

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKS TO FOUR DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to rise today to give a special thanks for a job well done to four loyal public servants who recently retired from Federal service with a combined total time in the Government of over 100 years: Ms. Joan Barnard, Ms. Charlotte Walch, Mr. Bill Lohr, and Mr. John Schwab. These four hard-working individuals dedicated the final years of their Federal service to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services, ensuring that the unmet needs of mothers and children were identified and addressed.

These four individuals represent the best things in our Nation: hard work, optimism, love of family, and dedication to their country. As I deliver these words of praise, I realize that the people who will miss their work the most are the members of the public who benefited from their hard work, as well as their friends and fellow coworkers.

We wish them all happy retirement and congratulations on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MORTON HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the girls' basketball team of Morton High School in my district.

The squad recently won its first ever regional title in the Illinois State basketball tournament. In fact, this was the first Morton team—boys or girls—to advance past the regional round of the playoffs since 1972.

Unfortunately, Morton's dream season ended with a defeat to perennial power Mother McCauley in the sectional semifinals last week.

Nonetheless, I congratulate the team and its first-year coach, John Monitor, for bringing home the regional championship and basketball pride to Morton High School.

HONORING BETTIE HELTERBRAN
ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bettie M. Helterbran will retire from Federal civil service with the National Guard Bureau on March 30, 1996. Her most recent assignment has been as the Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison, The Pentagon, Washington, DC. Mrs. Helterbran's distinguished career had encompassed over 40 years. She has served long and well and will be missed by the National Guard Bureau and the legislative community.

Mrs. Helterbran started her civil service career on 16 June 1952 at Fort Belvoir, VA. Her first position was as a GS-3, typist, in the Department of Non-Resident Instruction of the Engineer School, in a typing pool using a manual typewriter and individual sheets of carbon paper. Her starting salary was a whopping \$2,950.00 per year. By 1958, she had been promoted to GS-5, statistical clerk. In 1958, she left Fort Belvoir for Fort Greely, AK, and began again as a GS-3 clerk typist, in the S-1 Office at post headquarters. While there she was promoted to GS-4. In 1960 she departed Fort Greely for Fort Knox, KY. At Fort Knox, she was a GS-3, clerk typist/secretary in the commissary office and later a GS-4, secretary in the engineer field maintenance shop. In mid-1961 she departed Fort Knox for Babenhausen, Germany, where she was without employment for 3 years. In January 1965 she returned to Fort Belvoir, VA, and became a GS-4, clerk-typist in the Office of the Adjutant General. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to GS-5, secretary. From there she was promoted to GS-6, awards and decorations clerk, and then on to a GS-7 congressional liaison assistant position and the start of her career in the congressional arena. Over time she was promoted to GS-9, GS-11 and given the title of Congressional Liaison Representative. During this time her position was transferred from the Office of the Adjutant General to the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities.

In 1982, after an uninterrupted 17 years at Fort Belvoir, she accepted a GS-12 position in the Office of Policy and Liaison at the National Guard Bureau. In 1987 she was promoted to GS-13, Congressional Liaison Officer and to GM-14, Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison in July 1991.

In all areas Mrs. Helterbran has demonstrated a strong sense of loyalty, honor, and distinction as a leader. Her energy and tireless devotion above and beyond the call of duty single her out as one of America's best and reflect great credit upon herself, the National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF KAREN

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the great dedication and good work of a Purdys, NY-based organization called Friends of Karen.

When Sheila Peterson heard that the 16-year-old daughter of her neighbor and friend was dying of Lafora's disease in 1978, she knew she had to help. Sheila petitioned the community to help her raise thousands of dollars in order to allow Karen to spend her remaining months at home. After young Karen passed away, it was apparent that the services performed for her and her family were desperately needed by many others, hence the formation of Friends of Karen.

For the past 17 years, this organization has provided financial, emotional, and advocacy support for more than 1,000 catastrophically and terminally ill children and their families. Spending more than \$500,000 a year on as many as 200 families, Friends of Karen spends 80 cents out of every dollar directly on services to those in need. Administrative costs are kept down, by having 11 part-time employees and only one full-timer. In order to accomplish as much as they do, Friends of Karen relies on more than 100 dedicated volunteers.

Social workers at Friends of Karen help families maximize their assistance from insurance plans, government programs, and related community agencies. They provide financial assistance for real life problems related to children's illness. This can include everything from transportation to and from medical treatment, to in-hospital expenses such as telephone, TV, parking, and meals for parents, to child care for siblings, and even to family bereavement support.

Having served on the board of directors of Friends of Karen, I know firsthand what a great organization this is. These are people who care deeply about the welfare of sick children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have an organization like Friends of Karen in my community. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Friends of Karen for their commitment to the welfare of our children, and for the tremendous contribution they make to the quality of life in our community.

● 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.

February 27, 1996

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE ANN
GRIEST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding scholastic achievement of a young woman from my hometown, Corpus Christi, TX. Stephanie Ann Griest, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, was 1 of 20 students chosen nationwide to be a member of the USA Today's All-USA College Academic First team.

As someone who has spent most of their public career promoting educational excellence, I am delighted by Stephanie's success and achievement. The importance, and the value of education are things we cannot emphasize enough to the youth of today. It is with great pleasure that I recognize such an outstanding young woman, student, and community leader. Chosen for her exemplary academic successes and community involvement, Ms. Griest's determination, commitment, and hard work is exactly what we should attempt to encourage in all our students and in all our schools.

I would also like to acknowledge Stephanie's parents, Lloyd and Irene Griest. As a father, I recognize the commitment parents make in raising their children, and I commend them for the job they have done in raising Stephanie.

I spend a great deal of time in my congressional district encouraging educational opportunities at every occasion possible. My message to young people is: education is the way out—and up. I tell them that education is their right, their responsibility, and their gateway to a better life. As 1 of only 20 students chosen nationwide, Stephanie is capitalizing on that right, focusing on her responsibility, and passing through the gateway to a better life.

I would also like to commend USA Today, for selecting and rewarding these 20 students, and offering them as examples of what our youth are capable of achieving. I encourage other elements of the private sector to take the time, and make the investment in our children, by promoting education and rewarding our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this young lady. Stephanie, you have made us all very proud. Keep up the good work.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: YES-
TERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMOR-
ROW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago in 1976, the month of February was officially set aside by Congress to pay tribute to, honor, and respect African-Americans who have made key contributions to the diversity and greatness of the United States. The purpose

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

of Black History Month this year is to reflect upon some of the African-American women who have made extraordinary achievements in civil rights, politics, science, entertainment, literature, and athletics.

African-American women have proven themselves invaluable as leaders in the evolution of our great Nation. Their vigorous and passionate participation in the age-old struggle for freedom has resulted in a rich history of heroines. As the list of these women and their accomplishments is long, I regretfully must choose only a few examples.

In July 1849, the ex-slave abolitionist, Harriet Tubman, assisted in the underground railroad to free over 300 slaves. Her courage and selflessness demonstrated her character of integrity and honor while in the pursuit of freedom and right. She is known as the Moses of her people. Nearly a century later, this same courage and fight for equality was demonstrated by Rosa Parks in Montgomery, AL, when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white person when she was ordered to move by the bus driver. As a result of her unyielding character and strong belief in what is right, a bus boycott occurred, after which segregation on buses was declared as a violation of guaranteed American rights.

Patricia Robert Harris, a lawyer and diplomat, became the first African-American woman Ambassador to be appointed to an overseas post. Three years later, in 1968, Shirley Chisholm was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Recently in 1992, CAROL E. MOSELEY BROWN was elected to the U.S. Senate. I applaud my past and current colleagues for their fine and distinguished leadership.

In 1873, Susan McKinney Steward overcame great obstacles to become the first African-American woman to be formally certified as a doctor. Her innovative and stalwart personality enabled her to create the Women's Loyal Union of New York and Brooklyn and to cofound a women's hospital in Brooklyn. The medical field, thanks to her pioneering example, has opened its doors to women. Today, women are entering the medical profession in increasing numbers, often representing a majority of the student body at our leading medical schools.

Additional accomplishments by African-American women in America are found in the space program. Mac C. Jemison was the first African-American woman in space in 1992. Another grand achievement is the work of Katherine Johnson, an aerospace technologist with NASA. She is a pioneer in new navigation procedures to track space missions.

African-American women have excelled in the entertainment world, covering the spectrum of music and dance to books and TV journalism. Due to her outstanding performance in "Gone With the Wind," actress Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award. Maya Angelou, the actress, dancer, writer, and poet, who is well known for her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," stands apart as a distinguished and invaluable asset to a greater understanding in this country. A few years back Toni Morrison was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in literature. News reporter Carole Simpson has made significant advancements

in the media profession, moving from a Chicago TV reporter in 1970 to the anchor of ABC's "World News Saturday."

Athletically, African-American women have demonstrated outstanding strength, skill, and discipline in many sports. In 1951, Althea Gibson was the first African-American woman to play at Wimbledon, and later went on to win the singles and doubles title—with her partner, Darlene Hard—in 1957. In the Olympics, Jackie Joyner-Kersey is acclaimed internationally as the world record holder in the heptathlon.

Each of these extraordinary African-American women has set her sights high and tackled difficult challenges to reach her goals. In African-American communities and in all of America, these women provide valuable examples of success. Still, there are countless African-American women who have dedicated their lives to something they wholeheartedly believe in, but many never receive public recognition. I am delighted to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding African-American women of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO THE LYONS, IL, FIRE
DEPARTMENT ON ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has been protecting lives and property in a community for a century—the Lyons, IL, Fire Department.

The department was founded in December, 1895 by village ordinance. But as anyone who has ever had dreams of racing to the scene of a fire in a red engine will tell you, it did not really start until January 21, 1896, when the department's first vehicle, a nonmotorized, man-powered horse car, was purchased.

From those humble beginnings, the department has grown into one of the finest in suburban Chicago.

The village and its fire department will commemorate 100 years of service with numerous ceremonies this year, including a dinner-dance this month, a muster with interdepartmental competition in May, and a picnic for past and present firefighters in June.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the department and its personnel on its century of success and wish them many more years of effectively protecting lives and property in their community.

ALEX WEDDINGTON HONORED BY
MERIDIAN'S JUNIOR AUXILIARY
AS 1996 HUMANITARIAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend my friend,

Alex Weddington, for being selected Humanitarian of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary in our hometown of Meridian, MS.

The Junior Auxiliary presents the award each year to a person, organization or business in recognition of their contribution to the betterment of the community. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Alex. He is making a positive difference in our community.

I want to share with my colleagues this article about Alex and his work with the Masonic Home for Boys and Girls. It was written by Ida Brown of the Meridian Star.

