

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DR. REED BELL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE NETWORKS

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very ambitious and worthwhile program that has been started in my district, and about the man who has brought it all together. My district, like many across the country has its fair share of broken homes and families in need. We have learned that Washington does not always have the answer to these problems. So we in northwest Florida have started something called a Community Service Network, and with it, we are tackling the problems that face our area and are helping those in my district who are truly in need.

Community Service Networks are an alliance of different church, civic, and volunteer groups that get together to take care of the poor in their communities. The civic groups in these networks go directly out into their communities as care teams, bringing aid directly to the poor not only with food and medicine, but sometimes even with just advice or by lending a sympathetic ear.

This idea of a privately organized community effort to help the poor is a concept I had hoped to begin for some time. Fortunately, northwest Florida has community leaders with a strong sense of civic pride and a willingness to help those in need.

One such community leader is Dr. Reed Bell, a pediatrician who has spent many years in my district caring for children from poor and disadvantaged families. Dr. Bell had seen the struggles and setbacks of poor children and he knew firsthand how hard life can be for the poor and underprivileged. It is an experience that left him deeply impressed with the urgent need for community action to help those who cannot help themselves.

When Dr. Bell approached me with his own ideas for mobilizing community resources, I found that we shared a common belief that something needed to be done for the poor right here at home. We also found that we agreed that whatever was done, it had to be a private sector initiative, not just another government program. So Dr. Bell immediately began to meet with those in my district who were most interested in aiding the disadvantaged. When it was all done, and after much work and numerous meetings with both prominent people, groups, and ordinary citizens, the Community Service Network concept was born.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that this approach is catching on around the Nation. The New York Times recently reported an explosive growth in groups just like the CSN's. The Times article said that people are tired of

waiting for Washington to step in and that they are digging in and doing their part; saying in effect, "Forget waiting for the Federal Government. We can do it ourselves."

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are doing in my district. That is what Dr. Bell has done his whole career and is still doing to this day. This is not a political revolution, it is a revolution of thought and spirit. It is a movement by Americans to reclaim their country and to say, "Yes, we can make a difference." So it is today that I give my congratulations to Dr. Bell and the hundreds of men and women who are out there making a difference. We are all a little better today for what Dr. Bell has done, and I believe that we in this body owe them a debt of thanks.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKPLACE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. I believe that we must begin to explore ways to look beyond the traditional model of combating discrimination, which is currently accomplished by protecting a class or category of people. Instead, we must begin to pass laws which protect the individual from discrimination. A person's singular worth and merit should be the yardstick we measure by, rather than a person's behavior or characteristics which attach them to a group. If we predicate discrimination law on distinctions between groups or categories, we negate the original intention of protecting against discrimination itself.

Therefore, I am introducing the Workplace Fairness Act of 1996, which will effectively prohibit discrimination on any basis other than an employee's individual merit. Instead of continuing a piece-meal approach to discrimination law by adding special categories to those now protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, my legislation ensures that the only factors which employers may consider are those pertaining to job performance. While this may be considered a radical approach to employment law, it is only fair that all employees are duly protected under the law, and not subject to being fired for arbitrary reasons. Without a legislative remedy such as this, Congress is going to be faced with the dilemma of adding special categories to those already protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, every time it is believed that a certain class is being unjustly treated. This is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker, but will left-

handed people be added to the list next? What about red-headed people? Under current law, such cases could indeed be made. Let us consider the logical evolution and consequences of this approach.

Specifically, the Workplace Fairness Act prohibits discrimination in a blanket fashion, rather than establishing newly protected classes in addition to those which already exist. It does so by establishing that employers shall not subject any employee to different standards or treatment in connection with employment or employment opportunities on any basis other than that of factors pertaining to job performance. My legislation defines "factors pertaining to job performance," which include employment history, ability and willingness to comply with performance requirements—including attendance and procedures—of the job in question, educational background, drug and alcohol use which may adversely affect job performance, criminal records, and conflicts of interest.

The Workplace Fairness Act establishes that merit is the sole criterion for consideration in job applications or interviews, hiring decisions, advancement, compensation, job training, or any other term, condition or privilege of employment. Additionally, those currently protected under title VII of the Civil Rights Act will still be able to seek redress upon enactment of the Workplace Fairness Act, as my legislation avails existing title VII remedies to any individual discriminated against under my bill. My legislation also exempts religious organizations, prohibits the establishment of quotas on any basis other than factors pertaining to job performance, and specifically does not invalidate or limit the rights, remedies or procedures available under any other existing Federal, State or local law to persons claiming discrimination.

Under the Workplace Fairness Act, employers and employees will still be allowed to enter into an alternate dispute resolution agreed upon before the term of employment begins, just as under current law. Further, the existing Federal statute in rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure states that if a frivolous lawsuit is filed by the plaintiff—the employee or prospective employee—than the court may rule that the plaintiff may pay the legal expenses of the defendant—the employer. Additionally, rule 68 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is enforced in civil rights cases such as those that would be brought about under the Workplace Fairness Act. Rule 68 states that the fee burden can be shifted from the employer to the employee, if the employee files a frivolous claim, or if the employer is found to not be at fault.

While my legislation will clarify once and for all the civil rights of all Americans, it still gives employers adequate flexibility in determining who they wish to hire, and ensures that they provide just cause for termination that is unrelated to job performance. Discrimination law

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

should mirror the goal which it is intended to embody. Our laws should reflect a standard governed by individual merit, not by an individual's relation to a defined group. The image of a discrimination-free society is undermined by a society whose laws supersede the value of those they are intended to protect: the individual. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation, and build upon our past successes by creating a new model to combat discrimination in America.

A FEW INCHES FROM THE YARD

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, this Annapolis column, "A Few Inches From the Yard," has been written by the great naval son of a great naval father, Jim Holds.

Both men make us proud to be Americans.

A FEW INCHES FROM THE YARD

(By Midshipman Tony Holds, USN '97)

It's that time again. Another year has come and gone, and we, the Class of 1997, have finally assumed the watch. My name is Midshipman Tony Holds and for the next year I will be your connection to the Brigade of Midshipmen. I take this position very seriously, and hope that if any of you ever have any input or feedback for me, you will feel free to drop me a note and let me know.

I guess the first order of business should be to tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in a Navy family. My mother and father met when she was a PAO for a squadron at Miramar and he was riding backseat in F-4's with VF-142 on that same base. Dad graduated from the Boat School in 1959, and throughout my childhood, images of the Naval Academy were omnipresent in our home. There was a stuffed Bill the Goat staring sternly down at me from the top of my chest of drawers, overseeing the various stages of my young life. Threadbare whiteworks and musty-smelling flight suits filled my toy box. I pored frequently over my Dad's yearbooks with reverent awe and, once I began to read, paged through every issue of Proceedings and Shipmate he would receive in the mail.

The one column that always most fascinated me was "A Few Inches from the Yard", because it seemed the best place to get the straight scoop on the pulse of the Brigade. Dad was full of stories of the Hall, some probably embellished by years of separation from the events in question. This column, however, represented an opportunity to hear what was going on in the Hall from an unbiased source: someone whose perspective was in-your-face and based on the day-to-day realities of life in Mother B; and here I am, years later, honored and humbled to be that voice for you. Wow.

That is not all, though. Here, in my first ever column, I come to you with a dual purpose. Approximately a month ago, when I received word that I was to be this year's writer for "A Few Inches from the Yard", I envisioned my first article as an opportunity to compose a pleasantly uneventful introduction in which I would tell you some anecdotes about myself, life in the Hall as we prepare to welcome the class of Plebes that will lead us into the next millennium, and so on. I was hoping to just leave a good taste in

your mouth and set the stage for future articles of more substance. Well, you know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men. It appears my first article is going to be more than what I expected.

As you know, a dark cloud is hovering over the Naval Academy right now. Some of the recent happenings here, which I'm sure you've been made abundantly aware of by the media, are not things we, as Midshipmen are proud of. In fact, we can hardly believe what is going on. We are making the paper and the nightly news much too often for all the wrong reasons. There seems to be a general sense of crisis amongst administration, faculty, and Midshipmen alike. Every last person I know is scratching their head and struggling to fathom what could lead members of the Brigade to conduct themselves so disgracefully. I am sure this sentiment of disbelief and disappointment is echoed resoundingly in the minds of Alumni everywhere.

The bottom line that must be kept in the front of our minds, though, is this: Yes, these events are shocking, yes, they are damaging to us as an institution, but in no way are they indicative of what we, the Brigade, represent. They are nothing more than infuriating, high-profile aberrations. My point? Now, more than ever, is when we need the support of our Alumni. It would be tempting, if you were led to believe that these happenings reflected the character of the Brigade as a whole, to abandon ship on us, but you must not. Right now, there are thousands of Midshipmen who are just like you were when you called the confines of Mother B home. We are worthy of your support and trust. The times we live in are different—that's true, but there is a grand universality to many portions of the experience by which we all, young and old, are inextricably bound together—the Annapolis experience. My desire is to communicate to you, our predecessors, that although we live in different times, people never truly change. All but a profound minority of us espouse the same ideals, harbor the same hopes, and are haunted by the same fears that most of you had as young men and women attending this school. We are here for love of country and a desire to serve. With an exerted show of solidarity, we can all help to quiet those who would like to end or severely break down 150 years of tradition based on a random outbreak of isolated incidents. There are, admittedly, those who like to see this happen. They are banking on the assumption that we, the Naval Academy family, can be divided. Don't let that happen. Hang on tight and ride out the storm with us, better days are ahead.

On a final, brighter note, a hearty congratulations to the Class of 1996 for completing a grueling four years and winning the prize. Best of luck in the fleet; make us proud!

That's all I have for this month, but I'll be back keeping you apprised of the latest gouge in the next issue. Until then, fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD HERBERT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Mr. Donald Herbert, a Buffalo firefighter injured in the line of duty.

On December 29, 1995, while serving the city of Buffalo as a firefighter at a residential fire, Mr. Herbert suffered traumatic injuries when the roof of the building he was in collapsed. Despite the extensive nature of his injuries, and after a very trying first few months, Donald Herbert's personal strength and commitment to God and his family have enabled him to make his way toward recovery.

Today, the Herbert family, the Buffalo Professional Firefighters Association, and our Buffalo community have organized an event to honor Mr. Herbert, and to convey to him our grateful appreciation for his service, valor, professionalism, and bravery. Donald Herbert can count on our Buffalo community, because we have always been able to count on him.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Herbert family, the Buffalo Fire Department, the city of Buffalo, our western New York community, and indeed, all of those who have dedicatedly served our Nation and ensured our safety as firefighters to honor Mr. Donald Herbert for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to our city; and offer him my sincere best wishes for a speedy recovery.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW PENALTY-FREE WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS DURING UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow people to receive penalty-free withdrawals of funds from certain retirement plans during long periods of unemployment. I am pleased that Representatives SAM GIBBONS, CHARLES RANGEL, PETE STARK, BARBARA KENNELLY, ROBERT MATSUI, BILL COYNE, JOHN LEWIS, and RICHARD NEAL have joined me in cosponsoring this legislation.

This legislation would allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement accounts [IRA's] and qualified retirement plans—401(k) and 403(b)—if the taxpayer has received unemployment compensation for 12 weeks under State or Federal law. Under the legislation, the distribution of funds would have to be made within 1 year of the date of unemployment. In addition, a self-employed individual would be treated as meeting the requirements of unemployment compensation if the individual would have received such compensation if the individual would have received such compensation if he or she had not been self-employed.

