California law passed? Criminal misuse in crimes of violence or drug-related crimes decreased, to 162 in 1989 and 134 in 1990.

While these laws do not eliminate all criminal misuse, they do help law enforcement do the job the public asks of it. Placing reasonable restrictions on the availability of semiautomatic assault rifles not used for traditional hunting or sporting purposes—are a commonsense approach to a complex problem.

The Bush administration has taken action already. I recently read of a poll taken by a legitimate polling agency which reported that 70 percent of Americans favor a ban on assault rifles. We have the opportunity to pass legislation that will treat semiautomatic weapons comprehensively.

This bill is not revolutionary—it uses the same criteria the administration developed for the 1989 import ban and proposes simply that made in the U.S.A. semiautomatic assault weapons be addressed through a ban on future manufacture. This bill says nothing about current or past weapons or future transfer, and is limited in its approach by only addressing the manufacture question.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, the law enforcement community, and those who wish to take a tough stance in our Federal crime-fighting efforts and a strong war on drugs. The text of the assault weapon Act of 1991 legislation follows:

H.R. —
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This act may be cited as the "Assault Weapon Act of 1991."

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST THE IMPORTATION AND MANUFACTURE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND RELATED DEVICES.
(a) In General.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to import or manufacture a firearm having threading, lugs, or other characteristics which are designed to facilitate the direct attachment of a silencer, bayonet, grenade launcher, flash suppressor, or folding stock to a firearm;"

"(2) any part or combination of parts designed to facilitate the attachment of a bayonet, silencer, grenade launcher, flash suppressor, or folding stock to a firearm;"

"(3) a shotgun with a fixed magazine which is capable of holding 7 or more rounds of ammunition;"

"(4) a detachable magazine, drum, belt, feed strip, or similar devise which has a capacity of, or can be readily restored or converted to accept, 10 or more rounds of ammunition;"

"(5) any combination of parts:

"(A) designed and intended solely and exclusively for assembling a device described in paragraph (4); and"

"(B) from which a device described in paragraph (4) could be assembled if such parts were possessed or controlled by 1 person; or"

"(6) any part specifically designed for use in assembling a device described in paragraph (4)."

July 29, 1991
(b) Penalty.—Section 924(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(2) a person who violates section 922(s) shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both."

SEC. 3. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR THE POSSESSION OR THE USE OF AN ASSAULT WEAPON OR A RELATED DEVICE IN A CRIME OF VIOLENCE OR IN A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME.

Section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by striking "subsection" and inserting "paragraph"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply in like manner to whomever, in the circumstances described in such paragraph, uses or carries an item described in section 922(s), except that—"

"(A) in the case of the first conviction of a person under this paragraph, such person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for ten years; and

"(B) in the case of the second or subsequent conviction of such person under this paragraph, such person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for thirty years."
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SD-116 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on S. 22, to regulate interstate commerce with respect to parimutuel wagering on greyhound racing, and to maintain the stability of the greyhound racing industry.

SD-226 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on proposals to extend the patent term of certain products, including S. 598 and S. 1165.

SR-253 Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on a proposed Department of Transportation headquarters, the relationship between the Judiciary and the Government Services Administration for the provision of space for the Courts, and on the General Services Administration's (GSA's) planning and management procedures and the condition of the Federal Building Fund.

Foreign Relations
Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine narcotics and foreign policy implications of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) affair.

SD-419 Judiciary
To hold hearings on proposals to extend the patent term of certain products, including S. 598 and S. 1165.

SD-326 Judiciary
Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposals to extend the patent term of certain products, including S. 598 and S. 1165.

SH-219 Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the role of music for the aging, focusing on music as medical therapy and a means of extending human vitality.

SD-406 Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the role of music for the aging, focusing on music as medical therapy and a means of extending human vitality.

SR-385 Joint Economic
To hold hearings on the employment-unemployment situation for July.

SD-628 Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the impact of trucking company takeovers on employees and the trucking industry.

SD-342 Select on Indian Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up S. 1530, to authorize the integration of employment, training and related services provided by Indian tribes to improve the effectiveness of those services, reduce unemployment in Indian communities, and adhere to the policy of Indian self-determination.

SR-485 Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

CANCELLATIONS

JULY 30

2:00 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Ocean and Water Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1445, to revise the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce human exposure to lead in drinking water.

SD-406

POSTPONEMENTS

JULY 31

2:00 p.m.
Joint Economic
To resume hearings to examine the current poverty situation in the United States.

2359 Rayburn Building