SPENDING TIME WITH THE KIDS—ALEX WEDDINGTON SHARES TIME WITH CHILDREN FROM MASONIC HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

(By Ida Brown)

Although he looks forward to every day, Meridian businessman Alex Weddington probably enjoys Fridays even more. After a busy week at the office, he and his wife, Ann, usually spend the evening with the kids—all 23 of them.

For 15 years, Weddington's Friday evenings—and many other days of the week—have been shared with the residents of the Masonic Home for Boy and Girls.

"The kids are wonderful and you get so much more out of doing for them than you put in," Weddington said.

"Alex has accepted the responsibility of trying to improve the living conditions of the community," U.S. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery said.

"He's always trying to help someone else . . . He's more concerned helping others than himself," added Noel Evans, executive director of the Choctaw Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. "Meridian is fortunate to have great community leaders such as Alex; they make Meridian a great place to live."

Today, Weddington will be presented the "Humanitarian of the Year Award" by the Meridian Junior Auxiliary. According to Kay Wedgeworth, chairman, the honoree was reluctant when informed that he'd been selected for the recognition.

" . . . He said, 'I'll make you a deal. Give it to the guy who come in second and I won't say a word,'" said Wedgeworth. The award is presented annually to a person, organization or business in recognition of the time, talent and effort which they have contributed to the betterment of the community, particularly youth.

A native of Meridian, Weddington first became associated with the Masonic home out of curiosity.

"I've always had a curious nature. I'd driven by the home hundreds of times and wondered what was up there. One day in 1981, I stopped by and asked Pete Griffis, who, at the time was grand secretary, what it (the home) was about. When he told me they needed help, I told him he had it."

He started out by taking the kids out on Fridays to the movies, skating, camping or to local events and activities. Over the years, this has extended to also include two vacations each year—an early summer one to various locales and one in late summer at his family's home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sometimes, he just invites the kids to his home, rents movies and orders pizza.

"Each one of these children come from unique circumstances. They're wonderful children and given a chance in life, which is what the masonic home does, they will make something of their lives," said Weddington. ". . . God has really blessed me for being

able to help out with these children. A lot of people look at it that the children are blessed; I'm the one who is blessed."

He considers his deeds as "what I'm supposed to do. I think it's what God wants me to do," he said.

"Alex is always doing things for other folks and never wants any recognition," said Fred Bean, who currently serves as grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi and secretary of the board of managers at the masonic home. "He's taken the kids at the home water rafting, camping, on trips to Disney World, Six Flags, Liberty Land . . . He provides them opportunities they may not have otherwise."

His dedication to the kids is solid. He seldom cancels his Friday nights with them.

In fact, on his first date with his wife, the kids went along.

"I called her up and told her I wanted to know what kind of sport she was. I explained that I took the kids from the home out every Friday night and that our first date was going to be with 23 children. I didn't want to disappoint them. I picked her up with 23 kids, a dog and myself . . . She was a good sport."

Commenting on that first outing, Mrs. Weddington said, "It definitely was different from any other date I'd been on. But I knew then that he was special. Here he was a bachelor who had a lot going for him. And on a Friday night when most bachelors were out on a date, Alex was with all of these kids."

"He's a good role model in a time when strong models are needed. He's a good listener, intuitive . . . and can read those kids like a book. He tries to encourage them to study and that just because they were born under bad circumstances, it doesn't mean they don't have the power to change the course of their lives."

Scouting is one way Weddington has motivated the youth to taking responsibility for their lives. He especially encourages the boys to aim for the Eagle Scout Award.

"Scouting builds character. For the boys, achieving the Eagle Scout Award is one of the greatest accomplishments. This year, Anthony Watkins and Glen Burge both will receive the award; I'm really proud of them."

Scholastic achievement is another source of inspiration. Each year, Weddington takes the three children with the best grades at the end of the semester on a skiing trip in Colorado.

"I try to make sure they really study hard; I've found this trip to be a great motivating factor. Most of these kids have never been in an airplane; it's really exciting for them," he said. "These kids have gone from making 'Cs' and 'Ds' to 'As' and 'Bs.'"

Other ways he has helped the home is by securing funds "for the little extras." In 1985, he enlisted Montgomery's support in sponsoring a golf tournament. Now in its 11th year, the "Sonny" Montgomery-Masonic Home Benefit Golf Tournament has netted more than \$100,000.

Funds are used for outings, trips and other necessities.

But more than anything, it gives them another opportunity to spend time with one of their favorite people. Without a doubt, the kids love Weddington, but not just because he "takes them places."

"He's a great man," said Joseph Walker, 12. ". . . He's very nice but if you mess up, he'll make sure you don't do it again; and you won't."

Sisters Felicia Kern, 12, and Christine, 13, enjoy being around Weddington because "he's fun and has a nice personality."

Glen Burge, 17, describes Weddington as a great person with a big heart.

"He puts in a lot of time with us and cares about us a lot. I really appreciate all that he has done for us and the only way I can pay him back is to say, 'Thank-you.' He's truly a blessing to my heart."

As the Meridian Junior Auxiliary's Humanitarian of the Year, Weddington will receive a plaque and \$500 will be donated in his name to the charity of his choice.

TRIBUTE TO FOOD-PATCH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to acknowledge the extraordinary work being done by Food-PATCH, an organization in my congressional district.

Food-PATCH, which stands for People Allied to Combat Hunger, is dedicated to alleviating hunger while minimizing food waste in Westchester County, NY.

This 7-year-old organization was formed as a nonprofit emergency food distribution center. With financial support of Kraft Foods and Diversified Investment Advisors, Food-PATCH began its work in a 13,000-square-foot warehouse in Millwood, NY. With the help of 10 full-time, 6 part-time employees, and more than 8,000 volunteer hours, Food-PATCH distributed more than 3 million pounds of food to more than 140 emergency food providers last year. This translates to more than 8 tons of food a day to soup kitchens, food pantries, Head Start programs, shelters, senior programs, AIDS programs, and many others that provide meals for 220,000 individuals.

In short, Food-PATCH has been dedicated to ensuring that no one in Westchester County goes to bed hungry. Food-PATCH's T-shirts bear this motto and I and hundreds of others from Westchester County proudly wear ours in tribute to this wonderful organization.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we must be especially mindful of the needs of others, I ask you to join with me in honoring the men and women at Food-PATCH who keep the true spirit of this season all year long.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL MIJARES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Mr. Manuel Mijares, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the city of Brownsville TX, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as the honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a 4-day international event which invites the United States and Mexico to join together in celebration of the distinct cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which

originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances, and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a major function which is eagerly anticipated by many South Texans as well as our winter visitors.

We are honored to recognize Mr. Manuel Mijares as the 32d Mexican citizen chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association. He began his career as a backup singer for the well-known Mexican pop star Emanuel. But this was just the beginning. In 1986 he released his first album entitled "Mijares" which quickly earned silver and gold status. His international acclaim is evident in the many awards he has received throughout Latin America, the United States, and Japan. Some of his awards include: the Golden Award Medallion in Japan, the Latin Music Award in the Dominican Republic; Revelation in Mexico; Ovacion for outstanding artist in Chicago; Antorcha de Plata award from Chile; Premio AC; History of Spectacles in New York; Aplauso 92 in Miami, and Galardon a los Grandes in Mexico.

In addition to his musical talent, Mijares has also been praised internationally for his presence in the theater. He is a regular guest on "Siempre en Domingo," "En Vivo," and "Eco"; popular international television shows. Disney has also recognized and selected this talented and versatile artist to sing the Spanish themes for "Oliver and Company" and "Beauty and the Beast." It is not only this type of talent which transcends cultural lines that we recognize today, but it is also his compassion for the well-being of his audience. Despite the numerous awards for his artistic talents, Mijares has also demonstrated a concern for development of teens in the United States. One example of his community involvement is his participation in a fundraiser the Los Angeles Police Department held to raise money for a project to aid youth, which works to improve the attitudes and behaviors of preteens in Los Angeles, CA. The event was attended by 40,000 people.

Mr. Manuel Mijares is a perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award. For he has, over the long period of his career, taken his unique song, screen, and stage performances to numerous countries, including sold-out performances in the United States. A true ambassador of his country and of his culture, he has been praised by numerous organizations for his unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Manuel Mijares should be recognized for both his artistic ability and his contribution to the commitment to bicultural relations between nations.

Mr. Amigo, Mr. Manuel Mijares, will receive the red-carpet treatment when he visits Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During his stay on the border, he will make personal appearances in the parades and at other festival events. Official welcome receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, TX, and the cities of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Manuel Mijares for being honored with this special award.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON SHER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished assemblyman of the 21st assembly district of California, Mr. Byron Sher. He represents a number of communities in San Mateo County and my Congressional District does overlap some of the areas in his State assembly district. We have worked together on many issues for the people of San Mateo County.

This coming weekend, the San Mateo County Democratic Party will salute Byron Sher at a special appreciation dinner held to recognize the service he has rendered to the people of California. After a successful career in the California Assembly, Byron Sher will retire at the end of this legislative session. He will have completed his eighth term in the assembly and is not permitted to run again because of term limitations.

Byron has based his long and productive political career upon the strong foundations of a distinguished academic career. After an ambitious undergraduate career, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1952. Byron went on to teaching positions at some of the leading law schools around the country, including Southern Methodist University of Southern California and Harvard Law School. Currently, he is an emeritus professor of law at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA.

Byron has been active in local and regional government since he came to Palo Alto in 1957. In this time, he has repeatedly shown his commitment to the community. He was a member of the Palo Alto City Council for 9 years and served two terms as mayor. For many years, Byron has given time to local, State, and national environmental boards.

As a member of the California State Legislature, Byron has many notable achievements. He is the author of landmark laws to protect California's environment, including the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination from leaking underground storage tanks. He is consistently rated among the top legislators by the most respected environmental, consumer, law enforcement, education and housing groups. I applaud his conscientious hard work on the part of our community and California.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Byron Sher as he completes a record of distinguished service in the California State Assembly. The people of San Mateo County and the people of California have been well served by his leadership and advocacy in the State assembly.

TRIBUTE TO OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE'S FIFTH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young ladies from my district, the fifth grade girls' basketball team of Our Lady of the Ridge School.

This squad of eight determined players won the South Suburban Catholic Basketball League title this season, the school's first-ever championship. The girls combined strong rebounding, spirited defense, and relentless hustle into a 14-win season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate coaches Mike Grove and Brad Liston, as well as their players: Katie Pratt; Megan Liston; Kellie Pratt; Katie Roe; Jackie Grove; Kelly Liston; Colleen Madej; and Laura Dirschl. I wish them continued success on and off the court.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON D. SHER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Byron D. Sher, assemblyman of the 21st District of California, a scholar, a dedicated public servant, and an ardent protector of the environment.