Under current law, when a taxpayer withdraws money from an IRA or a qualified retirement plan before age 59½, he or she is forced to pay an individual 10 percent tax on the amount withdrawn. This additional tax is intended to recapture at least a portion of the tax deferral benefits of these plans. This tax is in addition to regular income taxes the taxpayer must pay as the funds are included in the taxpayer's income. The early-withdrawal tax also serves as a deterrent against using the money in those accounts for nonretirement purposes.

The vetoed Balanced Budget Act of 1995 includes a provision which is the same as this legislation with respect to withdrawals from IRA's. This provision recognizes that when an individual or family is faced with long periods of unemployment, they may have no other choice but to draw upon these funds to meet their everyday living expenses. During this financially stressful time, an additional 10 percent tax for early withdrawal is unfair and only serves to make the family's financial situation worse. This legislation would accomplish the goals of that provision by allowing penalty-free withdrawals during long periods of unemployment from IRA's as well as qualified retirement plan 401(k) and 403(b) accounts.

Many small businesses offer participation in 401(k) plans, this amendment would help unemployed people who at the time of separation from employment chose to leave their 401(k) funds with their former employer. Then, because of unanticipated long periods of unemployment, need access to those funds. Accordingly, many small businesses would benefit from this amendment. In addition, employees who are laid-off from their former employment may need access to those funds in order to start up their own small business. State and local government employees who are displaced through downsizing, also may need access to the funds in their 403(b) plans for similar purposes.

The benefit this legislation would offer the long-term unemployed is the right thing to do in this period of economic uncertainty. You can plan for many things in your life financially, but the impact of long, unanticipated periods of unemployment can create financial havoc on any individual or family, including those that thought they had adequate savings to get them through such a situation. Long periods of unemployment are similar to major illnesses that can result in catastrophic medical expenses. Under current law, taxpayers are allowed penalty-free early withdrawals from qualified retirement plans to meet catastrophic medical expenses, therefore, it makes sense to extend this benefit in cases of long periods of unemployment.

Passage of this legislation would allow unemployed taxpayers a chance to get back on their feet without having to pay an unnecessary financial penalty when they can least afford it.

OFFUTT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Offutt Appreciation Day. In my district in Nebraska, Offutt Air Force Base is the home of more than 10,000 military personnel and their 17,000 family members, employs more than 1,500 civilians, is a valued part of the Omaha/Bellevue area community and plays a vital part in our global military strategy.

In Congress, I have shown my appreciation for the families of the Offutt community by fighting for funding for Impact aid, the program

which compensates public school districts for revenue lost due to the presence of military bases like Offutt. Although Impact Aid was almost zeroed out during last year's budget battle, we were eventually able to fund the program at 100 percent of the total for fiscal year 1995, providing approximately \$7 million to the Bellevue Public Schools and about \$510,000 to the Papillion School District. I'm pleased to note that this year the Labor-HHS appropriations bill increased funding for Impact Aid by \$35 million. I fought hard to make sure this funding was included in the bill because I care deeply about the Offutt community. I want to ensure that the children of military families receive a quality education.

In honor of Offutt Appreciation Day, most of the townships and cities surrounding Offutt have passed proclamations recognizing this event. I am pleased to include the text of one of these proclamations by Robert Eccles, mayor of Ralston:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Offutt Air Force Base's families are a valued segment of the City of Ralston and other communities in Nebraska where everyone works as neighbors to ensure that Nebraska continues to be "where the good life began", and

Whereas, personnel stationed at Offutt Air Force Base and their families continually dedicate their lives to guarantee our freedom and defend this great nation,

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that I, Robert J. Eccles, Mayor of the City of Ralston, join with the Offutt Advisory Council, the Air Force Association, and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce in saying thank you and do hereby designate July 12, 1996 as Offutt Appreciation Day in the City of Ralston and urge all citizens to join with me on this day in saluting the members of Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Ralston to be affixed this last day of July 1996. Robert J. Eccles, Mayor.

NEWMAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church, that is located in Michigan's Ninth Congressional District. The Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church is recognized as the first African-American church established in Oakland County, MI, and as the birthplace of the Oakland County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The church was organized in 1861 by Rev. Augustus Green. Although Reverend Green and his brethren did not have available to them a permanent home in which to pray, they were determined to worship. The first services were held in a church basement and in a schoolhouse. Eventually, the strength of their collective faith prevailed, and the congregation incorporated in 1868 and purchased their own

church building in 1872. That original temple served to enable the congregation to prosper a grow. In 1961, the present house of worship was built and has been a focal point of faith within the community.

Mr. Speaker, the work of the church has led to an increased level of worship within the city. There is no doubt that the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church has played a significant role in Oakland County religious life. Under the leadership of Bishop Basil A. Foley, the current pastor, it continues to be an instrument of positive change in our community. In recognition of its historical importance, a marker will be erected by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan Department of State, that will declare the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church as a historical site in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to rise before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor a church and its congregation who have contributed so much to society.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK EMMANUEL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I address the House of Representatives today in recognition of a remarkable man's professional and personal achievements. Rarely does a man come along who truly makes a difference in the life of his community. As Robert Kennedy once observed, few men possess that special quality that allows them to actually bend history. Through 50 years of dedicated service and unwavering integrity, Patrick Emmanuel has made a difference in the life of northwest Florida and the national legal community.

Today, the First Congressional District of Florida celebrates Patrick Emmanuel's 50 year commitment to excellence and professionalism in the legal field. Mr. Emmanuel's extraordinary achievements put him in a league of his own. He has honored his community by serving as president of the Florida Bar, as a member of the Board of Governors for the Florida Bar, as president of the Florida Bar Foundation, as a fellow for the American College of Trial Lawyers, as fellow for the American College of Probate Counsel and as a fellow for the American Bar Foundation. Perhaps his finest hour as a member of the legal profession was his courageous stand against the American Bar Association's ideological drive to politicize that organization instead of focusing primarily on the promotion of professionalism in the legal field.

If Patrick Emmanuel's accomplishments were limited solely to the legal field, his contribution to our community would be commendable. But many consider his achievements outside the legal field to be his greatest contribution to northwest Florida. Mr. Emmanuel served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Florida Crippled Children's Home for over 20 years. He was also

appointed by the Governor as a member of the Florida Children's Commission and served as chairman of the Advisory Board of Sacred Heart Hospital. Most importantly, he succeeded where it counts the most: as the respected father of 7 children and 11—and counting—grandchildren.

While many have respected Patrick Emmanuel from afar, I had the privilege of working with him as a summer law clerk in 1989. I recall the law clerks and attorneys holding Mr. Emmanuel in a level of esteem remarkably high for such a cynical age. Most importantly, I observed his total commitment to excellence and integrity. That commitment not only served as an example to summer law clerks such as myself, but also to his clients, his law firm and his community.

On my Capitol Hill desk sits the pen set Mr. Emmanuel presented me at the end of my summer employment. The set is a reminder of a summer where I was introduced to a great man who had a great impact not only on my life, but on the lives of so many others who may never have had a chance to thank him. As the U.S. Representative for that region, I thank Mr. Emmanuel tonight on behalf of all those lives he has enriched. Thank you, Mr. Emmanuel.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special Report from Indiana. It is a special report because I was truly moved by a recent visit to a church in my hometown of Muncie, IN.

On June 28, Ruthie and I visited a very special place, the First Baptist Church. Ruthie and I were so grateful and honored to be included in a patriotic celebration called Liberty, in honor of Independence Day.

The musical celebration was directed by Steve Clarke, the minister of music. It truly captured the spirit of America in song.

Dr. Edward Strother read patriotic passages from Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan during the interludes. He echoed President Reagan's inaugural address in asking God that "You would continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our song—a song of unity, affection, and love." He also quoted from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in saying, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The production was amazing, screens flashed to the lyrics as our favorite patriotic songs were coordinated by a cast of all ages, from youngsters to seniors.

Songs: Star Spangled Banner; Yankee Doodle; Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean; You're a Grand Old Flag; America the Beautiful; Fifty States in Rhyme; Oh Susanna; Home on the Range; Dixieland; Shenandoah; I've Been

Working on the Railroad; Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier; U.S. Air Force; Caisson Go Rolling Along; Anchors Aweigh; Marine Corps Hymn; Battle Hymn of the Republic; From Where I Stand; The Golden Dream; My Country 'Tis of Thee; and The Pledge of Allegiance.

The volunteers and staff at First Baptist Church, in Muncie, made "Liberty," a special patriotic program, a big success. Folks like, Elaine Hamilton, produced the event, worked the sound, made a huge contribution from behind the scenes. Their tribute and respect in honor of our Nation's birthday, made me proud. It made so many of us proud.

So many folks made this patriotic event a very moving program. The entire staff and all the volunteers at First Baptist Church, are to be commended for their heartfelt celebration honoring our country and freedom. I would like to say thank you for including us. It truly touched both of us.

That, Mr. Speaker, is my Report from Indiana.

NAMES TO BE ENTERED INTO RECORD

Steve & Debbie Clarke, Dr. Edward Strother, Elizabeth Ratchford, Elaine Hamilton, Jana Allen, MaNell Gregg, Dirk Harris, Andy Rees, Wendy Rees, Wes Russell, Mike Wilson, Elsie Anderson, Walt Baker, Martha Bogle, Sharon Boyle, Wanda Burns, Nancy Callahan, Helen Clark, Bill Conner, Earl Coulson Jr., Susan Coulson, Lois Craig, Denzel Crist, Jack Cronin, Dana Davis, Heather Davis.

Barbara Eidson, Eleanor Fisk, Mary Flannery, Nellie Halt, Jerry Hamilton, Bill Harris, Louise Head, Rodney Head, Harry Irwin, Jacqueline Irwin, Pat Kissick, Nancy Kosar, Cathy Mitchell, Kristin Murray, Connie Parker, Jane Patton, Lavenna Putman, Bill Reid, Phobe Reid, Connie Thalls, Anson Tooley, Barbara Turner, Betty Unger, Gaylon Washburn, Marsena Washburn, Heidi Webb, Midge Wooters, Ashley Blackwell, Stanley Blackwell, Robbie Craig, Samantha Ratchford.

TRIBUTE TO FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS, WEST SIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the food pantry volunteers of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, a special group of people who regularly give up their time to assist in feeding the hungry of the west side of Manhattan. This group of dedicated volunteers is being celebrated by the West Side Campaign Against Hunger at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew on Sunday, July 14 for the enormous contribution they have made to their community.

The food pantry volunteers generously donate their time and energy to staff the food pantry. Volunteers assist the pantry daily, taking in deliveries, displaying food, helping customers, recycling and cleaning up. These volunteers have contributed 7,600 hours in 1996 to this effort. Due to the steady stream of support from the volunteers, the food pantry has been able to feed nearly 3,000 people each month.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals are deserving of special recognition for their tireless contribution of time and energy to the plight of those less fortunate. I am proud to rise here to honor this much appreciated but far too rarely acknowledged group of volunteers. I ask my colleagues to join with me and the West Side Campaign Against Hunger to celebrate their hard work and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN C. "PETE" OGDEN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is a proclamation to acknowledge Mr. Allen C. "Pete" Ogden as president of the Western Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners.

In addition to his civic accomplishments, Mr. Ogden is a retired business manager from Iroquois School District where he also taught mathematics. He is a devoted family man and has been married to Pat for 40 years. Together they have three grown children—Pam, Paula, and Peter—as well as three grandchildren—Jennifer, Nicole, and Matthew.

He has been a Lawrence Park Township commissioner for the last 15 years and 7 of those years he has served as president of the board. Despite the demands of being a part-time commissioner on a full-time basis, Mr. Ogden also manages to be vice president of Northwest Planning, an executive board member of the East Erie Communications Center, delegate to the Erie Area Council of Governments, the Watershed Plan Advisory Board, the Allegheny League of Municipalities, the Erie County Association of Township Officials, as well as a member of the Erie County Library Committee, the Erie Eye Bank Association, the Runner's Club, and the Lions Club.

Please join me in recognizing Mr. Ogden as State president and thank him for his many years of dedicated public service.

A SALUTE TO JOSE CASTRO CORRAL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of this Nation's newest citizens. When Jose Castro Corral came to the United States in 1918, Woodrow Wilson was President, Arizona was celebrating its fourth year of statehood, and America was in the middle of a devastating World War. In this time, Jose Corral and his family immigrated to America because they dreamed of a better life for themselves and their community. Indeed, Jose Castro Corral has more than fulfilled his family's vision.

Mr. Corral was born in Sonora, Mexico on August 9, 1916. Two years later, his family moved to the small mining town of Kearny,

AZ, where he has lived ever since. Jose Corral's parents raised their children to become productive, accomplished members of American society. During his childhood, Jose Corral was encouraged to strive for educational excellence and active participation in community service. These upstanding ideals continue to thrive in the Corral family today.

Not only was Jose Corral dedicated to his career as a miner, he also strived to build a family of high integrity and moral value. Together with his wife Amanda, Jose Corral raised six educated and accomplished children who have become important figures of organizations including the U.S. Armed Forces, Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Salt River Project, and INTEL. The Corral children have raised families of their own, and continue to uphold their father's vision.

In addition to Jose Corral's accomplished family and career, his altruistic nature is truly commendable. The Corral family has a unique love for music, and Jose participates in his church's choir each week. He also volunteers at church retreats and various community functions.

After 78 years of countless accomplishments in America, Jose Castro Corral recently decided to strive for yet another goal—U.S. citizenship. As the only noncitizen in his family, Jose felt that U.S. citizenship would fulfill his dream of service to his family, his community, and his country. On June 21, 1996, as his family waved signs and posters applauding his latest accomplishment, Jose Castro Corral celebrated U.S. citizenship.

Jose Castro Corral and his family serve as role models for immigrants who come to this country to fulfill America's ideals of opportunity and individual responsibility. Not only is he a model person, he is now a model citizen. It is truly an honor to welcome Mr. Jose Castro Corral as a citizen of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS LLERAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Carlos Lleras, a man who exemplifies the very best in public service. He retires this month after valiantly serving his country of Colombia for the past 2 years as their Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Lleras has diligently represented his people, and it has been my pleasure to work with him through his tenure. His distinguished background will serve him well as he enters the next stage of his professional career.

Ambassador Lleras came to the United States of America in 1994 with impressive credentials. While he draws upon his vast intellectual capacity in fields as expansive as agrology, economics, and law, he is masterful in his application of this knowledge. His past is as broad as it is deep, and I am confident that he will continue to hold the people of Colombia close and dear to his heart in his future endeavors.

Ambassador Lleras received his juris doctor in law and social science from the Colegio

Mayor de Nuestra Senora del Rosario. He received a diploma in civil cassation in 1960. By the time he was 24 years of age, Ambassador Lleras had already become a municipal judge and professor of economics at the Fundacion Universidad de Bogota Jorge Tadeo Lozano. One year later, in 1962, he had become professor of political science at the Universidad de America, and was also appointed dean of the faculty of natural resources at the Fundacion Universidad de Bogota Jorge Tadeo Lozano, a post he would hold for the ensuing 4 years. By 1966, Ambassador Lleras had additionally been appointed academic dean, and given an honorary degree in agrology. Ambassador Lleras then went on to lead the Universidad de Bogota Jorge Tadeo Lozano to excellence as their president from 1969 to 1972.

In addition to Ambassador Lleras' impressive academic achievements, he has also pursued other fields of interest with the same tenacity. He has been the president of numerous organizations, such as the Edible Grase and Oil Producers Federation and the National Federation of Automobile Dealers. Ambassador Lleras has also been the honorary president of the Colombian Society of Business Administrators, president of the Advisory Committee of the Colombian Institute of Foreign Trade for the reform of the Andean Pact and a columnist for the "El Tiempo" newspaper in Bogota. In 1993 he became cojudge for the Constitutional Court and within a year he was a precandidate for the Presidency of Colombia with the liberal party.

Though the United States and Colombia have not always seen eye to eye, I am proud to say that we have worked together through these differences, and Ambassador Lleras has played a pivotal role in this dichotomy. Having spent several years in Colombia during the 1960's in the Peace Corps, I am reassured knowing that he will be returning to his wonderful and beautiful homeland, with a renewed interest in serving the people of Colombia. As Ambassador, he pulled together the Returned Peace Corps volunteers who have formed Friends of Colombia to begin a continued co-partnership to help the Peace Corps spirit to flourish. During his tenure I have developed a close and strong liaison with Ambassador Lleras and I will not only be sad to see him leave on a personal level, but also for the sake of the Colombian people, whom he has so well served for the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Ambassador Lleras, a very rare and special individual who combines the best of both the academic and professional worlds. Throughout his life, and especially during the past 2 years, Ambassador Lleras has been committed to the ideals of leadership based upon the principle of compassion. Ambassador Lleras is a true public servant and will be dearly missed. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

CAPT. JOE TUCKER—DISTINGUISHED VETERAN, DEDICATED FATHER, HOMETOWN HERO

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Capt. Joe Tucker who is the Chief Naval Instructor at the Henry County High School in Georgia's Third District. This retired U.S. Coast Guard officer recently demonstrated a level of courage, compassion, and heroism for which we all can be proud. Captain Tucker is the kind of role model that our children need and deserve.

Today, I am submitting for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an account of events that occurred, appropriately enough, on Memorial Day at the High Falls State Park. This account, from the front page of the Henry Herald on June 19, 1996, is in the words of 11-year-old Andrew Tucker who can better relate the full meaning of the events of that day than any newspaper writer or I could possibly hope. This story pays tribute to a fine uniformed officer, teacher, role model, and father—Captain Joe Tucker.

MY DADDY'S A HERO

(The Henry Herald, 6/19/96)

I'm Andrew Tucker. I'm reporting about my dad. It all started when my mom and dad and me were coming back from Indian Springs. We decided to go to High Falls Park to go swimming. We had never been there before. Lots of people were swimming in the river and walking on the rocks. Millions of signs around High Falls said not to go on the rocks.

We were walking near the waterfall when we heard a lady say "Can anybody swim?" My dad looked kind of strange because we all thought someone was drowning, but the lady didn't sound very excited. Then we saw a boy in the water, trying to come up for air and waving his arms real slowly, but then went under the water and didn't come back up. Then the lady said, "there is another one in the water."

My dad just took off his hat and glasses and his shoes, and he went in with all of his clothes on. It looked like the water was six feet deep, but my dad later said that it was about 12 feet. My dad dove in, but it was too deep. So he had to go down feet first and feel around the bottom.

He found something soft so he dove under, and it was a little girl! The current was pushing her down between rocks. She had been under there for five minutes. After six minutes you are a goner if you are under water. She was under for about five minutes when my dad brought her up.

He did mouth-to-mouth (resuscitation), or CPR. She was a little black girl. But then a man named Sam Jordan that we had talked to before came to help with the boy. They brought the girl up the hill where I was.

By that time my mom was yelling, "Has anyone got a cellular phone?" The people were just sitting there. I don't know why. She ran up the hill to the pool to get a lifeguard to call 911. The lifeguard came running down like a rocket with no shoes on. They carried the girl up the river bank.

When I saw the little girl, I thought she was dead. She looked dead. She wasn't moving and her eyes were closed. I felt sad when I saw her.

They laid her down on the ground. There were lots of people sitting on blankets, watching, and lots of people crowding around.

Then I saw her arms move, and then she opened her eyes. It seemed like a long time before she could sit up. Then I knew she was going to be fine. She talked, but I don't think she knew where she was. I was really glad that she was alive.

My dad stuck with that little girl. I think he was worried that she might not make it. I'll bet the girl may not go swimming for a long time!

By that time the boy started to get up and walk. They took both children and put them in an ambulance and drove away. We talked to Sam Jordan about the girl. They thanked my dad and said he was there at the right time.

I looked back at the river where before there were lots of people swimming and playing. Now there was just water and rocks.

Right there, where the two kids were drowning * * * was a sign that said, "DO NOT GO ON THE ROCKS! GO IN THE WATER AT YOUR OWN RISK!" I don't know why people don't obey the signs; then they would be okay.

We went to a place where Dad could put on dry clothes. I found a flat rock. I decided to write "HIGH FALLS, 1996" on it and give it to Dad so he could remember what he did on that day.

When we got home, I told everybody at school that my dad saved a little girl's life.

INTRODUCTION OF RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AMENDMENTS OF 1996

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, with my colleagues Mr. KILDEE and Mr. SCOTT, the administration's proposal to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

It is estimated that 1.3 million young people run away or are homeless each year. Since 1974, the services funded by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act have meant the difference between life and death for young people living on the streets. The basic centers program has provided safe havens which seek to help reunite families. The transitional living services have provided older homeless youth, who do not return to their families, with the skills needed to make a successful transition to an independent adulthood.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Amendments of 1996 maintain the commitment to youth in crisis by authorizing a comprehensive effort that combines the resources of the basic centers program and the transitional living grant program. This initiative also makes use of current drug abuse prevention and education services, as well as various demonstration projects and targeted grant programs authorized by the act. However, grants for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of runaway, homeless, and street youth are kept separate.

Assistance for runaway and homeless youth will be improved with the elimination of frag-

mented services and funding. Under this legislation, grantees will be able to provide a variety of services, but they must supply short term shelter, long term residential services, or both. At least 20 percent of the funding will be set aside at the national level to ensure that the critical, and often costly, transitional living services for older homeless youth are continued. In addition, either through referrals or on-site programs, to address the drug abuse and alcoholism that plague many of the young people who come to them for help.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation goes a long way toward addressing the multifaceted issues that runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth face. I am honored to be its sponsor.

CALPERS GENERAL COUNSEL RETIRES

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud today to pay tribute to Richard H. Koppes, who at the end of this month will retire from his position as general counsel and deputy executive officer of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, known as CalPERS.

Mr. Koppes has played a major role in guiding the highly regarded CalPERS corporate governance program, which seeks to improve the performance of companies in which CalPERS invests. Throughout his many years in working with some of the Nation's largest corporations, Mr. Koppes has been known as a leader who was firm but fair. This even-handed manner quickly won the respect of many chief executive officers and has allowed him to be as influential and accomplished as he is today. In 1994, The National Law Journal named him as one of the country's 100 most influential lawyers.

Mr. Koppes began his career in 1971, when he received his juris doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles. He is the founder and past president of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, a member of the American Law Institute, and a current member of the New York Stock Exchange Board of Governors' Legal Advisory Committee. Mr. Koppes has been widely regarded as an authority on pensions and the retirement system. Specifically, he has written and lectured on many issues related to the role of pension fund investors in corporate governance and fiduciary duties.