After receiving his juris doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1952, Byron Sher has held various academic teaching positions in law at Southern Methodist University, the University of Southern California, and Harvard Law School. He became a Stanford University professor of law specializing in consumer credit, consumer protection, contract and commercial law. Colleagues and students have held Byron Sher in their highest regard for his intellect, compassion, and dedication to education.

A resident of Palo Alto since 1957, Byron Sher felt a call to public service and has been an active participant in local and regional government. He served on the Palo Alto City Council for 9 years, two terms as mayor. He was also a commissioner of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a member of the Committee on Environmental Quality for the National League of Cities and the League of California Cities, and a member of the policy advisory board of the League of California Cities' Solar Energy Program.

In November 1980, Byron Sher was elected to the California State Assembly and has served eight terms. His outstanding leadership has been greatly valued in the State legislature where he has served as chairman of the assembly natural resources committee of 10 years. He currently serves on the committees of budget, natural resources, and public safety. He is also a member of the energy committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL], and serves on the California

Commission on Uniform State Laws. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle applaud his effective and compassionate service to the people of California.

Dearest to his interests has been the environment, which he has continuously protected as a legislator. Byron Sher has authored landmark legislation, including the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination from leaking underground storage tanks. He has authored laws to strengthen the State's timber regulations and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, and has added new rivers to California's Wild and Scenic River System. He is consistently rated among the top legislators in Sacramento by environmental groups.

Mr. Speaker, Byron Sher is a most distinguished individual and one of the most respected elected officials in the State of California. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him.

HONG REFUGEES IN THAILAND

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a letter from Wendy Sherman, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the State Department, in response to my concerns regarding Hmong refugees in Thailand. I am pleased that the State Department has made progress with the Royal Thai Government in gaining access to Hmong refugees. On behalf of the Hmong community in Rhode Island, I will continue to monitor this important issue.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION,

Washington, DC, January 22, 1996.

HON. JACK REED,
House of Representatives

DEAR MR. REED: Thank you for your letter of November 28, 1995 regarding your concerns for Hmong refugees in Thailand.

First, let me assure you that we share your concern for this special population. Since 1975, we have resettled approximately 249,000 Lao refugees (mostly Hmong) out of Thailand. We have provided a large share of the support that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has received to maintain refugee camps and we and non-governmental organizations assist programs in Laos for refugees who have elected to return home. With only some 6,000 Lao refugees remaining in camps in Thailand we are committed to these same two solutions: voluntary repatriation and third country resettlement.

As you state in your letter, we have for some time requested permission of the Royal Thai Government to be allowed to interview those remaining Hmong and other Lao refugees in camps in Thailand who may wish to resettle in the United States. In November, a team of officers led by Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Sykes went to Bangkok specifically to discuss this issue. I am pleased to report that we reached an agreement in principle with the Royal

Thai Government for U.S. access to Hmong and other Lao in the first asylum camps in Thailand. We are now working to finalize the agreement and hope to begin processing this population in early January. Within the FY 1996 refugee admissions ceiling there are sufficient numbers available for approved Lao cases to be admitted to the U.S. this fiscal year.

We would also like to assure you that, contrary to reports, to date, no asylum seekers or refugees have been forced to return to Laos. Approximately 23,000 Lao (mostly Hmong) have returned voluntarily to Laos since 1980. From all reports, including non-governmental organizations working in Laos and from U.N. officials, there is no persecution of returnees. The United States and other governments contribute to reintegration programs which assist returnees to resettle in Laos. UNHCR has Hmong- and Lao-speaking monitors who travel throughout the country to assist returnees and to monitor their situation. These monitors have reported no persecution of returnees.

We hope that the above information addresses your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact this office again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

WENDY SHERMAN,

Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

SALUTING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FELIX LODGE NO. 3

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an esteemed historical institution in the District of Columbia, Felix Lodge No. 3. The Felix Lodge, the second oldest Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in the District, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1996.

The Felix Lodge has traveled a long and distinguished road from its inception, when meetings were held in the loft of a stable just outside Washington. Chartered on April 4, 1846, by the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Felix Lodge was named in honor of Brother Felix Dorsey, who was a deputy grand master of the Hiram Grand Lodge. Brother Dorsey was pivotal in the advent of Masonry for African-Americans in the District of Columbia.

Through the bravery of men seeking freedom and fraternity, the birth of the Felix Lodge was quite an accomplishment, especially before the Civil War. Several other sites in Washington, including a carpenter's shop and personal residences, became the lodge's surreptitious meeting sites throughout the 19th century and into the 20th. In 1922, the lodge moved to the Masonic Temple on U Street, in Northwest Washington.

Many prestigious members of the Felix Lodge have served in greater roles of the Masonic hierarchy. George W. Brooks, the first African-American doctor licensed in Washington, became most worshipful grand master in 1878. The Felix Lodge also produced 10 Grand Masters. In addition, the lodge has a proud tradition of trailblazing activities, such as conducting Washington's first black Masonic funeral in 1849, and involvement in civic ceremonies like the opening of Union Station.

Mr. Speaker, the long and eminent history of Felix Lodge No. 3 deserves our attention and respect. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their 150th anniversary and saluting the gentlemen, past and present, of Felix Lodge.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD BROOKS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the many friends and family of Donald Brooks, a leading businessman from my congressional district, who recently passed away.

Donald Brooks, a resident of Western Springs, IL, and owner of Marcia's Hallmark Card Shop, was a longtime pillar of the La Grange, IL, business community. He was a leader in the La Grange Business Association, serving as its treasurer, and he spearheaded efforts to make the downtown retail shopping area among the finest in suburban Chicago.

Mr. Brooks, a pharmacist who owned a drug store for 24 years, was an early organizer of the Endless Summer Festival that brings tens of thousands of residents into the community each summer. In addition, he was an important nuts and bolts organizer who coordinated the LGBA's cable television advertisements and served as the group's pointman on downtown parking issues with village government.

In addition, Mr. Brooks, a graduate of Lyons Township High School in La Grange, served his country as a member of the Air Force Reserves during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sympathy to Mr. Brooks' wife, Marcia Jane, and all his friends and family on the untimely passing of this true community leader.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FERRE FAMILY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the Ferre family, a distinguished and dedicated family within the Miami community and to Metro Dade commissioner and Miami's ex-mayor, Maurice Ferre, who suffered the tragic loss of his son, Francisco Ferre Malaussena, his daughter-in-law, Mariana Gomez de Ferre, and the couple's newly born son, Felipe Antonio Ferre Gomez, on the fatal American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia on December 20.

It is at moments such as these when one asks God for strength and guidance in order to overcome this tragedy that took the life of this young aspiring attorney, his beautiful and well-educated wife, and their adorable, newly born son who were all on their way to the infant's christening in Cali, Colombia.

Francisco, who was a graduate of Boston University Law School and practiced at a prestigious law firm in Madrid, Spain before coming to Miami, was also a young man of noble sentiments who did his best to keep very close ties with his family and befriend all of those he met. Mariana, a native of Cali, was a graduate of Wellesley College where she had pursued a degree in political science and French. Upon graduation from this prestigious institution, Mariana obtained her MBA from the University of Miami.

The newlywed couple, who this January would have celebrated their third wedding anniversary, will be sorely missed by both of their respective families and by all of those who had the honor and pleasure of knowing them and the newest addition to their family.

Surviving Francisco in addition to his father and mother, the Honorable Maurice A. Ferre and Mrs. Mercedes Malaussena de Ferre, are his five siblings: Jose Luis, Maurice, Carlos, Mimi, and Florence. Immediate family members who survive Mariana are her parents, Mr. Gustavo Gomez Franco and Mrs. Maria Cristina Vallecilla de Gomez, and her six brothers and sisters: Enrique, Luciano, Maria Cristina, Roxana, Gustavo Felipe, and Julian.

Once again, I extend my deepest condolences to the Ferre family in these very trying times.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYWOMAN JACKIE SPEIER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished assemblywoman of the 19th assembly district of California, Ms. Jackie Speier. Many of the same communities in San Mateo County that are included in her State assembly district are also within the boundaries of the 12th Congressional District, which I have the privilege and honor to represent.

This coming weekend, the San Mateo County Democratic Party will salute Jackie Speier at a special appreciation dinner held to recognize the service she has rendered to the people of California. After a successful career in the California assembly, Jackie Speier will retire at the end of this legislative session. She will have completed her fifth term in the assembly and is not permitted to run again because of term limitations.

Jackie Speier was born in San Francisco—the daughter of a German immigrant and an American mother. She attended local schools in south San Francisco and graduated from Mercy High School in Burlington. She received a B.A. from the University of California at Davis and received a law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in 1976.

Following the completion of her education, Jackie served on the staff of our late colleague and my predecessor, Congressman Leo J. Ryan. In November 1978, Jackie accompanied Congressman Ryan to Jonestown,

Guyana, to investigate the cult community led by the Rev. Jim Jones. As my colleagues know, Congressman Ryan was killed during that visit to Jonestown, and Jackie Speier was seriously injured at the same time. That was followed by the tragic suicide-murder of over 900 cult members.

After returning to California, Ms. Speier was elected to the San Mateo County board of supervisors in November 1980, where she effectively served the people of San Mateo County for 5 years. During that time she served 1 year as chair of the board. In November 1986, she was elected a member of the California State Assembly. During the decade that she represented the 19th assembly district, Jackie led the assembly's Committee on Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency and Economic Development. She was a constructive and articulate spokesperson and advocate for consumer interests and government efficiency for the people of San Mateo County.

Jackie is the mother of two delightful children—Jackson Kent Sierra and Stephanie Katelin Elizabeth Sierra. Her husband, Dr. Steven Sierra, was killed in a tragic automobile accident in early 1994, a few months before the birth of their last child.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jackie Speier as she completes 10 years of distinguished service in the California State Assembly. The people of San Mateo County and the people of California have been well served by her leadership and advocacy in the State assembly.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN JACQUELINE SPEIER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackie Speier, Assemblywoman of the 19th District of California, an extraordinary, history-making public servant who has protected the rights of many, with special attention to women, children, and consumers.

Jackie Speier has brought a new meaning to the word "courage" as she has overcome tragedy in her own life and dedicated herself to public service. In November 1978, as legal counsel for the late Congressman, Leo J. Ryan, she accompanied the Congressman to Jonestown, Guyana to investigate charges that people were being held hostage by cult leader Rev. Jim Jones. On November 18, cult followers shot and killed Congressman Ryan while Jackie Speier was struck by five bullets. Later that day 911 cult members died.

Two years later, Jackie Speier became the youngest elected member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. She served a second term and was chair of the board in 1985.