Fortunately, Californians will continue to benefit from his expertise even after he departs CalPERS. Mr. Koppes will continue his distinguished career at Stanford University Law School, where he will be an instructor of law in the school's executive education program. He will also serve as a counsel to various organizations, including the law firm Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue and the American Partners Capital Group, Inc. Mr. Koppes' career in the private sector will focus on providing corporate governance expertise and institutional shareholder consulting.

Mr. Speaker, Richard H. Koppes deserves recognition for all of his contributions and

achievements in the public service. I am proud to recognize this talented constituent and pleased to wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOT PETERSON

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exceptional, award-winning broadcasting at KRIS-TV in Corpus Christi who is, regrettably, leaving our community.

Dot Peterson, an anchor at a leading Coastal Bend television station, is leaving Corpus Christi to advance professional by as a producer at KOAT in Albuquerque. In television, producers are higher up in the food chain than the people we see on TV giving us the news each evening. Dot has handled the on-air anchor duties in addition to co producing since she came to KRIS. However, seeing Dot deliver the news in a steady and honest way at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. regularly has made her a trusted figure in the Coastal Bend viewing area.

Her dedication to her community is evident through her community service. She serves as a board member of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit United Way agency—a cause to which she is very dedicated. She is the recent past president of the Womens' Board of All Saints Church. She was also selected as the YMCA Woman of the Year in 1995.

Professional awards seem to follow Dot around Texas. In 1986, she anchored the KLDO newscast in Laredo which was recognized by the United Press International as the best newscast in Texas. This year, her newscast on KRIS was recognized by the Texas Associated Press as the Best newscast in Texas. Dot is very much a part of the entire south Texas community that she loves. She has reported in San Antonio, Laredo, and Corpus Christi. She speaks Spanish fluently, she explores all the aspects of the stories she covers, and she asks the tough questions.

Tomorrow, I will be with her to promote a cause to supply local school children in disadvantaged school districts. Operation Supply Our Schools asks community members to donate school supplies so resources from the school district can be better directed to meeting other learning needs. It is a cause we both know is important to the area children.

It will be Dot's last broadcast in Corpus Christi so I want to take this opportunity to wish her well, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADM. TIMOTHY W. WRIGHT

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has given

to his country 35 years of distinguished service. I rise to honor a man who has given to God, country, family, and community, and who I believe exemplifies all that is best in the American people. This week Vice Adm. Timothy Wright will be retiring from the U.S. Navy, and all who served under him, or who worked with him, as I did, wish Admiral Wright well, congratulate him, and want to know how much he will be sorely missed.

Emerson once said that what people say about you behind your back is the measure of your standing in society. Mr. Speaker, the words that have been said about Admiral Wright behind his back include: honest, decent, a gentleman, hard working, loyal, dedicated, courageous. From the time he entered the Navy in 1961, through his tours of duty as commander of a carrier air wing, commander of the 7th fleet, and Chief of Naval Education and Training, to his work in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Wright has shown a standard of excellence and dedication to duty that marks him out as a singularly able and distinguished man of intellect, skill and integrity.

Admiral Wright made a career that showed him to be one of the Navy's finest—the best of the best. For anybody who doubts that, look at the record: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal. The list goes on and on, and its testimony to a man that has given to his country an example of excellence for which we should all strive.

Now Admiral Wright will be retiring, returning to the wife and children that he loves, making up for the lost hours that a distinguished career in the Navy requires of its best and brightest. He has earned a period of R and R, as they say in the Navy, though I'll bet that he will not spend his free time sitting around the house watching game shows, and that retirement will not mean the end of an active life. Men of such dedication and nobility are not the kind of people to, if the Admiral will not mind me quoting a General, "simply fade away."

So, I join the people of the United States, of the Navy, and of my district in Florida, in wishing Admiral Wright a hearty congratulations and thanks for a job well done and a life well lived. May the years ahead bring him continued good health and happiness, and may Admiral Wright go into the next stage of his life secure in the knowledge that he has made a difference, both to those who know him and even to those who do not. The Navy is a better organization for his having served in it. Godspeed Admiral Wright; I wish for fair winds and following seas.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—WERNLE HOME

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my Report from Indiana. In the Second District of Indiana, I meet wonderful people, wonderful, kind and caring people, working day and night to help others.

Individuals, like those involved with a very special place, Wernle Home, a children's orphanage that I visited just a few weeks ago in Richmond, IN. Everyone involved with the success of Wernle are Hoosier Heros in my book. Ruthie and I have visited our friends at Wernle on many occasions. And each time we meet loving workers and volunteers who care for battered and abused children.

Several years ago, in my first visit, I formed a special friendship with a young boy staying at the home. We sat in his room, and he opened up his special drawer with all of his prized possessions. As he showed us his matchbox cars, and baseball cards, Ruthie asked him, one simple question. "What's your favorite thing to do?" His answer, remains in my heart, as clear today as it did back then. "I want to be with my family." That brought tears to my eyes put a lump in my throat, and filled my heart with hope.

The folks at Wernle Home, help kids like this young boy—and encourage them so they never give up hope for a brighter future.

The Lutheran Church founded Wernle in 1879 as an orphanage. Today it assists children who have suffered from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse at the hands of others.

I'd like to recognize and thank the volunteers and staff who make Wernle Home a huge success.

Folks like, Rev. Paul Knecht. For over 40 years he has helped children with special emotional and behavioral needs. He believes in his heart that "every child deserves a chance." Pat Mertz, ensures that Wernle has the financial stability it needs. He's known for swapping baseball cards with the boys. Pat makes an impact on their happiness. Judy Beeson, teaches handicapped children with a simple motto, "You can always see a rainbow even in a tornado."

Vern Pittman, is a father figure to many of the boys. Billie Fisher and Paula Wright are affectionately referred to as Mom. And Reverend Jerald Rayl, for over 14 years has ensured that the children receive spiritual needs.

And my good friend, Mike Wilson, has dedicated his life to raising the public awareness of Wernle throughout Indiana and Ohio. Cleo Lee makes sure the boys receive clothing, and this is no small task. Today there are over 110 children to care for. Craig Leavell, the director of recreation teaches the children who say, "No, I can't," to discover, "Yes, I can."

Of course the true success of Wernle Home is found in the hearts of volunteers who make it possible. Irna Chase has faithfully made sure that cakes are delivered on birthday's. Forrest Fox, has formed a special grandfather-type relationship with one young boy at the Home. His love is crucial because the child has no parents, no family. Retired Judge Brandon Griffis, conducts discussions on the law and legal issues with the older boys. Al and Marilyn Young, continue to provide leadership and support to make Wernle Home successful.

Now, I am only mentioning a few. The entire staff and all the volunteers at Wernle Home, are Hoosier Heros. They work very hard, to take these precious children in from the darkness of despair, and serve as a beacon of light. Showing them there is: Hope for tomorrow.

That, Mr. Speaker, is my Report from Indiana.

Names to be entered into RECORD:
Rev. Paul Knecht, Pat Mertz, Judy Beeson, Nancy Carter, Vern Pittman, Marvin Nesheim, Bille Fisher, Paula Wright, Dick Harrell, Rev. Jerry Rayl, Cleo Lee, and Craig Leavell.

Stan Thomas, Steve Tyler, Irna Chase, Amy Dillon, Forrest Fox, Judge Brandon Griffis, Jr., Al and Marilyn Young, the staff of WKBV/Hits 101.3 FM, Mike Wilson, and Kath Barker.

IN HONOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN FLAG'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the design of the Puerto Rican flag, a symbol which represents the enormous contribution the citizens of the island have made to our Nation. The flag's anniversary will be honored by the city of Hoboken and the Puerto Rican Week Committee at City Hall in Hoboken on July 13, 1996.

The flag was completed in New York City at Chimney Corner Hall in Manhattan on December 22, 1895. The flag of Puerto Rico has a rich history. Dr. Julio J. Henna, led a group of 59 Puerto Ricans who organized the Puerto Rican section of the Cuban Revolutionary Party. As part of their activities, a flag was created to rally support for independence from Spain.

The Puerto Rican flag was designed by inverting the colors of the single starred flag of its neighbor in the Caribbean, Cuba. The first known incarnation of the symbol was made by Manuela "Mima" Besosa, the Puerto Rican Betsy Ross. The motion to adopt the flag was approved unanimously by the Puerto Rican revolutionaries.

For 100 years, the Puerto Rican flag has symbolized a proud people. It has served as a symbol of Puerto Rico's cultural tradition and heritage. Puerto Ricans are proud of their many contributions to the United States and they are proud of the unique identity their flag represents. Puerto Rico has been referred to as the "Shining Star of the Caribbean." Her citizens residing in Hoboken are shining stars in their community.

It is an honor to recognize the banner of a group of constituents I am proud to represent. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the creation of Puerto Rican flag.

TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, Cleveland Magazine recently published a story detailing the results of their fourth annual survey of Cleveland

area communities. The study ranks the 47 communities according to safety, education, and affordability. I am happy to announce today the 8 of the top 10 communities are in the 10th District.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a tribute to the good people of the 10th District and demonstrates their strong sense of neighborhood and community values. You know, sometimes people in Washington have a tendency to think all things good flow from here. But it is at the local level that lives and communities are actually improved.

At a time when crime, poor education, and the depletion of values have become commonplace in many communities across the country, it is wonderful to see citizens taking the initiative to make their communities better. I am extremely proud of the people of my district, and I encourage them, and citizens across the country, to keep up the good work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the week of May 17, 1996 I was unavoidably detained and therefore missed the vote on the Solomon amendment, for the defense authorization bill. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on the amendment.

WHEN IT COMES TO U.S. TRADE POLICY, U.S. TOBACCO MARKET SHARE TRUMPS HEALTH WELFARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. is No. 1. But that's nothing to cheer about when you're the No. 1 exporter of tobacco products. According to the World Health Organization [WHO], the U.S. is the top exporter of tobacco products world wide, yet tobacco products represent less than 1 percent of total U.S. export earnings. Two recent studies by the National Bureau of Economic Research [NBER] and WHO have pointed out some disturbing information about the U.S. role in promoting tobacco products around the world and our international support of this addictive drug.

Since tobacco consumption has decreased by as much as 20 percent in the last 20 years in the U.S. and other highly industrialized nations, tobacco companies have been forced to turn elsewhere to shore up their huge profits. That elsewhere is foreign markets like Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea. Since the early 1980's, the tobacco industry has been aggressively pressuring countries to open their markets to American tobacco products—and using U.S. trade policy to do it. Spurred by the tobacco industry, the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] and the Commerce Department have successfully persuaded Asian countries

to open their heavily restricted cigarette markets to U.S. tobacco products or face retaliatory measures.

The tobacco industry has been extremely successful in their conquest of the world tobacco market. The NBER study found that in 1991, U.S. tobacco market share in four Asian countries that lifted their import curbs was up 600 percent. Since 1975, U.S. cigarette exports have increased by 340 percent, up from 50.2 billion cigarettes in 1975 to 220.2 billion cigarettes in 1994.

But at what expenses to world health? According to the NBER report, the per capita cigarette consumption in Asian countries is almost 10 percent higher than it would have been if markets weren't open to American cigarettes. In their recent study of world tobacco and health trends, WHO found that, in the early 1990's tobacco products caused an estimated 3 million deaths world wide per year. In addition, WHO documents that at least one person dies every 10 seconds as a result of tobacco use around the world.

Don't we have other American products to promote through the U.S. trade Representative? Why are we promoting products that unequivocally kill people when used as intended? The United States has an abundance of other products that the USTR could be promoting. Is opening markets for cancer-causing tobacco products the best allocation of USTR resources?

From smoke-free workplaces to the proposed FDA regulation of tobacco, as the United States continues to enact stricter controls regarding tobacco use, we should set a positive example to the rest of the world by promoting healthy, tobacco-free lifestyles. How can we continue to strive to reduce tobacco use at home, but continue to promote tobacco use abroad? The U.S. is known as the leader of the free world. We should lead the fight against tobacco use, rather than lead the world in tobacco sales.

HONORING VFW POST 7734 ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7734 in Pico Rivera, CA, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. On Saturday, July 13, 1996, commander Jose Perez, senior vice commander Richard Partida, junior vice commander Adres Ramirez, quartermaster Randolph Parker, and adjunct Robert Navarro, will join veterans, family, and friends to celebrate this momentous occasion.

In 1946, a group of WWII veterans decided to form a VFW post to serve veterans living in southeast Los Angeles County. They gathered their friends, family, and neighbors, and applied for a charter from the national VFW organization. On July 12, 1946, a charter was granted. They decided to name the post after a well-known comrade and school friend, Lt. Ray L. Musgrove, who died in action during

WWII. Today, the VFW post still bears his name.

During the late 1940's and early 1950's many of the members began to move into new tract homes in Rivera, Downey, and Santa Fe Springs. In the early 1950's the post was officially moved to the community of Rivera. After purchasing property in 1975, the post broke ground and built its new home. VFW Post 7734 is currently located in Pico Rivera, serving veterans for the past 20 years.

Throughout the year, with the help of its auxiliary, the post has been involved with numerous veterans programs, V.A. hospital visitations, helping needy veterans and their families, as well as helping community youth activities, and promoting patriotism. The post has been active in honoring and perpetuating the memory and history of departed comrades who valiantly served our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, VFW Post 7734 today remains as committed to serving our Nation as it was 50 years ago when it was chartered. I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the members of VFW Post 7734 for their distinguished service to our country.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH Y. RESNICK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to share some memories of one of my distinguished predecessors, Joseph Y. Resnick, who served in this body during the mid-1960's. Joe Resnick was an inspiration to me as a young man when I was first getting involved in politics and Government service. His commitment to public service and his responsiveness to his constituents led to a new era in representative government in the Hudson Valley region, a legacy which continues to this day.

The first Ulster County Democratic convention that I attended in 1964 featured Joe Resnick as a candidate for Congress against a long-time, seldom-seen Republican incumbent. During his acceptance speech at that convention Joe Resnick told a story about a conversation with a friend of his in Ellenville, NY. The man expressed his surprise that Joe was a Democrat. You see, back in those days Democrats in upstate New York were outnumbered 3 to 1. Joe continued on in his speech, not for a moment defensive or embarrassed by it and said "I'm the best kind of Democrat—the winning kind!" And he was right. And it wasn't the first or the last time he was right either.

Joe Resnick brought a new style of leadership to the region. He was a very visible public official. Up until that time, Members of Congress in the region didn't have district offices, but Joe Resnick opening a district office in Kingston, NY. Joe Resnick actually wanted his constituents to know who he was and that he was there to serve them, not the other way around. It used to be that the only way you could get your Congressman to help you was if you had power, money, or good connections. Joe Resnick had a radically new idea—

servicing the public directly, with dedication, and without discrimination. It all seems so natural to us today to do that, but believe me 30 years ago it wasn't. His example inspired me to open one of the very first district offices when I was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1976.

When I first came to Congress in January of 1993, then Speaker Tom Foley told me a wonderful story about his service with Joe Resnick on the House Agriculture Committee back in the 1960's. Joe Resnick was a freshman and the scene was the first day that the committee met for that session of Congress. The chairman of the committee, Speaker Foley went on to say, was an old Southern gentleman, very much of the old school as well, speaking in a thick Southern accent, who propounded the popular theory of those days that a freshman Member of Congress should be "seen and not heard," and that's the kind of treatment that the freshman Members could expect from the committee, and so forth. That was how it was in the old days. Well, Joe Resnick, who as a freshman was seated at the far end of the dais from the chairman, heard this and said "nobody is going to tell me how to vote; nobody is going to tell me what to do" in a voice loud enough for everyone in the room to hear. And nobody did ever tell him how to vote and get away with it. Joe Resnick was a man of conscience. His campaign literature reflected this—"I am my own man. I represent no special interest. I speak and vote only in accordance with my conscience and judgment to benefit the people I represent. The political bosses don't control me." And they didn't. Speaker Foley went on to tell me that Joe Resnick never did hit it off with that committee chairman and never got help from him. But Joe Resnick had his own circle of friends in powerful places, most notably his friendship with President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Joe was an energetic public servant as well, working hard to bring Federal programs to the people who needed them—from food relief to helping to keep Castle Point veterans hospital from closing. He even brought President Lyndon Baines Johnson to Ellenville, for the dedication of Ellenville Hospital, on a day which is still remembered today. Although Joe Resnick was a prosperous man at the time of his untimely death in 1968, he and his brothers, with whom he founded the famed Channel Master Corporation, have never for a moment forgotten their humble origins as children of immigrant parents from Russia. His story, and the story of his large, extended family, is the story of America itself—hardworking, dedicated, and big hearted in all the right places and at all the right times.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow would have been Joe Resnick's birthday and I want to respectfully invite my colleagues to join me in offering our prayers and best wishes to Joe Resnick's family on that day.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator and the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, recently wrote an eloquent Independence Day July Fourth guest column for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in support of our Nation's natural treasures. As Senator Nelson points out, our National Parks, National Forests and National Wilderness Areas are among our Nation's greatest blessings. We Americans must treasure these special places just as we treasure peace, freedom, and democracy.

America's public lands constitute a historic, natural legacy that belongs to all Americans. We simply hold these lands in trust for future generations, and must manage them for the benefit of all. Our children and grandchildren deserve to enjoy the beauty and majesty of their rightful natural inheritance in the years to come.

Today, there are some in Congress who see the control of our Nation's crown jewels as the province of solely parochial special interests who desire to define the use of our parks and wilderness areas to suit their personal convenience and preferences, and even for commercial purposes. Within my home State of Minnesota, some individuals are advocating extending authority to a management council—a new expensive cumbersome bureaucracy of local parochial special interests—for control of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness [BWCAW] and Voyageurs National Park. These proponents also want to enshrine extensive snowmobile use on the pristine Kabetogama Peninsula of Voyageurs National Park and to increase motorized vehicle use within a BWCAW, a national wilderness. Such proposals benefit only a select few at the expense of the 250 million Americans who share common ownership of these national treasures in Minnesota.

I hope all my colleagues will take a few minutes to read Senator Nelson's insightful July Fourth essay on what it means to be an American and in defense of our National Parks and public lands. We have an obligation to protect these American crown jewels, not only our national legacy, but that of future generations.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 4, 1996]

WE SHOULD RENEW OUR PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

(By Gaylord Nelson)

As you watch the fireworks on the Fourth of July, what is it that makes you glad to be an American? The freedom to say whatever you please? The economic opportunities? Peace? On this Independence Day, all of those are worth celebrating.

But one of our greatest blessings is usually taken for granted. Every child born in this country instantly becomes a large landowner. He or she holds title to 623 million acres—nearly a million square miles. This acreage includes some of the planet's most spectacular places: the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and, closer to home,

Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. No other country endows its citizens so richly.

Most of us know about the national parks. But they account for just 12 percent of the lands that all of us own jointly. Three other systems of lands make up the other 88 percent and are less well known. There are 155 national forests (including the Chippewa and Superior), 508 national wildlife refuges and 267 million acres of western heritage lands, including ancient Pacific Northwest forests, the California Desert and red rock canyonlands in Utah.

These places offer world-class recreation opportunities and receive 1.4 billion recreation visits a year. They contain 4,000 developed campgrounds and 160,000 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. About half the game fish habitat in the United States lies on the national lands, and 43 percent of all big-game hunters use these lands for their activities.

Our lands provide far more than fun and games, though. They are like an enormous university, teaching youngsters on field trips and all other visitors about the natural world and about our history. The forests filter rainwater, which then flows to our cities and towns. In the West, 96 percent of the population depends on water from the national lands. Trees on these lands also help clean the air and stabilize the climate.

You can even think of these million square miles as a gigantic natural laboratory, where scientists study and researchers discover medicines that treat diseases and make us healthier. Without these places, many of our fish, plants and animals would have no chance of surviving.

These lands even play a vital economic role. Those 1.4 billion annual visitors create a lot of business for stores and companies located near these lands. Late last year, when gridlock in Congress led to the temporary shutdown of our national parks, businesses lost a total of \$14 million a day. Other businesses, which have nothing to do with tourism, are attracted to such areas because of their beauty and peacefulness and thus create jobs in those communities. In addition, the trees, minerals, and other commodities on these lands are tuned into paper and other products.

Ownership of all this land, including 3.48 million acres in Minnesota, carries a duty. "The nation behaves well," President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

Unfortunately, various special interests are eager to exploit these lands for maximum short-term financial gain, at the expense of the lands' many other values. Congress is now considering bills that would promote development of many of these places or give them to the states. One example is legislation to increase motorized activities and development of Boundary waters and Voyageurs. Passage of these proposals would harm the interests of all citizens, present and future.

On this most American of holidays, we should commit ourselves to honoring the vision of those who protected our best places. In our national lands, we have inherited the very essence of "America the Beautiful," and we must make sure our grandchildren do, too.

NATIONAL PARKS CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1996

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced legislation that would help alleviate the enormous \$4.5 billion backlog of capital needs in America's national parks. I believe this is a problem that demands the immediate attention of Congress, even as we seek to balance the Federal budget and struggle to reduce the Nation's staggering \$5.2 trillion debt. Congress has increased funding for national parks in fiscal year 1997, but the need is growing much faster. Park utilization is rising rapidly, and infrastructure needs replacement. We cannot expect appropriated funds to meet all of these needs. The time has come for us to explore more creative solutions to this vexing problem.

One thing Congress can do is to make it possible for substantial funds to be raised in the private sector for parks. The bill I am introducing today does just that. It provides an innovative mechanism for the public to invest directly in the preservation and enhancement of our national parks.

Specifically, my bill enables private, nonprofit organizations associated with the National Park Service to issue taxable capital development bonds that would be paid for by park entrance fees, that are not to exceed \$2 per visitor. Money collected in a particular park will be used to secure bonds that fund improvements in that park. I think the preceding statement is the cornerstone of this legislation and it bears repeating. Money collected in a particular park will be used to secure bonds that fund improvements in that park. Any national park with capital needs in excess of \$5 million will be eligible to participate in the revenue bonds program.

I believe park officials will enthusiastically embrace this program, and the Director of the National Park Service has already informed me that he is excited about the prospects of this legislation. After all, the needs are real, immediate, and nationwide. Moreover, my bill offers a practical solution to a serious dilemma. Rangers at Grand Canyon National Park, for example, are obliged to live in squalid conditions because funds have not been available to build sufficient housing. Saguaro National Park has an estimated \$10 million backlog in infrastructure needs, while Rocky Mountain National Park has deferred \$50 million in needed improvements.