In 1986, she became the first woman elected to the 19th Assembly District of California, continuing to break new ground legislatively. As the chair of the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency, and Economic Development, she led the fight to uncover numerous acts of ineffi-

ciency, waste, and abuse of public resources by State bureaucrats who subsequently resigned from office. She also led investigations into unfair and illegal practices of auto manufacturers and dealers, and championed many proconsumer laws.

Jackie Speier's record of having bills signed into law is unprecedented. Among her accomplishments, she has ensured the advancement of women's rights and the protection of children. Some of her legislative achievements include the requirement of insurers to allow women to use their obstetrician-gynecologists as their primary care physicians, creating a voluntary California income tax check-off fund to support breast cancer research, creating the Women's Business Ownership Act and Council, and legislation which would deny professional and drivers licenses to those who fail to pay child support.

Along with her extraordinary work in the legislature, she is the devoted and proud mother of two children. Jackie Speier made legislative history in 1988 when she became the first member of the California Legislature to give birth while in office.

For her accomplishments, she has received a plethora of awards including Legislator of the Year by the California State Bar Association, Women Construction Owners and Executives, Leadership California, National Mobilization Against AIDS, California Women Lawyers, the National Organization for Women, and the Family Service Council.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of Jackie Speier's friendship and have had the honor of working with her as a colleague on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Few legislators are as effective, as respected, and as history-making as Jackie Speier. She is truly one of California's most distinguished women and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

TRIBUTE TO LYONS POLICE OFFICERS JAMES RITZ, CHARLES WRIGHT, AND ROBERT SCHOOK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three police officers from my district who recently went above and beyond the call of duty to save a man from his burning home.

In the early morning hours of January 29, 1996, Sgt. James Ritz, Officer Charles Wright, and Officer Robert Schook of the Lyons Police Department responded to a 911 call from the home of Charles Schmidt, 77. Upon arriving, they discovered smoke pouring out of the house and learned that Mr. Schmidt, who has vision problems and is a partial amputee, was trapped inside. Without a second thought to their own safety, the three entered the building and groped through its smoke-filled rooms until they found Mr. Schmidt and carried him out of the house.

As Lyons Deputy Fire Chief Gordon Nord said of these three heroes, "To go in with no protection was above and beyond the call of

duty. If it wasn't for the three police officers, we would have had one fatality."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sergeant Ritz, Officer Wright, and Officer Schook for their incredible bravery. All Americans owe these three officers, and all those who risk their lives to protect ours, a debt of gratitude.

LEGISLATION TO ADJUST FEDERAL DEFERRED ANNUITIES FOR INFLATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that indexes Federal annuities for inflation at the time the employees separates. Currently, if an employee leaves the Federal service before retirement he has the option of taking his pension contributions back in a lump sum or keeping them in the retirement trust fund. If he leaves the contributions in, he will receive an annuity when he turns 62. If he takes them out, he can reinvest them in an IRA.

It would be more beneficial for the employee and the Government if the employee left his contributions in the retirement system and earned an annuity at 62. The current system, however, does not encourage the employee to leave the contributions in since the annuity is not indexed for inflation. Thus if an employee with 20 years of service leaves the Government to take another job at age 45, he has the option of taking his money out of the trust fund, the 7 percent of his salary that he contributed over the past 20 years, or leaving the money in the trust fund and receiving his earned annuity when he turns 62, 36 percent of the average of highest 3 years of salary. Since the annuity is not indexed, there is no reason to leave the money in. If the high three averages \$50,000, in the above case, the annuity would be \$17,000 at separation. But after 17 years of average inflation, this \$17,000 would have the spending power of only about \$9,000. Under the legislation I am introducing today, an annuity of \$17,000 would maintain the spending power of \$17,000.

The proposal would break the "golden handcuffs" that keep older Federal employees in the civil service. Since the old Civil Service Retirement pension is not transferable, older employees with significant years of service cannot afford to leave the civil service. If they did, they would have to enter a new pension service and begin saving for retirement anew. They would not have the years of investment in Social Security or a 401(k) to rely on. So they stay in the civil service. FERS was created specifically to address this portability problem but it is not enough. Currently, approximately 50 percent of the Federal work force is in FERS. Those who are not are the older employees we want to leave.

Under this legislation, older CSRS employees can leave the Federal Government and take a job elsewhere because they will not lose their pension. While they will not continue to accrue CSRS benefits, they will have earned a decent retirement income on which

they could rely. The proposal will help Federal downsizing and reorganization efforts by allowing older employees to leave.

The proposal would also save money for the Federal Government. If the employee leaves his annuity in the trust fund, there is no outlay from the Federal Government when the employee separates. The immediate savings are significant. The CBO estimates that this proposal would save more than \$3 billion over 7 years.

This is the only provision that will effectively reduce the Federal work force without RIF's. Buyouts are only an option if the employee is close to retirement or already retirement eligible. They do not pare the work force as much as push out those who can already leave. For those Federal employees 40 and over, they are not an option. These employees, however, can find good opportunities outside the Federal work force because they are the most hireable. They do not leave, however, because they will lose the 15 or more years they have invested in the Civil Service Retirement System.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS BIDDLE, THE PRIDE OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL IN WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride today that I pay tribute to a great man from the city of Milwaukee, Mr. Dennis Biddle. As one of the finest players of the Negro Baseball League who now resides in the State of Wisconsin, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life and accomplishments of this truly remarkable man.

Born on June 24, 1935 in Arkansas, Mr. Biddle was blessed with natural-born athletic ability that allowed him to enter the world of professional baseball at the age of 17, making him the youngest player to emerge in the Negro league. As a player for the legendary Chicago American Giants, Mr. Biddle wasted no time breaking through the ranks and rising to the top of the Negro league. In his very first game in June 1953 against the Memphis Red Sox, he struck out 13 players and posted a 3 to 1 victory.

Wisconsin was the site of perhaps Mr. Biddle's finest game, when he pitched against the Philadelphia Stars in Racine. He was facing Gerald "Lefty" McKinnis who was famous for defeating Satchel Paige, perhaps the greatest pitcher in the history of American baseball. Despite his young age, Mr. Biddle led his team to a 3 to 1 victory, and earned the nickname "The Man Who Beat The Man Who Beat the Man", and a place in the heart of baseball fans everywhere.

Because Jackie Robinson already had broken the color barrier, Mr. Biddle knew it was just a matter of time before he would join the ranks of major league baseball. Indeed, his 30-7 record over 2 years in the Negro leagues caught the attention of the Chicago Cubs who pursued Biddle for their squad. Regrettably, Mr. Biddle broke his leg during spring

training in 1955, ending his brief but brilliant pitching career.

Despite the end of his career in baseball, Mr. Biddle remains a powerful force in Milwaukee, lending his rich institutional memory for the betterment of our community. On most weekends, Mr. Biddle can be found speaking with young people, giving them advice and direction through a discussion of his rich life experiences. He is a devoted community advocate, working with Milwaukee youth on a regular basis at Career Youth Development [CYD], one of Milwaukee's premier social service agencies.

Mr. Biddle's experiences and lessons are more valuable today than ever before. Through his lecturing, teaching, and outreach, Mr. Biddle is able to bring us back to a time and a place when baseball was played for honor and glory. Last year, the Negro league celebrated its 75th anniversary, and Mr. Biddle joined with the league's 214 remaining league veterans at their museum in Kansas City. At this reunion, Mr. Biddle reaffirmed his commitment to educating the public about the wealth of history contained in the archives of the Negro league. Players like Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, and Buck Leonard, and teams like the Milwaukee Bears, the Kansas City Monarchs, and the Homestead Grays, whose story must be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Dennis Biddle. I join with the city of Milwaukee in praising this outstanding individual, and wish him continued success in our community.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the annual observance of National Engineers Week, which has just concluded. Samuel C. Florman, engineer and author, defines his profession as "the art or science of making practical application of the knowledge of pure sciences" in his book, "The Existential Pleasures of Engineering." National Engineers Week gives us the chance to remember the role of engineers in making real the American dream and their legacy in the drama of our Nation's history.

That National Engineers Week coincides with the celebration of the birth of the Father of our Country is no accident, as the profession is proud to recognize George Washington as a member. The First President, in 1749, worked as the assistant to the surveyor laying out the plan for the city of Alexandria. Commissioned a surveyor in his own right, Washington undertook the measurement and mapping of the western frontier of Virginia. Washington played a central role in the formation of the Patowmack Co., which sought to make the Potomac the major route for transportation into the burgeoning Northwest Territory. Finally, of course, Washington placed the cornerstone for the Capitol in which we work and devoted a

great deal of his time to managing the development of the city that bears his name.

Engineers appear time and again in American history. The Polish military engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko built the fortifications which protected American forces during the Battle of Saratoga; the American victory led France to join the war and secured our independence. Civil War commanders such as P.G.T. Beauregard, George Meade, Joe Johnston, and Robert E. Lee saw service as engineers during the Mexican War. Theodore Judah and Grenville Dodge constructed the first transcontinental railroad. John A. Roebling and his son Washington raised the Brooklyn Bridge. The Wizard of Menlo Park, Thomas Edison, fired the imagination with his continuing output of new technologies that changed the lives of ordinary people. Engineers were central to America's ability to meet one of humanity's ultimate challenges, to travel away from the Earth and walk upon the surface of the Moon.

Engineers are the prime movers behind the economic success Americans now enjoy. It is the engineer who recognizes how the science of the laboratory can be used or adapted to fill the needs of fellow citizens safely and efficiently. Absent the contributions of engineers in aerospace, civil, chemical, mechanical, electrical, and other disciplines, we would still be awaiting the fruits of the Industrial and Information Revolutions. The Federal Government's support for scientific research and development has long rested on the view that the results from that investment will be repaid by economic growth and a better quality of life for our citizens. Without engineers, that promise could not be realized.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to recognize in these remarks those engineers who directly serve the public interest in the agencies of the Federal Government. The Committee on Science has jurisdiction over the agencies whose ranks include many of the engineers employed by the Federal Government. They toil in obscurity trying to protect the public health, to advance the state of knowledge in technical fields, and to protect the Nation's safety and security. We in Congress have, many times, given them contradictory guidance in law or asked them to develop regulations that seek to balance incompatible goals. That these efforts fail should not be ascribed to their performance but to our design. I have no doubt that when Congress can implement the reasonable changes to regulatory policies supported by the majority of our Members that the engineers in our service will once again justify our trust in their commitment to the public good they have sworn to uphold.

Recognition is due to the sponsors of National Engineers Week: the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Chair of the 1996 Steering Committee; the American Association of Engineering Societies; the American Consulting Engineers Council; the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers; the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Construction Specifications Institute; the Secretariat of the National Society of Professional Engineers; the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc.; the So-

ciety of Women Engineers; and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. Corporations offering their support include 3M; Bechtel Group, Inc.; Chevron Corp.; Eastman Kodak Co.; Fluor Corp.; General Electric Co.; IBM International Foundation; Motorola; Rockwell; and Westinghouse Electric Corp. Agencies like the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Office of the Civil Engineer of the U.S. Air Force and the National Academy of Engineering are also supporting this year's celebration.

Mr. Speaker, the President in his message on National Engineering Week "thank[ed] our engineers for their remarkable achievements." I join him in those sentiments and am pleased to honor with him the 1.8 million Americans who proudly call themselves engineers.

SALUTE TO THE 27 ALL-STATE MUSICIANS FROM LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 27 outstanding students at Lyons Township High School in my district who were recently named All-State Musicians.

These talented young people were selected by Illinois music educators during auditions to perform with either the jazz band, jazz choir, band, or chorus, during the all-State conference, held February 1-3, 1996. While many schools will send three or four musicians to this conference, Lyons Township High School will be represented by many times that number.

The musicians include: Lettie Bowers, T.J. Ow, Karen Riccio, Christina Castelli, Jennifer Hsieh, Stephanie Majewski, Christopher May, John Alletto, Molly Comiskey, Kathleen Eich, Ann Fitzgerald, Jim King, Matt Kiverts, Betsy Klaric, Leah Kwilosz, Matt Lauterbach, Dan McKeever, Eric Meyer, Eric Nysten, Tommy Parker, Mike Penney, Amy Ruzic, Justin Sisul, Andrew Stott, Brian Webb, Shane Weber, and Beth Wilkinson.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these fine young musicians and their teachers on this fine honor.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE GARY, FLORIDA PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the American Jewish Committee in honoring Willie Gary of Stuart, FL.

Willie Gary is an outstanding American whose story must be told. His parents were sharecroppers and migrant farm workers who raised 11 children. When Willie was 13 his father Turner settled his family in Indiantown, FL, where he started a produce business from the back of a truck he had bought with the

help of his son, Willie, who had earned the money mowing lawns.

Willie, a high school football star who was determined to go to college, secured an athletic scholarship to Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. While at Shaw he married Gloria Royal. By the time he graduated in 1971 Willie had one son and an successful lawn care business.

But Willie wanted more. In 1974 he graduated from North Carolina Central University with a law degree and a second son. After his graduation from law school the Gary family returned to Florida. Willie was admitted to the Florida bar and their third and fourth sons were born.

In 1975 Willie opened the first black law firm in Martin County. In 1976 he opened a second office in Ft. Pierce. Today, the law firm of Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis & McManus is a large, sophisticated law firm with a national reputation.

Willie Gary and his wife Gloria have given new meaning to the word philanthropy. God blessed Willie Gary with a magnificent legal talent which Willie has used to amass a measure of wealth. But what is really important about Willie Gary is that he has been abundantly generous with both his time and his money to his family, church, community, educational institutions, his alma mater, civic organizations, professional groups, friends, and individuals too numerous to mention.

Willie Gary deserves the American Jewish Committee's Learned Hand Award because he is a mensch. He is a brilliant man who has dedicated his life to his family and ensuring that all members of his community have outstanding legal representation.

Judge Edward Rodgers and I were given the privilege of being honorary co-chairs of the event honoring Willie. We are both so very pleased to be associated with the American Jewish Committee in honoring this great American.

IN RECOGNITION OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Portland State University in recognition of its 50th anniversary. This remarkable urban institution, located in my district, has made important contributions, not only in the Portland metropolitan region, but also on State and national levels.

Portland State University is Oregon's only urban university and its mission is unique among all the other higher education institutions in the State. As an urban university, Portland State seeks to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic qualities of urban life. It also works to promote the development of community-based networks and collaborations to address community priorities through academic and research programs. PSU is a national model for service learning as its faculty are integrally involved in community issues and concerns and work to include such issues in both research and teaching.

Portland State is important to my constituents. Many residents of Washington and Multnomah Counties choose to attend PSU because of its strong academic reputation. These students select Portland State because they can live at home, they can work, raise a family, and go to school at the same time. For many reasons, Portland State is making a difference in the lives of its students.

Since its inception in 1946, PSU has worked to develop a positive national reputation. Today, the university is playing a significant role in shaping national policy on urban issues. The university is gaining national recognition for its innovative approach to the undergraduate general education experience. PSU's faculty include nationally recognized scholars and its students win regional and national competitions. And, its men's and women's athletic teams often finish at the top of their divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I have been involved with Portland State University for many years. I have attended classes at the university. Students from the institution have been interns and employees in my office. I have also worked with the faculty and administration on many partnership programs that are important to my constituents and the residents of Oregon.

One that I am especially proud of is the work Portland State University is doing with Clatsop Community College and the Oregon Graduate Institute in Astoria, OR. Led by the community college, these three institutions are working with the community to develop the Marine Environmental Research and Training Station, [MERTS]. MERTS will be unique in the Nation. It will combine the assets of two major research institutions with a community college to deliver a continuum of job training and education programs focused on environmental technology. This is just one example of the ways in which Portland State University fulfills its mission.

I am also very pleased that Portland State University has embraced the principles of administrative reform and efficiency. One of this administration's priorities is to "reinvent government" and change the way we do business. Well, Mr. Speaker, Portland State University is a national success story. Under the leadership of President Judith Ramaley, the University has undertaken a major reorganization of its management operation. As a result, Portland State University has continued to maintain high quality academic programs at a time of diminishing state resources. The University was recognized for its efforts by KPMG Peat Marwick as a "national model" for efficient management.

On the august occasion of its golden anniversary, I would like to recognize the contributions Portland State University's faculty staff, and students have made in improving Oregon and the Nation. As the University works towards its 100th anniversary we can expect the same commitment to community and innovative excellence that has characterized its work since 1946.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHURCHES FOR FAITH IN ACTION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend a wonderful project going on in my district that is helping children with disabilities. The Easter Seal Society and a group of Montgomery County churches have created a Faith in Action project that will help youngsters living with disabilities, along with their families.

What is Faith in Action? It is a program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that helps religious congregations and social service agencies create community volunteer service projects aimed at families, elderly persons, and children. The Easter Seal Society for Disabled Children and Adults will work with seven churches, a school, the Montgomery County Department of Disability Services, and Catholic Charities on this effort.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded hundreds of Faith in Action grants to organizations all over the country. Volunteers target families and offer to help in any way they can. In Montgomery County, this can be offering to take a child to the park, drive a youngster in a wheelchair to the doctor, or care for youngsters while parents take a much needed break. In the Washington, DC, region, over 30,000 children under 5 years of age are at risk for developing a disability. That's over a 1,000 classrooms of kindergartners. Also, because of advanced technology, infants born prematurely and with birth defects have a much better chance of survival today than in years past. Often, however, they will need long-term care.

Volunteers from Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and St. Matthew's United Presbyterian Church are good listeners, they have comfortable laps, and are wonderful huggers. They love to read and tell stories and to sing. They can help feed a child or practice speech therapy exercises, take siblings to the playground, accompany fearful parents to their child's medical appointments, and help advocate for the child. One of the most valuable things a volunteer gives a family is the gift of time and respite for harried parents.

When children are diagnosed with a disability, parents often struggle by themselves. Parents need the right support to insure that their child is receiving the proper medical care, therapy and education. Too many families don't know where to turn. Now, Easter Seals and a group of churches in my district want to help. I congratulate them and wish them good luck.

February 27, 1996

TRIBUTE TO THE WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO'S STICKNEY FACILITY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that is indispensable to the health and quality of life to the people of not only my district and most of the Chicago area, but anybody who uses Illinois waterways as well, the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

One of the district's main plants, the Stickney sewage treatment facility, was recently recognized with a gold medal for excellence from the Association of Municipal Sewage Agencies for its complete and consistent compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. The facility takes in more than three-quarters of a billion gallons of waste water, every day, and successfully removes pollutants and other solids before discharging the water back into the State waterway system.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the district's Board of Commissioners, led by President Thomas Fuller, as well as Stickney plant manager Allan Crowther, Deputy Chief Engineer Don Wunderlich, and all the district workers who made this achievement possible.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the National Corrugated Steel Pipe Association [NCSIPA], on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the patent for corrugated steel pipe.

Under a submission prepared by James H. Watson, corrugated steel pipe was granted patent No. 559,642 on May 5, 1896. Today, corrugated steel pipe is extensively used in private and public drainage structures throughout the country and the world. Though its effectiveness was widely doubted in 1896, corrugated steel pipe has proven itself able to withstand the stress of dead loads, heavy traffic, unstable foundations, cantilever extensions, hillside installations, and sewer freezing and thawing conditions. This sturdy, durable product has earned its place as a mainstay within the construction industry, properly gained by its effectiveness, durability, and cost efficiency.

I congratulate NCSIPA and the corrugated steel pipe industry on this milestone and I thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing this important occasion.

February 27, 1996

EAST TIMOR ABUSES CANNOT BE
IGNORED

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, over a decade ago, Indonesia invaded and annexed East Timor. While this issue is usually only discussed in this body during the anniversary of the annexation or invasion, I would like to take this opportunity to point out recent reports which uncover the nature of Indonesian rule over East Timor in recent years.

Since the invasion, it is estimated that over 200,000 people have died out of a population of 700,000. To maintain order in the territory, Indonesia stations 5,000 troops in East Timor. These troops have been used to intimidate the local population into an illegal occupation, one which the United Nations has refused to recognize.

The Indonesian Government has consistently been cited by human rights groups such as Asia Watch and Amnesty International for their abuses in East Timor. In their annual report last year, Amnesty International pointed to the fact that at least 350 political prisoners, many of them prisoners of conscience, were held, including some 40 sentenced during the year. Hundreds of people were arrested and held without charge or trial. Torture of political detainees and criminal suspects was common, in some cases resulting in death. Several people were extrajudicially executed, and scores of criminal suspects were shot and killed by police in suspicious circumstances. The fate of possible hundreds of Achnese and East Timorese who "disappeared" in previous years remained unknown.

The political dynamics in East Timor seem to be shifting with a younger generation emerging, many of whom were born after the invasion and annexation, and social and economic strains taking their toll. Media reports indicate that the nature of their dispute with Indonesia has become more emotional and protests have become more spontaneous. In a recent news report from the Sydney Morning Herald, rioting last fall has taken East Timor into a new phase. Local people and diplomats said previous unrest in East Timor had been largely politically organized, but recent disorder has been more widespread and spontaneous, reflecting the anger of Timorese buckling under economic and social strains.

Mr. Speaker, while this issue has faded from the headlines and is not a hot topic in Congress, I believe we should be mindful of the abuses in East Timor and the changing political environment.

TRIBUTE TO DEWITT BUSSEY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I had the privilege of participating in the memorial services for Mr. DeWitt

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Bussey II at Solomon Temple Baptist Church in Pittsburg, CA.