Yellowstone National Park has had to close a major campground and two museums for lack of funds, and this year, Great Smoky Mountains National Park shut down 10 campgrounds and adjoining picnic areas. The national cemetery at Vicksburg National Military Park has been forced to defer \$6 million in restoration and stabilization work, while Shenandoah National Park reports a \$12 million backlog in facility maintenance.

My legislation is similar to a bill recently introduced by my distinguished colleague and friend, Senator JOHN MCCAIN. It allows private, nonprofit groups to enter into partnership agreements with individual parks and the Sec-

retary of the Interior, to act as authorized organizations for the benefit of the parks they serve. These organizations will work with park superintendents to prepare lists of capital improvement projects that are to be financed by taxable capital development bonds. These nonprofit groups, also, would be authorized to issue and manage such bonds on behalf of the parks.

My bill adds a stipulation that no part of the bond proceeds, except interest, may be used to defray administrative costs. Bond holders and the visiting public will be assured that every dollar raised will actually be spent on in-park improvements. Also, the bill will allow memoranda of agreement between nonprofit entities and the National Park Service to be modified in the event funding priorities change. Perhaps most importantly, bonds issued by the nonprofit associations will be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government in the event that Congress should remove the authority to assess the \$2 entrance fee.

Mr. Speaker, in these fiscally austere times, we simply must become more creative in finding ways to address the needs of our National Park System. The concept of issuing revenue bonds to fund capital improvements is not new. Private industry, municipalities, and other sectors of local government have used revenue bonds for decades and with great success. We can successfully apply this approach to fund capital development needs in our national parks, as well.

My bill also encourages real, beneficial partnerships between the Federal Government and the private sector. Many groups, like the National Park Foundation, the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the nearly 70 cooperating associations that presently serve the National Park Service, already provide invaluable financial support to the National Park Service. Their success proves that public-private partnerships can and do in fact work for the benefit of our public institutions. My legislation will greatly expand the ability of these organizations to aid the parks we cherish, and I believe they are ready and eager to rise to the challenge.

Some have suggested that we should allow corporations to become commercial sponsors of the National Park Service. Indeed, legislation to this effect has been introduced in the Senate, and some park supporters have voiced qualified support for the proposal. But I, for one, take a dim view of the prospect that we should commercialize America's crown jewels—our precious national parks—in order to save them.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Senator JOHN MCCAIN recently noted that "Americans are eager to invest in our Nation's natural heritage." I agree. The American people don't want to see their national parks succumb to the ravages of time and use. But neither are they willing to see the integrity of the parks compromised by commercial exploitation. Let's give the National Park Service the same financial opportunities that our schools and community water systems currently possess—the ability to utilize capital development bonds. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

A NATURAL DISASTER
PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a Natural Disaster Protection Partnership Act. This legislation was introduced by the late, distinguished Member of this body who we now greatly miss, Mr. Emerson. It is imperative that we take Mr. Emerson's lead and continue to work for the passage of this disaster plan into law. Without a natural disaster protection partnership plan, this country will face a severe financial crisis.

As a Representative from Florida, I am very concerned with the destruction caused by natural forces such as hurricanes and tornadoes. Last year was one of the most active hurricane seasons ever. The destruction caused by these hurricanes is tremendous, as can be seen by Andrew and Opal. Moreover, extensive damage is seen every year by other types of natural disasters such as earthquakes in California and floods in the Plains States.

As a result of the rising costs of these natural disasters, consumers in these disaster prone areas face difficulty obtaining affordable homeowner's insurance. Moreover, taxpayers have been forced to spend \$45 billion in 6 years for these disasters because homeowners and States have been unprepared to handle these catastrophes. Clearly, we must act now before FEMA's funds are depleted and homeowners cannot purchase insurance to protect them from these disasters.

In light of Hurricane Bertha, which is threatening the southeastern coast, we must pass a disaster plan that mitigates physical damage, provides insurance protection for homeowners and businesses and reduces Federal disaster costs. I encourage each of you to contact Chairman BOEHLERT and express your support for passing this legislation this year.

SUPPORTING THE NATURAL DISASTER
PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my Florida colleagues in supporting H.R. 1856, the Natural Disaster Protection Partnership Act. As the east coast batters down the hatches to brace for Hurricane Bertha, the time is ripe for passing legislation designed to promote a responsible Federal disaster policy.

Last Congress, in the aftermath of the Northridge, CA, earthquake, the bipartisan House leadership appointed a task force on disasters on which I was proud to serve. As part of this task force, we met with various experts on disaster management policy, and through the leadership of Bill Emerson, we were able to turn many of this task force's recommendations into legislative language in the

form of H.R. 1856, the Natural Disaster Protection Partnership Act.

I believe all of us here today recognize the need for an efficient, effective Federal disaster policy. There is no doubt that we must assist victims when a disaster strikes, but business as usual just isn't acceptable now as our enormous Federal deficit continues to grow. Those of us in Florida who survived Hurricane Andrew know firsthand how destructive the forces of nature can be, and how costly. Hurricane Andrew, at the time the task force was formed, had the illustrious honor at roughly \$20 billion of being the costliest federally declared natural disaster of all time in the United States.

By emphasizing personal responsibility through private insurance, promoting sensible, cost-effective disaster loss mitigation programs and encouraging the creation of a privately-funded pooling mechanism that allows for the spreading of disaster risk and minimizes the liability of the Federal Government, we can lessen the costs incurred by the Federal Government and in turn the individual taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Natural Disaster Protection Act and helping the Federal Government achieve a sound national disaster policy that can help prevent loss of life and personal injury as well as reduce costs.

ELECTRONIC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AMENDMENTS OF 1996

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act [FOIA], joined by my colleagues on the Government Management, Information and Technology Subcommittee, including Chairman STEVE HORN, Ranking Minority Member CAROLYN MALONEY, and Representative COLLIN PETERSON, today I introduce the Electronic Freedom of Information Amendments of 1996.

The Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] was enacted in 1966 in order to provide the public with a presumptive and clear right of access to government information. In the 30 years since the implementation of the original Freedom of Information Act, our Nation has witnessed enormous technological advances. The laptop computer, cellular phone, fax, and Internet are just a few of the technological achievements that have brought us into the information age.

The Electronic Freedom of Information Amendments of 1996 [EFOIA] makes it clear that FOIA applies to Government records in any form, including electronic records, while increasing on-line access to Government information. This legislation successfully harnesses the benefits of computer technology and, with common-sense reforms, delivers to the public increased Government efficiency, accessibility, and responsiveness.

The Freedom of Information Act turns 30 this year—it is time to bring the law into the modern information age, using cutting edge technology to deliver cutting edge service to

the American people. We in Congress, as their public servants, should aspire to nothing less. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this bipartisan and important legislation this year.

LET US EXTEND MFN FOR CHINA

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to endorse the extension of most-favored-nation trading status with China. I believe that only by doing so can the United States play a role in promoting democracy, individual freedom, and free market economics in China. Extending MFN for China is in the mutual interest of China and the United States.

Most favored nation [MFN] is merely a term used to indicate the standard or general tariff treatment the United States extends to virtually all countries in return for reciprocal tariff treatment for American exports.

Currently our fifth largest trading partner, China accounts for \$12 billion in annual American exports. Our farmers, industrial equipment producers, high technology firms, and others all export American goods to China. Last year, the United States sold China 10 percent of our wheat and corn, 40 percent of our fertilizer, \$270 million in heating and cooling equipment, \$330 million in industrial machinery, \$710 million in telecommunications equipment, and \$1.2 billion in civilian aircraft.

Manufacturing these goods has created over 200,000 high-skill and high-wage American jobs. In Texas alone, foreign trade has produced more than 45,000 such jobs. If we fail to extend MFN to China, the United States will lose the reciprocity that MFN status makes possible. This would increase tariffs paid by American firms selling their products in China from an average rate of 5 percent to an average rate of 50 percent, and in some cases 100 percent. As a result, American exports to China would be dramatically reduced, many of the 200,000 American jobs could be lost to overseas competitors, and imports from China—including footwear, toys, and apparel—would become more expensive for American consumers.

China's economy is expanding at an astounding rate. It is estimated that by the year 2002 China will have the largest economy in the world and will continue to be a major importer of American products. The World Bank projects that China will spend \$750 billion on infrastructure in the next decade. If the United States scales back its trade relations with China, American firms will not be in a position to participate in this rapidly expanding Chinese economy in the years ahead. Europe and Asia will enjoy unrestricted access to the rapidly growing Chinese market, putting the United States at a competitive disadvantage.

I recently traveled to China and witnessed firsthand the positive impact the information age is having on the Chinese people and the Chinese government. China is predicted to become the largest market for American exports

of telecommunications equipment in the next decade. Not only are the economic implications behind this new openness important, but the social ramifications as well. China's increasing desire for high technology products and information will be mutually beneficial to both the United States and China economically, politically, and socially.

Human rights and democracy are not promoted or enhanced by shutting off the flow of technology and information. Open, fair, and competitive trade is the most effective means by which the United States can play a role in enhancing the economic and political well-being of the Chinese people.

MFN should not be an issue the Congress addresses on an annual basis. This trade status has been extended to virtually every nation around the world. In order to strengthen Sino-American trade relationships, the United States should treat China no better—but certainly no worse—than we treat our other trading partners.

Congress should end the practice of linking human rights conditions in China to the issue of MFN status for China. The United States maintains mutually beneficial economic relationships with many countries around the world with which we have political or cultural differences. These differences should be addressed in the diplomatic arena, not by taking actions likely to trigger a trade war between two great trading partners.

For all these reasons, it is imperative that the United States maintain MFN trade relations with China now and in the years to come. The revocation of China's MFN status is not in the best interest of the United States. Mr. Chairman, let us do what is best for American and Chinese workers, democracy in China, and free trade. Let us extend MFN for China.

LET'S MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PORTABILITY BILL

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, allow me to quote from an article in this past Tuesday's Washington Post: Senator Kennedy told his health care aide, "My political sense is that Clinton gets something—if the health reform bill is enacted—but Dole does, too." His aide replied, "If it fails * * * it helps us more than them, because we can credibly blame them for killing it."

It's clear that the liberals in the other body would rather use health care reform as a political finger-pointing game than give the American people portability, or give the self-employed 80 percent deductibility on their health insurance. The big-government liberals would rather play politics than vigorously attack the waste and fraud in our health care system.

Yesterday, the Republican Leader in the other body again tried to appoint conferees for the health reform bill. And again, the liberal Democrat leadership blocked him.

Mr. Speaker, this has to stop. It's time to stop playing politics with the American people's health—let's move forward with the portability bill.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the importance of natural disaster assistance. Our dear friend, Mr. Emerson introduced the Natural Disaster Protection partnership Act the Congress, and I am pleased to be one of 267 cosponsors. This much needed legislation will provide for an expanded Federal program of hazard mitigation, relief, and insurance against the risk of catastrophic natural disasters.

To understand the importance of this legislation, one need only be reminded of the devastating effects of Hurricane Andrew that struck Florida in 1992 and Hurricane Hugo in 1989. In Florida, many insurance companies are canceling insurance policies.

Currently, Hurricane Bertha continues its uncertain path along the eastern seaboard. Hopefully, Hurricane Bertha will not cause any damage and dissipate at sea.

While we here in the United States are fortunate that Hurricane Bertha has not yet made landfall, I want to highlight the importance and need for the Natural Disaster Partnership Act.