DeWitt Bussey was a remarkable man. He gave his entire life to his country and to his community, first in the Armed Forces of this Nation and then later as a community activist and volunteer. Mr. Bussey gave his time to his family and to the children of our community where he counseled and inspired them to achieve high levels of performance as individuals in their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, DeWitt Bussey was a warrior against the evils of racism and bigotry. He fought them wherever these evils raised their ugly heads in our community or in our State. DeWitt Bussey was there to fight back as a founder of the NAACP Racial Intolerance Task Force.

DeWitt Bussey II was born on January 22, 1934, in Columbus, GA, the youngest of three children born to DeWitt T. Bussey, Sr., and Narcissus Burke Threatt. In 1948, at the age of 15, he enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly before the military became integrated. For the next 22 years, Mr. Bussey served in the Army with distinction, graduating from the military intelligence branch of Officer's Candidate School and attending the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, where he became fluent in Russian. He also fought in the Korean war and the Vietnam conflict. In 1970, Mr. Bussey retired from the military at the rank of captain. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Pittsburg, CA, with his wife and children in 1971.

Mr. Bussey graduated from Laney College in Oakland, CA, and earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, CA. He also completed several courses at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. Mr. Bussey worked in a number of occupations following his military retirement, including salesman, circulation manager at the Pittsburg Post Dispatch, director of the First Baptist Church Head Start Program and part-time instructor at Los Medanos College. In addition, he worked for the Federal Government in the General Services Administration and the Youth Authority Conservation Corps. For the past 10 years, Mr. Bussey was self-employed as a consultant.

Active in State and local politics, Mr. Bussey was a member of the Rainbow Coalition and the East County Democratic Club and twice ran for a seat on the Pittsburg City Council. A passionate advocate for civil rights and a unwavering voice against injustice and racial intolerance, Mr. Bussey was a life member of the NAACP, a member of the Racial Intolerance Task Force, the African-American Resource Center, the Los Medanos Community Hospital Affirmative Action Committee and the Pittsburg Unified School District Affirmative Action Committee. From his arrival in Pittsburg until recently, Mr. Bussey actively participated in a number of community and educational organizations, including the Pittsburg Unified School District Student Attendance Review Board, the Pittsburg Model City Program, the Economic Opportunity Council, the First Neighborhood Council, the Pittsburg Area Council, and the Youth Connection. He also helped to establish the El Pueblo Track Club. At the time of his death, Mr. Bussey was serving as the district advisory chairperson for the Pittsburg Unified School District.

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In 1990, Mr. Bussey joined Stewart Memorial C.M.E. Church in Pittsburg under the leadership of the late Reverend Willie Mays. He served on the board of trustees, taught Sunday School and served as an instructor for Project Spirit, an after-school program established by the church.

Mr. Bussey is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Edna, of Pittsburg; sons, DeWitt III and Jaimie of Pittsburg; daughters Carol and Deja of Pittsburg and Donna of Atlanta, GA; granddaughter Danielle; sisters, Lenora Bussey Tubbs and Verna Kay Bussey Miles of Pittsburg; brother, Robert Threatt of Pittsburg and numerous relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, our community lost a champion with the passing of DeWitt Bussey, but we are fortunate that he left us such a wonderful family with his values to carry on his work with our children to teach them excellence.

My family and our entire community extend our prayers to the Bussey family.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE NICHOLAS
SALERNO, BERWYN, IL POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a law enforcement officer who had been recognized for his community involvement—Detective Nicholas Salerno of the Berwyn, Illinois Police Department.

Detective Salerno, an 18-year veteran of the force, was honored with the Cook County Sheriff's Award for Merit in recognition of his involvement with his community. A member of the Department's Juvenile Unit, Detective Salerno has been active with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education [DARE] program in the city.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Detective Salerno and all the other law enforcement officers who go above and beyond the call of duty to help the young people of their communities.

HONORING DR. LINDA MILLER

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Fairfax County's finest teachers. Dr. Linda Miller is being honored by the Organization of American Historians as co-winner of the 1996 Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Pre-Collegiate Teaching Award. This award recognizes the contributions made by pre-collegiate teachers to improve history education and is given for activities which enhance the intellectual development of other history teachers and/or students. The award named for the late Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau of the University of Louisville, memorializes her career, especially her pathbreaking efforts to build bridges between university and pre-collegiate history teachers.

Dr. Miller has been teaching in the Fairfax County Public School System since 1972. She started as a substitute teacher at various schools throughout the County. In 1973 she was a reading aide at Lake Braddock Secondary School. From 1974 to 1978 she taught social studies—civics—at Mark Twain Intermediate and Herndon Intermediate School served on summer curriculum committees developing map skills.

From 1978 to the present Dr. Miller has been teaching at Fairfax High School where her classes include American Government, Political Science, gifted and talented world cultures, gifted and talented American Government, Advanced Placement European history, and world cultures.

Dr. Miller's love of teaching is reflected not only by her receiving this award, but by instilling in her students an enthusiasm for government. At a time when public opinion of government and politics is low, Dr. Miller's dedication and success in educating her students and making American Government come alive, is a welcome addition.

Dr. Miller's education is extensive she holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and Social Studies from the University of Kansas. She received a Master of Arts in Education in 1978. She received a Doctorate in Education from the University of Virginia in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Miller for her honor and thanking her for her many years of dedicated service teaching in Fairfax County. We wish her much success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO REV. JOSE DA SILVA FERREIRA

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Rev. Jose da Silva Ferreira on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Ferreira was ordained on February 25, 1956, in the Vila Real Cathedral and began his religious life as an assistant pastor. His leadership qualities became apparent when he was appointed pastor Vilela do Tamega, Chaves 1 year later. After 16 years as pastor, he emigrated to the United States. During his tenure as administrator of St. Anthony's Church in Cambridge, MA, Father Ferreira played a critical role in the planning and construction of a new rectory and parish center. After serving as pastor in both Lawrence and Lowell, MA, he was appointed pastor of St. Anthony's Church on August 10, 1995.

Throughout his lifetime of service to his church and community, Father Ferreira has displayed outstanding compassion and dedication to others. As pastor, Father Ferreira has gained the admiration of his parishioners by providing spiritual leadership for his neighbors and community. He is a man of humility, dedication, and hard work. I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor the outstanding life and career of such an inspirational individual.

PRESERVE ONE NATION,
INDIVISIBLE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on occasions too numerous to count during my first year in Congress I have heard Members of Congress suggest that many of the activities of the Federal Government should be eliminated or pushed back to the States. As a Californian, I have listened with some incredulity to the opinion that our 50 Governors now seem to be viewed by some as the repository of governmental wisdom. This astonishing view seems to be that State bureaucracies are somehow preferable to Federal ones.

Aside from this viewpoint, however, there are fundamental questions posed by the helter-skelter rush to defederalize. I would like to share the view of Dr. John Collins, as printed in the Bakersfield Californian. Dr. Collins, a combat veteran of World War II and the retired chancellor of the Kern County Community College points out that while it is popular to bash government, we are the premier country in the world and that is not an accident, but the product of doing something right.

Dr. Collins is not only a respected member of his community, he is my father-in-law. I know him as someone not only who is a loved family member, but the kind of American who those of us in Congress should listen to. Like the rest of his generation, he suffered the poverty of America in the Depression; he helped save our country and the world from totalitarianism during World War II; he achieved professional success through education and then dedicated his life not only to raising a good family, but to helping his community have educational opportunities. His wisdom is gained through experience and we should listen carefully to his admonition that we are the United States, not these United States.

The remarks of Dr. John Collins follow, as they appeared in the Community Voices section of the January 22, 1996 edition of the Bakersfield Californian:

PRESERVE "ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE"

The history of the United States has its roots in the British colonies, which though of themselves as semi-autonomous little nations. When these colonies became states with the adoption of the Constitution in 1789, they continued to view themselves as part of a loose union of separate entities. This view was held in spite of the disastrous experience with the Articles of Confederation, which provided for no strong central government.

For 200 years we have been torn between those who want the states to be ascendant and those who see the need for a dominant central government. Before the Civil War, the term "these United States" was in common usage. When in 1861 Robert E. Lee, a colonel in the United States Army, was offered the position of general-in-chief of the Union armies, he said he could not turn his back on his country. By that he meant Virginia, not the United States.

Prior to the Civil War, there had been a serious governmental crisis over nullification wherein one state, South Carolina, took the position that a state could nullify a federal

law (tariff in this instance). Andrew Jackson stood firm and the central government prevailed.

Also, in the early days of our history as a nation there were a number of Supreme Court rulings which gave precedence to the central government. However, the issue of "states' rights" seemed never to get settled.

When Lincoln was elected as the first Republican president, his election precipitated the secession of 11 Southern states from the Union. This formation of the Confederate States of America was the extreme position with regard to "state rights."

The South argued that states had the right to authority of what they viewed as a hostile central government.

A great civil war ensued that lasted four years, with more than 1 million casualties. Lincoln steadfastly and successfully conducted the Civil War to save the Union—to preserve the country as one nation, indivisible. His enormous and enduring contribution was and is that we have one country, not two, or four, or even 50.

However, in time the old dispute over "state rights" surfaced again, and again, and again, right up to 1996. We see now the spectacle of people who represent their states or districts serving in the United States Congress preaching "states' rights."

They want to turn over to the states responsibilities that have resided with the central government for many years. This isn't a new argument, but it is startling coming at this late date, when we can see the terrible effects of parochialism and tribalism around the world.

Lincoln saved us from Balkanization. He made sure that it is "the United States," not "these United States." Our debt to Lincoln is huge, and we should not be persuaded easily that it is better to have 50 different policies on the environment, civil rights, Social Security, health services and many other central government functions.

It is popular now to bash the government. But over the long haul of history the government has served us well. It isn't an accident that we are the premier country in the world, the only superpower. We achieved that status because we have a good system of government. Democracy isn't an easy system. There are all kinds of tugging and pulling as we continue to give everyone a voice.

Let's not kill the goose that laid the golden egg. Let's not turn the future of this country over to 50 state legislatures. Let's keep one nation, indivisible.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH MRAZ,
FORMER BERWYN, IL, ALDERMAN

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated former public servant from my district who recently passed away—Mr. Ralph Mraz.

Mr. Mraz served as an alderman in Berwyn, IL, as well as a market auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 35 years before his retirement. He also was co-founder of the Life and Savings and Loan Association of America.

However, he was best known for obtaining Mraz Park in Berwyn, which was named in honor of his father, Fred.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Mr. Mraz's widow, Lucille, his children, grandchildren, and all his friends.

HONORING DANIEL J. O'CONNOR

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, when I was growing up in Oakland, CA, crime was something I only read about in the papers. Yet in our day, the grim realities of lawbreaking are all too commonplace in each of our communities.

That is why I am especially pleased to recognize the contributions of one of California's finest to making the bay area's streets and neighborhoods safer. Sergeant Daniel J. O'Connor began his law enforcement career in 1962 when he joined the Concord, CA police department. He was appointed to the Bay Area Rapid Transit [BART] Police Department in 1973, and achieved the rank of sergeant in 1976. His 34 years of service have been a testimony to his devotion to duty and his commitment to the people of California.

As he prepares to retire in March, it is my hope that he will be encouraged by many good memories of his years of faithful service. His friends on the force will miss him, and his example of fidelity and dedication will continue to remind those who have worked with him of the vital importance of service in the public interest.

I wish Sergeant O'Connor the very best for many years of productive and enjoyable retirement, and am pleased to recognize this fine public servant in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMENDING THE VETERANS OF UNDERAGE MILITARY SERVICE INC.

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an often unacknowledged group of veterans that deserves recognition. Each of the members of this group joined the military and fought to defend this country before they were of legal age to do so. These brave and courageous young men have been represented in every war in which the United States has been involved. Most of the current members fought in World War II.

These veterans have established an organization of their own, entitled "Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc." which is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS and U.S. Postal Service. They have recently honored Adm. J.M. "Mike" Boorda, USN, the highest ranking underage enlistee on active duty, who joined the Navy when he was 16 years old.

The Second District of Virginia which I represent, is fortunate to be the home of one of the officers of the Virginia chapter of the Vet-

erans of Underage Military Service, Inc., Mr. Thomas C. Hise. Tom Hise's work on behalf of this organization has contributed to the recognition it has received by obtaining laudatory proclamations from Virginia municipal and State governments.

Mr. Speaker, I request permission to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the House joint resolution adopted by the Virginia General Assembly commending members of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc.

All Americans applaud the determination and patriotism shown by these underage enlistees and express gratitude and appreciation for their honorable service to our country.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 327

Whereas, throughout history, nations have called upon their youth to fight their wars, and it is inevitable that some young men and women under the age of 17, usually driven by strong patriotism, have enlisted in the armed forces; and

Whereas, in some instances, these youths were discovered and separated from the service, sometimes after they had already seen action and performed heroically; and

Whereas, the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., was formed in 1990 to help such individuals who were frequently discharged from the service and stripped of their awards and their military benefits; and

Whereas, the primary goals of the organization are to contact all veterans who served in any branch of the United States armed forces when they were under 17 years of age and to advise and assist them in obtaining a proper discharge and their veteran's benefits; and

Whereas, a secondary goal is to establish a historical record of underage veterans by publishing their names, their deeds, and their stories; and

Whereas, the organization currently consists of over 600 veterans who served in the armed forces before they were 17; and

Whereas, three Medal of Honor winners who enlisted before they were 17 have been identified; and

Whereas, the officers of the Virginia chapter of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., Bobby Lee Pettit and Thomas C. Hise, both served in the armed forces before they were old enough to enlist, legally; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., for their attempts to locate and assist all underage veterans of America's armed forces; and, be it

Resolved further, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bobby Lee Pettit, Commander of the Virginia chapter of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., as an expression of the support of the General Assembly for the worthy goals of this organization.

BRODER REBUTS EXCESSIVE CYNICISM

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have long felt that the most damaging form

of naivete is excessive cynicism. No where is that better illustrated than in the current grossly distorted discussion of the influence of campaign contributions on public policy. The view that campaign contributions dominate most policy outcomes is a dangerously mistaken one. It is a complete lack of sophistication about the political process masquerading as the ultimate tough mindedness. And it is not only gravely wrong to argue that campaign contributions are the major factor in most policy outcomes, it is self-defeating. To the extent that citizens do believe that elected officials care little about votes and public opinion, not to mention the merits of the issues, and instead are driven largely by campaign contributions in making decisions, those citizens will be discouraged from voicing the opinions which are in fact the single greatest influence in our public policy deliberations.

In his column in the Washington Post for Wednesday, January 31, David Broder very effectively makes this point with a trenchant and cogent analysis of the recent PBS "Frontline" program on campaign financing.

That program, entitled "So You Want To Buy A President" seems to have perpetuated the mythic view that campaign finance is all important in deciding public policy debates. David Broder who knows better, demonstrates the fallacy of this reasoning in his column. Because it is important that citizens not be encouraged to fall into the trap of believing that their efforts will have no influence in the face of campaign contributions, I ask that David Broder's very important article be printed here.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 31, 1996]

"FRONTLINE'S" EXERCISE IN EXAGGERATION

(By David S. Broder)

As if the cynicism about politics were not deep enough already, PBS's "Frontline" last night presented a documentary called "So You Want To Buy A President?" whose thesis seems to be that campaigns are a charade, policy debates are a deceit and only money talks.

The narrow point, made by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), an early dropout from the 1996 presidential race, about millionaire publisher Malcolm S. (Steve) Forbes Jr., is that "somebody is trying to buy the White House, and apparently it is for sale."

The broader indictment, made by correspondent/narrator Robert Krulwich, is that Washington is gripped by a "barter culture" in which politicians are for sale and public policy is purchased by campaign contributions.

The program rested heavily on a newly published paperback, "The Buying of the President." Author Charles Lewis, the head of the modestly titled Center for Public Integrity, was a principal witness, and Kevin Phillips, the conservative populist author who wrote the book's introduction, was also a major figure in the documentary.

It dramatized the view asserted by Lewis in the conclusion of his book: "Simply stated, the wealthiest interests bankroll and, in effect, help to preselect the specific major candidates months and months before a single vote is cast anywhere. . . ."

We the people have become a mere afterthought of those we put in office, a prop in our own play."

Viewers saw a number of corporate executives—no labor leaders, no religious leaders, no activists of any kind, for some reason—who have raised and contributed money for

presidents and presidential candidates and thereafter been given access at dinners, private meetings or overseas trade missions.

It is implied—but never shown—that policies changed because of these connections. As Krulwich said in the transcript of a media interview distributed, along with an advance tape, with the publicity kit for the broadcast, "We don't really know whether these are bad guys or good guys. . . . I'm not really sure we've been able to prove, in too many cases, that a dollar spent bought a particular favor. All we've been able to show is that over and over again, people who do give a lot of money to politicians get a chance to talk to those politicians face to face, at parties, on planes, on missions, in private lunches, and you and I don't."

If that is the substance of the charge, the innuendo is much heavier. At one point, Krulwich asked Lewis, in his most disingenuous manner, "Do you come out convinced that elections are in huge part favors for sale, or in tiny part?"

And Lewis replied that while "there are a lot of wealthy people that do want to express broad philosophical issues," the "vested interests that have very narrow agendas that they want pursued see these candidates as their handmaidens or their puppets. The presidential campaign is not a horse race or a beauty contest. It's a giant auction."

That is an oversimplified distortion that can do nothing but further alienate a cynical electorate. Of course, money is an important ingredient in our elections and its use deserves scrutiny. But ideas are important too, and grass-roots activism even more so. The Democratic Leadership Council's Al From and the Heritage Foundation's Robert Rector have had more influence in the last decade than any fund-raisers or contributors, because candidates have turned to them for policy advice.

John Rother of the American Association of Retired Persons and Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition work for organizations that are nominally nonpartisan and make no campaign contributions at all. But their membership votes—so they have power.

The American political system is much more complex—and more open to influence by any who choose to engage in it—than the proponents of the "auction" theory of democracy understand, or choose to admit.

By exaggerating the influence of money, they send a clear message to citizens that the game is rigged, so there's no point in playing. That is deceitful, and it's dangerously wrong to feel that cynicism.

Especially when they have nothing to suggest when it comes to changing the rules for the money game.

At one point, Phillips said that the post-Watergate reforms succeeded only in having "forced them [the contributors and politicians] to be more devious." That is untrue. Those reforms, which mandated the disclosure of all the financial connections on which the program was based, also created publicity which, even Krulwich and Co. admitted, foiled the "plots" of some contributors.

And Krulwich, for his part, suggested very helpfully that "every high-profile politician agrees that some things have got to change. Change the limits. Change the rules. Change the primaries. Change the ads. Change enforcement. You gotta change something."

How about changing the kind of journalism that tells people that politicians are bought-and-paid-for puppets and you're a sucker if you think there's a damn thing you can do to make your voice heard?

A TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. JAMES ADAMS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two constituents who are an inspiration to all those who say "I do"—James and Helen Adams.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams of Riverside, IL recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with a large party with dozens of their friends and family members.

However, the real celebration should be for a young sailor and his 20 year old fiance from Brookfield, IL who would not let even a world war from keeping them apart. With conflict still raging in the Pacific in June 1945, Jim Adams had planned to take advantage of a short leave to marry his sweetheart, Helen Jean Bennett. But, as is often the case in wartime, his leave was canceled and he was not able to get back home until December of that year, a few days before Christmas. Not only were there no churches available during the holidays for a wedding ceremony, there were no priests or preachers either. Finally, on New Year's Eve, a clergyman was found and the wedding took place in the bride's house.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Adams on not only their 50th anniversary, but also their perseverance and devotion 50 years ago that prevented even a world war from keeping them apart.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR R. NASH, JR.

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great delight that I take this opportunity to honor Art Nash for his many contributions to the State of Michigan through his work with the Department of State Police and the Department of Natural Resources. Art is retiring after 26 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Great Lakes State. His professionalism and exceptional work ethic will be sorely missed by those who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Art grew up in Dearborn, MI, and graduated from Fordson High School. He went on to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI, where he obtained a bachelor of science degree in psychology and sociology in 1970. In addition to his academic pursuits, Art also participated on the varsity swim team and served as an officer of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He would later return to his alma mater to earn a master's degree in public administration in 1980.

Art's professional career began in 1970 when he took the oath as a trooper with the Michigan State Police. He served until 1977 in the department's uniform and criminal investigation division enforcing traffic laws, investigating criminal and civil complaints, and serv-

ing as an undercover officer for drug traffic investigations.

In 1977, Art's career path took him to another division within the Michigan State Police. For the next 17 years, Art was an integral member of the department's fire marshal division, playing an important role in the division's growth. As a member of the fire marshal division, Art rose through the ranks from detective sergeant in the First District Office to first lieutenant commander of the hazardous materials section. As first lieutenant commander, Art was responsible for administering the division's Hazardous Materials Enforcement Program. This also included the task of developing and implementing division policies and procedures.

In May 1994, Art said goodbye to the Michigan State Police and took his talents to the Department of Natural Resources where he served as chief of the Department's underground storage tank division. Though his work with the DNR was less than 2 years, his accomplishments were monumental. I am extremely appreciative of his efforts in the development of the underground storage tank regulatory program and his role in the creation of the risk-based corrective action plan for leaking underground storage tank sites. Michigan residents are fortunate to have had the expertise and knowledge that Art has to offer.