H.R. 1856 will promote stability in the insurance industry, encourage personal responsibility, and reduce Federal disaster relief costs. I urge my colleagues to ensure passage of this important bill.

GAMING AND COLORADO'S
ECONOMY

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as Congress continues to research and debate the impacts of gaming, I believe that this report, published by Colorado's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, may be a helpful resource for members.

ISSUE BRIEF: GAMING IMPACTS THE COLORADO
ECONOMY

Demands on Colorado's general fund, the tax money that pays the state's bills, increase each year, primarily from the areas of K-12 education, higher education, human services, public safety and capital construction. The state coffers are filled by a variety of taxes and fees, including individual and corporate income taxes, sales and use taxes, insurance and excise taxes, and interest earnings. State lawmakers and government budget officers try to stretch the general fund as far as possible to maximize services, and they also look for creative ways to raise additional revenues. The gaming industry has been tapped in many states, including Colorado, and each year it contributes a larger amount to the general fund. How this industry began and has grown illustrate clearly that gaming, when allowed to expand even under tightly controlled regulations, is an ongoing source of state revenue. During the last five fiscal years, revenues from the

gaming industry have steadily increased, demonstrating a trend expected to continue.

IDENTIFYING A NEW REVENUE SOURCE

Movies about the Old West have left most viewers with vivid impressions of raucous poker games in dusty, smoke-filled saloons. Slick gun-totin' professional gamblers were often paired with innocent greenhorns fresh off the trail. Saloon proprietors were only too glad to help empty their pockets of any money, providing liquor by the bottle, a room and a bath, entertainment, and, of course, gambling.

Gradually, after statehood was attained, Colorado citizens had a state constitution and volumes of statutes as the basis for their legal systems. Permissive attitudes that had existed in the wide-open towns gave way to tighter control. Opinions regarding gambling obviously changed, because prohibitions against such activities were written into the criminal code in 1913. The legislative declaration states, "the policy of the general assembly, recognizing the close relationship between professional gambling and other organized crime, (is) to restrain all persons from seeking profit from gambling activities in this state . . . from patronizing such activities . . . to safeguard the public against the evils inducted by common gamblers and common gambling houses . . ." (Source: Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-10-101)

Prohibiting gambling was thereby deemed good public policy, holding firm until 1949 when the Colorado Racing Commission was created. In recent years, the gaming industry has been expanded into other areas—bingo and raffle, lottery and lotto, and limited stakes gaming. In fiscal year 1995, the four gaming sources provided nearly \$152 million in revenue.

RACING

Members of the General assembly began to relax the prohibitions against gaming in 1949 when the Colorado Racing Commission was established. A portion of the legislative declaration reads, ". . . for the purpose of promoting racing and the recreational, entertainment, and commercial benefits to be derived therefrom; to raise revenue for the general fund . . ." (Source: Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-60-100.2)

The Racing Commission and the Division of Racing Events are located within the Department of Revenue. The commission's five members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. They serve staggered terms and represent designated geographical areas and political parties. In addition, the statute specifies that one of the five members must be a practicing veterinarian and two must have racing industry experience. Duties of the commissioners range from promoting the health and safety of the animals to setting racing calendars. They also oversee the division's professional staff, which includes veterinarians, security personnel and other racing officials. The commissioners license racetrack owners and operators and hold them to rigid safety standards for spectators and sanitation guidelines for animals.

In 1995, Colorado had seven tracks with approved race dates. Four of the tracks feature greyhounds, one is a major horse track, and the remaining two are fair circuit horse tracks. The dog tracks operate in either the north or the south circuit, located either above or below a latitudinal line drawn through the location of the Douglas County courthouse in the town of Castle Rock as of June 6, 1991." [Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-

60-701(2)(a)] In-state and out-of-state simulcast racing is legal in Colorado, and off-track betting (OTB) is also available in four licensed locations, three in the Denver area and one in Black Hawk. No one under age 18 is allowed to purchase or redeem any pari-mutuel ticket.

During the 1995 racing season, 322,614 people visited Colorado's horse tracks, with an average daily attendance, including off-track betting, of 1,204. Total attendance at the dog tracks was 1,190,237 during the same period, with a daily average, including off-track betting, of 1,653. In 1995, the gross amount wagered, known as the "handle," was just over \$257 million, with the average daily handle hitting \$260,232, a 21.6% increase over 1994's average daily handle. Occupational licenses and other fees added another \$130,095.

Colorado's general fund has received over \$8 million in revenues from racing in each of the last five fiscal years, with the largest portion coming from the dog tracks. The table that follows shows the state's income in calendar year 1995 for the horse and dog race tracks.

BINGO AND RAFFLE

Colorado voters adopted a constitutional amendment in the 1958 general election permitting "games of chance," commonly known as bingo and raffle, effective January 1, 1959. Regulatory authority for this additional gaming area was assigned to the Secretary of State.

Bingo and raffle games are reserved specifically for fund-raising activities by charitable or non-profit organizations. Religious, fraternal, educational and veterans' groups clear enough profit from these games of chance to fund extra-curricular activities and athletic efforts for youth groups and to subsidize targeted projects of churches and community organizations.

After purchasing operating licenses, which must be renewed annually, and ensuring that their members have completed the necessary instructional courses, the groups can rent or lease commercial bingo facilities and conduct their games. Licensees are also permitted to sell pull tabs, sometimes called pickles or jar raffles. These are sealed tickets sold to players who then open them, hoping to reveal cash amounts that then become their winnings.

Licenses must be purchased by the landlords or owners of the bingo halls (\$525/renewable annually), and these individuals are prohibited from any involvement in managing or operating the games. The same license fees are paid by the suppliers and manufacturers of equipment necessary to conduct the games, including the bingo cards or sheets, raffle tickets and pulltabs.

Agents for manufacturers or suppliers pay a \$125 fee and must renew annually. Additionally, manufacturers and suppliers are charged 1.1% of their gross equipment sales quarterly. Bingo and raffle licensees pay 0.3% of their gross receipts quarterly.

In any calendar year a licensee may conduct bingo games on a maximum of 105 occasions. The largest cash prize or value for any single bingo game cannot exceed \$250, and the aggregate amount of all prizes on any one occasion is limited to \$1,500. Only volunteers from the sponsoring charities can "work" at the bingo halls, and any remuneration is illegal. The volunteer workers, while conducting the games, are not allowed to play bingo themselves, and no under age 14 is permitted to assist. Participants must be 18 or older to play bingo or purchase pulltabs.

The gross amount wagered on bingo and raffle games in 1995 was nearly \$221 million.

State revenues from the tax on proceeds amounted to almost \$1.3 million in fiscal year 1994-95, while license fees added \$171,000. (Source: Secretary of State, Licensing and Elections Division)

LOTTERY AND LOTTO

To generate more revenue for ever-increasing expenses, states began sponsoring lotteries in the mid-1960s, with the first in New Hampshire in 1964. More and more states jumped on the bandwagon, and by the end of the 1970s there were 14 state-sponsored lotteries, primarily in New England and other eastern states. This total has since grown to 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Lottery proceeds are often earmarked for a variety of state purposes, with 17 states using the funds for education. Others use lottery proceeds to help fund economic development, tourism, property tax relief and senior citizen programs, while Nebraska dedicates a portion of its proceeds to its Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. Only 15 states do not designate lottery revenue for specific purposes.

Colorado added its state-supervised lottery effective January 1, 1981, after a constitutional amendment was passed in the 1980 general election. The amendment stated: "Unless otherwise provided by statute, all proceeds from the lottery, after deduction of prizes and expenses, shall be allocated to the conservation trust fund of the state for distribution to municipalities and counties for park, recreation, and open space purposes." (Source: Colorado Constitution, Section 13, Article XII)

The Lottery Division was placed in the Department of Revenue, and its governing board is charged with operating and overseeing all aspects of Colorado's lottery. Serving staggered terms, the five Lottery Commission members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. One of the members must be a law enforcement officer, one an attorney, and one a certified public accountant; and each of these must have five years of experience in his or her field. The commission meets monthly, or more often if necessary, and members are compensated \$100 plus expenses for each meeting attended. Headquarters for the division's operations are located in Pueblo.

There was reluctance by some public officials to having a lottery at all, so it was written into the statutes that the division will terminate on July 1, 1999, unless the General Assembly decides to continue it. To aid the legislators in making this decision, the state auditor will complete a thorough analysis of the lottery by January 15, 1999. The areas to be evaluated include comparing lottery collections and the actual revenue derived, determining whether organized crime related to gambling has increased, and analyzing the competitive effect of the lottery on other forms of legal gambling. In addition, the auditor is charged with deciding if the division adequately protects the public with regard to investigating complaints and assessing the performance of lottery equipment contractors and licensed sales agents.

The constitutional amendment gave authority to the General Assembly to establish the lottery, so it fell to the legislators to draft the enabling legislation (Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-35-202). While the lawmakers were drawing up the lottery statutes, they were also grappling with a critical need for additional prison space. According to the amendment, the lottery's net proceeds were to go to the Conservation Trust Fund "unless otherwise provided by statute," so the General Assembly determined that lot-

tery proceeds were an appropriate source of revenue for correctional facilities. Instead of all of the proceeds going for local parks, recreational facilities and open space, a large percentage was diverted to build more prison space and to reimburse counties for housing inmates for whom the state had no space. The Distribution of Lottery Proceeds chart shows that the dollars going to capital construction for prisons were significant, while those for the Conservation Trust Fund and the Division of Parks and Recreation were held down until the early 1990s.

Adding electronic lotto games was seen as a way to generate more money for correctional facilities, and in the mid-80s legislators began to discuss adding lotto. One of the major objections to this plan was that this money was for prison construction only, and there was no funding mechanism in place to operate the new prisons. Nevertheless, lotto was added to the division in 1988, with its proceeds targeted for correctional facilities. In 1991, an additional game, keno, was added.

Having the lottery proceeds siphoned off for prison needs instigated supporters of what came to be known as Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to sponsor a ballot initiative in the 1992 general election. It stated that lottery proceeds . . . " . . . shall be guaranteed and permanently dedicated to the preservation, protection, enhancement and management of the state's wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage . . ." (Source: Colorado Constitution, Article XXVII, Section 1)

Colorado voters passed the constitutional amendment, which established the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund. The board is comprised of twelve public members, two each from the state's six congressional districts, a representative from the State Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, one from the Colorado Wildlife Commission, and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. The public members are to reflect Colorado's gender, ethnic and racial diversity, and they serve staggered four-year terms. They are appointed by the Governor with the state Senate's consent.

The GOCO board is responsible for administering the trust fund, conducting public hearings to obtain comments on grant proposals and overseeing the professional staff. The constitutional amendment stipulated that prison construction projects then receiving funding from lottery proceeds would be weaned from that source over a five-year span.

Beginning in 1999, allocation of lottery proceeds will be at the percentages spelled out in the amendment: 40% to the Conservation Trust Fund, 10% to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and 50% to the Great Outdoor Colorado Trust Fund. The GOCO portion is capped at \$35 million, adjusted for 1992 inflation, and any amount over that will be added to the State's general funds. (Colorado Constitution, Article XXVI Section 3)

GOCO's share will be distributed equally to four areas; the Division of Wildlife, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, competitive grants to non-profit land conservation organizations, and competitive, matching grants to local governments. Distribution to the GOCO Fund began in 1992-93 with \$10.9 million, and by 1994-95, GOCO's portion has grown to \$23 million. In 1995, lottery and lotto generated \$100.6 million for the state, two-thirds of the total gaming revenues.

Lottery and lotto tickets can be purchased by anyone over 18 at licensed outlets, found primarily at convenience and grocery stores.

There are just under 2,600 outlets in the state, and they are especially busy Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the winning numbers for the lotto jackpot are drawn. The largest non-lotto prize to date has been \$8,350,000, won by a Grand Junction man in 1986, while lotto's largest jackpot, \$27 million, was won by a Boulder woman in 1992.

LIMITED GAMING

In the 1990 general election Colorado voters approved a constitutional amendment (Colorado Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 9) that legalized limited gaming in the state beginning October 1, 1991. A primary focus for the limited gaming proceeds was to be historical preservation statewide, and much of the basic framework was outlined in the amendment. Responsibility for setting up a commission to operate and oversee gaming activities was assigned to the General Assembly. In their enabling legislation, the lawmakers stated, "Public confidence and trust can be maintained only by strict regulation of all persons, locations, practices, associations, and activities related to the operation of licensed gaming establishments and the manufacture or distribution of gaming devices and equipment." (Source: Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-47.1-102)

"Limited gaming" was defined as using slot machines or playing card games (blackjack or poker) with a maximum single bet of five dollars. The activity is restricted to just three sites in the state: Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek. Two additional casinos are located in the southwestern part of the state on Indian reservation land belonging to the Ute Mountain Ute and the Southern Ute Tribes. While Colorado has a compact with the two tribes pertaining to gaming activities, their casinos are subject to taxation nor are they required to report their revenues to the state.

In the three mountain towns, however, gaming is so tightly controlled that even the casino structures must conform to pre-World War I designs so that their architectural styles fit in with the existing buildings. Gaming establishments are confined to the commercial districts of the three towns and cannot operate between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

The Limited Gaming Control Commission in the Division of Gaming falls under the aegis of the Department of Revenue. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The five members cannot include more than three from one political party, and no two members can live in the same congressional district, which means that five of Colorado's six congressional districts have a representative on the commission. The commission must include a law enforcement officer, a practicing attorney with experience in regulatory law, a certified public accountant or public accountant with corporate finance experience, a management-level business person, and a registered voter who is not employed in any of the preceding professions. Members serve staggered four-year terms and are compensated in a similar manner as the Lottery Commission, though there is a maximum limit of \$10,000 per member per year. Five types of licenses, which must be renewed annually, are issued by the commission. Slot machine manufacturers, distributors and operators pay \$1,000 per license, while the cost for a retail gaming license is \$250. A person in charge of all gaming activities at a casino, known as a key employee, pays \$150 for an initial license, \$100 for a renewal. Support employees pay \$100 for original licenses, \$75 for renewals.

In addition to overseeing gaming activities, the commission is required to set the gaming tax rate on an annual basis. Currently in effect is a four-tiered system under which the licensees pay percentages of their adjusted gross proceeds into the Limited Gaming Fund. From that fund, the state Treasurer pays all commission expenses and all costs of running the Division of Gaming. No state general fund-money is used to finance any portion of limited gaming, and other than keeping a required balance in the account, the Treasurer distributes the remainder in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Distribution of the Limited Gaming Fund is established by the General Assembly (Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-47.1-701). In addition, the General Assembly has the discretion to further designate portions from the general funds's 50% share. For fiscal year 1994-95, the lawmakers allocated portions to the Tourism Promotion Fund, the Municipal Impact Fund, the Contiguous County Fund and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

There had been concern that local government entities were ill-equipped to handle the projected increase in crime and traffic control. Some citizens worried that their towns would struggle to deliver some of the most basic necessities, including an adequate water supply, even with the increased money coming their way.

The Contiguous County Impact Fund is a response to the increased governmental services associated with gaming, including additional law enforcement and social services. Money is distributed to the eight counties immediately surrounding Gilpin and Teller Counties and also to the three counties in southwest Colorado bordering the Indian gaming areas.

Lawmakers have set aside 2.4% from the general fund allotment for the state Highway Fund beginning in fiscal year 1995-96 and continuing each year thereafter. This fund transfer is to help offset the increased cost of road maintenance due to limited gaming.

The amount earmarked for the state Historical Fund is apportioned in a 20/80 split, with 20% going to the three towns in proportion to their gaming revenues and 80% to other historical preservation and restoration projects throughout the state. (Source Colorado Division of Gaming, Gaming in Colorado—Factbook & 1995 Abstract)

LOOKING AHEAD

Every year during the legislative session, state lawmakers consider new bills related to the gaming industry. In the 1996 session these proposals ran the gamut from prohibiting anyone under 21 from being in gaming areas to establishing a Compulsive Gambling Prevention Program. One bill authorizes the use of portable, hand-held electronic bingo minders that will aid persons with disabilities.

A bill expanding simulcast coverage of horse races to additional off-track betting sites became law, while one establishing a fee, payable by owners of racing animals, to cover random drug testing of the animals did not. This function is currently being provided by the Department of Revenue at a cost in 1994-95 of nearly \$300,000 from the general fund. A resolution was proposed to earmark \$7 million or at least 25% of GOCO's annual lottery proceeds for construction and maintenance of highway rest areas. This resolution was not adopted by the lawmakers, nor was another that would have increased the maximum allowable bet in limited gam-

ing establishments from \$5 to \$100. It would also have permitted additional games, including craps, roulette and baccarat. Similar measures will likely be introduced in future years. Immediately after limited gaming began in the three mountain towns, numerous other communities tried to gain approval to expand this revenue source to their towns. As yet, none has been successful, but the debate continues over the merits of this seemingly "easy" source of money. Some critics question whether the historical significance of the gaming towns is being gradually obscured. If this is so, is the revenue brought in a worthwhile tradeoff?

An editorial in the April 14, 1996, Rocky Mountain News was less than enthusiastic about the expansion of and dependence on gambling as a public revenue source. It stated, "the main reason for this growth is that states and communities have locked onto gambling as a quick-fix *** at a time of widespread anti-tax sentiment." It also pointed out that the poor gamble more than the affluent, citing a Maryland study which showed people with annual incomes over \$50,000 spent \$2.57 a week on lottery tickets, while those earning less than \$10,000 spent \$7.30.

While some may think using gambling as a revenue source is questionable public policy, an article in the April 16, 1996, issue of The Denver Post pointed out that, according to a recent survey, Colorado residents visit casinos twice as often as the national average. With the popularity of the gaming industry growing so quickly, the article predicts that casinos will pass spectator sports this year and become second only to movies as a form of entertainment in the United States.

Pros and cons of the gaming industry are argued in many forums, and a consensus opinion will possibly never be achieved. It is apparent, though, that those empowered to implement gaming in Colorado have done so with a great deal of regulatory control. As the industry continues to develop, it appears certain that all of the interested parties will be monitoring it closely.

REMARKS AT THE NAMING CEREMONY FOR THE USNS GORDON

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on July 4th I was the speaker at the naming of the USNS *Gordon*.

The ship was being named for a Congressional Medal of Honor winner killed in Somalia. Mrs. Gordon spoke to the audience, and I thought her words were so appropriate to the ceremony, and to describing what it means to be part of the American military, and to be part of an American military family.

I thought it was very appropriate for Mrs. Gordon's remarks to be part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REMARKS BY MRS. CARMEN GORDON AT THE NAMING CEREMONY FOR USNS "GORDON" (T-AKR 296)

Thank you for that kind introduction and the opportunity to be here with you today.

I'd like to tell you about Gary.

Just behind a small door in his bedroom closet, my son Ian has stored the treasures dearest to him. The uniforms his father

wore, the canteens he drank from, the hammock he slung in so many corners of the world, are there. The boots that took his dad through desert and jungle now lace up around Ian's small ankles. They are all piled neatly together by a little boy's hands and sought out during quiet times.

My daughter Brittany keeps a photograph of her daddy next to her small white bed, the big 8 by 10 of him smiling straight through to her. It is the first thing she packs when leaving home, and the first thing she unpacks when she arrives anywhere.

These are comfort to my children. And a source of pride. But most important, Gary's children can see and feel these reminders of their father to keep him close.

In much the same way, the ship that we christen here today—the USNS *Gordon*—gives us faith that Gary's spirit will go forward, his ideals and his beliefs honored by those who know of him and the life he so willingly gave.

The very first time I laid eyes on Gary *Gordon* was the second month of my thirteenth summer. I was staying with my grandparents in rural Maine. Every week we made a trip into town for supplies. One hot afternoon in front of Newberry's Department store, I saw a boy washing windows. You never forget the first time that you see your first love. I watched him as he worked, calm and purposeful and quiet. Then he looked at me, and I knew this was no ordinary boy. This boy could win my heart.

When he called my grandparents for permission to take me out, he was turned down flat. She's too young, they told him. And so, in the way that I was to find out was uniquely Gary, he set out to wait three years. Faithful and sparsely emotional letters about his new life in the Army arrived regularly. On the day I turned 16, I sat in my grandparents' living room and watched as his motorcycle pulled into the driveway, my palms sweaty on my freshly ironed dress. A few hours of talk, a quick first kiss in the rec room, and Gary left to be back at his base, miles away. So began our slow dance of love, one that would give us so much in so short a time.

We had five summers and winters together, the births of a son and daughter setting a rhythm to such sweet time. On Sunday mornings when Ian was still so small, Gary would fill a baby mug with watered down coffee. Folding a section of the newspaper to fit Ian's chubby hands, the two of them would sit together quietly, turning the pages and sipping from their cups. Gary's love for Brittany was just as strong. Every day when he arrived home from work, Brittany would run to meet him, his big hands scooping her up and rubbing her bald head where baby hair had yet to grow. We never knew when these times would be interrupted by a day that brought Gary home with his head shaved, anticipation in his voice and a timetable for leaving.

I never worried when Gary left on a mission. As I cheerfully kissed him goodbye and waved confidently from our front porch, it never occurred to me to be afraid. Because Gary was never afraid. My safe world was shaken in December of 1989 with the invasion of Panama and the realization that my husband was in the middle of it. Along with other young mothers clutching infants, I sat in a darkened living room and watched television news around the clock. Gary came back, safe. One night when I told him of my fears, he laid a gentle hand on my cheek and said quietly, "Carmen, don't worry about things we can't change."

I know that death often leaves us with the haunting question "Why?" I know why Gary died. He died because he was true to his own code for living—trying to help someone else. Fear would have kept Gary from doing what he needed to do, what he wanted to do, what he had prepared all his life to do. There is rare strength in the creed he shared with his comrades: "I shall not fail those with whom I serve."

Gary lies buried only a few miles from where I first saw him on that sunny Maine

morning. It is a spare and simple place, open to the weather and bordered by woods that change with the seasons. He is not alone now in that corner of the cemetery. His father Duane, who died suddenly of a heart attack last week, was laid to rest alongside his son, not far from the paper mill where he gave so many years of hard work.

A gentle, sometimes restless wind bends the flowers and stirs the flags that are always there on Gary's military headstone, below the chiseled words "Beloved Husband

and Father," and the coin of his unit pressed into white stone. I hope that some gentle wind will always guide this ship to sea and keep her on a safe and steady course.

And when that wind strokes the cheeks of my children lying in their beds at night, and Ian and Brittany ask me to tell them what course the USNS Gordon is striking under the stars, I can tell them that she is on the same course their father chose: Headed for distant shores, answering the call of those in need.