Art's commitments also extend beyond the workplace. He is a member of the St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett where he once served as president of the church council. In addition to support from his church Art has also been blessed with the love and support of his wife, Jennifer, and son, Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, there are some people you meet in life that you feel very privileged to know. Art Nash is one of those people. I am extremely thankful that I had the opportunity to work with this man of great character while I served in the Michigan Legislature. It is with great delight that I offer this tribute to salute Art Nash, an outstanding and dedicated employee and citizen of the State of Michigan.

DR. RICHARD HOVANISSIAN, ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 1996, the central California chapter of the Armenian National Committee of America will be honoring Dr. Richard Hovanissian as Man of the Year.

Dr. Hovanissian is a professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History, and Associate Director of the G.E. von Gruenebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles [UCLA]. As a member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, Dr. Hovanissian has played a major role in international forums relating to the study of genocide and Armenian history. As a Guggenheim Fellow, he has published more than 40 scholarly articles. Dr. Hovanissian has given more than 1,500 speeches and lectures to university, community, television, and radio audiences on a variety of topics. He has been a guest lecturer in

more than 25 countries. In 1990, Dr. Hovanissian was elected to the Armenian Academy of Social Sciences, becoming the first social scientist living abroad to be so honored.

Recently, at the invitation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, he took part in a lecture series on "Genocide and Mass Murder in the Twentieth Century." His presentation, "The Armenian Genocide: An Eighty-year Perspective," reflected on the meaning of the Armenian experience today and its similarities and differences with other mass killings of this century.

I wish to add my personal congratulations to Dr. Hovanissian on being selected as the Armenian National Committee's, Man of the Year. Dr. Hovanissian's accomplishments and work for the Armenian community deserve special commendation. I wish him my best for continued success.

IN HONOR OF CARROLL BROWN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Carroll Brown on the 10th anniversary of her founding of the West Haven Black Coalition.

For the past decade, the West Haven Black Coalition has improved the lives of African-Americans and strengthened the West Haven community. By joining forces, African-Americans in West Haven have made their voices heard and have assumed leading roles in all walks of life. The West Haven Black Coalition has spurred efforts to register voters, improve parks, and educate our future leaders through its scholarship program.

The West Haven Black Coalition's mission to encourage African-Americans to get involved in their community is a reflection of the organization's founder and president, Carroll Brown. Carroll's selfless devotion to helping others has improved Connecticut at both the State and local levels. She helped working people across Connecticut when she served as a labor committee staff member at the Statehouse in Hartford.

It is in her own community, however, that Carroll has truly set herself apart and shown others not only the way, but their responsibility to better their neighborhoods and surroundings. Her dedication can be seen in many ways, including her pioneering service as the first African-American woman on the West Haven Board of Education. She has fostered this community spirit in her husband and three sons.

Carroll realized the potential for greater community participation by African-Americans in West Haven and had the vision to create the West Haven Black Coalition. In the 10 years since, the coalition has unified West Haven's black community and given rise to true grass roots community involvement. Her oft-repeated words capture her commitment to a cohesive community: "In unity there is strength. Together we stand, divided we fall."

I have had the pleasure of working with Carroll Brown for many years and am pleased to

take this opportunity to thank her and congratulate her on the 10th anniversary of the West Haven Black Coalition she has founded and nurtured over the years.

TRIBUTE TO RUTHANN VIHON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community servant in my Congressional District, Ms. Ruthann Vihon, of Western Springs, IL, on the occasion of her being honored with the Hinsdale/Gateway Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award on March 2, 1996.

The award recognizes her commitment to community service and volunteerism and will provide a \$1,000 donation in her name to the Rotary Foundation. This truly tireless activist sits on the elected Lyons Township High School Board of Education. In addition, Ms. Vihon is a volunteer with the Community Support Service, Respite House, and the Hinsdale/Gateway Rotary Club Special Needs Scholarship Advisory Board, which assists special education students pursue higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Vihon on this honor, and extend to her my best wishes on continued success in her service to her community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MORTON GOULD

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on February 21st, this country lost a truly outstanding individual when composer and conductor Morton Gould died at the age of 82.

Born in Richmond Hill, NY, Morton Gould's creativity was recognized just last year, when he won the Pulitzer Prize for Stringmusic. He composed for Broadway and for the ballet; his music was commissioned by symphony orchestras throughout the United States. His style integrated jazz, blues, gospel, country-and-western, and folk elements into compositions that were instantly recognizable as American, and which led to his receiving three commissions for the U.S. Bicentennial.

As a conductor, Morton Gould led many of the major American orchestras as well as those of Canada, Mexico, Europe, Japan, and Australia.

But as accomplished as he was as composer and conductor, Morton Gould's true genius was that he became what he called a "musical citizen": composer, conductor, arranger, educator, mentor. He loved and appreciated all kinds of music and did much to advance the protection of songwriters, including serving as president of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers [ASCAP].

Morton Gould received a 1994 Kennedy Center Honor in recognition of his lifetime contribution to American Culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that this man, who contributed so much of lasting value to America, should be remembered and honored.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HENRY J. MELLO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to one of California's great leaders and legislators, State Senator Henry J. Mello. The Senator retires this year after more than three decades of continuous service to the people of California's Central Coast, located in my district. As he closes this chapter of his public life, I want to take this time to salute a man who epitomizes the best in public service.

A native of Watsonville, CA, Senator Mello has spent most of his adult life working tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. Rising through the ranks of local government, the Senator served first as a Santa Cruz County supervisor for 8 years, then was elected to serve as assemblyman for both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in 1976. In 1980, Senator Mello was elected to the State senate and, in a tribute to his talent, he was quickly named that body's majority whip. Senator Mello was subsequently elected majority leader in 1992 and successfully chaired the Subcommittee on Aging, the Subcommittee on Economic Problems Facing Agriculture, the Senate Select Committee on Bilingual Education, the Joint Committees on the Arts, the 1992 Quincentennial, and served as vice chair of the Senate Select Committee on California's Wine Industry and Water Resources.

I have had the honor of working with Senator Mello on many occasions and I have always been touched by both his skill and his concern for the community. You just won't find a better citizen's advocate for education, the environment, or especially, the elderly. Senator Mello authored legislation to enact the first programs focusing on Alzheimers-Respite Care, Adult Day Health care and the Multipurpose Senior Services Programs. He founded the Senior Legislature and passed legislation to combat elder abuse. In the 20 years that Senator Mello has served in the legislature, he has authored more than 120 bills on aging and long-term care that have become law of the land in California.

Senator Mello's commitment to our senior citizens, and indeed to all citizens, was particularly impressive when their need was greatest, after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989. Senator Mello's work was key in maintaining vital lines of communication and in ensuring that our area received millions of dollars to aid in the region's rebuilding. I am certain that had it not been for Senator Mello's initiative and hard work our area's recovery would have been far less easy. Helping the area recuperate from the earthquake was just one of many highlights in his distinguished legislative career.

For many years to come, tangible evidence of Senator Mello's labors will be obvious to all California residents, especially his interest in education and the arts. During his tenure as chairman of the Fort Ord Task Force, Senator Mello helped establish the California State University at Monterey Bay, the University of California, Santa Cruz research center at Fort Ord and authored the legislation creating the Fort Ord Reuse Authority. Senator Mello also acquired essential funding for Santa Cruz County libraries preventing their closure and, in perhaps the greatest tribute to his work, was honored in 1994 with the naming of the Henry J. Mello Center for Performing Arts in Watsonville. One could literally fill books with Senator Mello's many other wonderful accomplishments.

As he retires this year because of State term-limits, one thing is positively certain: Senator Mello will be sorely missed. For my part, I will miss working with a member of the Democratic team who has so successfully governed the Central Coast for more than a generation. As for the people of his district, they will no doubt miss something much more profound. In the Senator, they will miss a man who has lived his life to serve, who has led with levels of compassion and commitment not normally found in our public servants these days. But then again, Senator Mello has been no ordinary public servant.

TRIBUTE TO AMATO L. BERARDI

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my close personal friend Amato L. Berardi, who will have the title "Cavaliere dell'Ordine al merito della Repubblica Italiana" bestowed upon him on March 17, 1996.

Amato L. Berardi was born on October 14, 1958 in Longano, a province of Isbernia, Italy. His parents, Carmine Berardi and Carmela Ditri, were married in Italy where they had four sons. In 1970 they emigrated to the United States.

Upon arriving in Philadelphia, Amato attended Mater Dolorosa grade school, followed by North East Catholic High School. In 1975, while still in high school, he and his brothers owned and operated a restaurant in Philadelphia. Amato graduated from high school in 1978, and then went on to attend Philadelphia College of Textiles and Business for 2 years. During Amato's 2-year tenure, he majored in business management.

On January 4, 1983, Amato joined New York Life where he became the No. 1 agent in his class in 1983. He became the Executive Council agent in 1986, achieved Presidents Council status in 1987, and Chairman's Council in 1993. Mr. Berardi gained membership in the Million Dollar Round Table, and has received the National Quality and National Sales Achievement awards.

Amato has also been recognized for his service to his community. He has received the Italian-American Knights Legion's Knight of Goodness Award, and has been honored with

a Humanitarian Citation from the City Council of Philadelphia and the State Senate of Pennsylvania. Amato is also president of the National Italian American Political Action Committee and the Federation of Italian American Businesses. He is also actively involved in numerous social organizations, including the Overbrook Italo-American Democratic Club, the Sons of Italy, the Columbus Association of America, and the American Heart Association.

Today, Amato resides in Huntington Valley with his wife of 13 years, Maddalena Caranci, and their two children Carmelina and Carmine.

Mr. Speaker, I join Amato Berardi's family and friends in congratulating him for a lifetime of hard work and devotion to the Italian-American community and congregation.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN EGGERT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathy to the family and many friends of Melvin Eggert, the former mayor of Countryside, IL, a community in my district.

Mr. Eggert was a true pioneer in the community, which was incorporated in 1959. From 1960 to 1963, he served on the city council and then was Countryside's mayor from 1963 to 1967. He helped guide the city through its infancy, providing the foundation for its growth into one of the most prosperous suburbs in the Chicago area. He was also a successful restaurant owner in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Mr. Eggert's wife, Martha, and his entire family and his many friends on his passing.

THE PATIENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1996

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Massachusetts, [Mr. MARKEY] and numerous original cosponsors in introducing legislation to ensure that doctors remain free to provide critical health care information to patients.

There is nothing more central to the doctor-patient relationship than trust. Patients and their families rely on doctors to fully inform them about the course of a disease and the various ways it can be treated. They deserve to know the risks and benefits, the costs, and the chances of success of the treatments that will be inflicted on their own bodies or their loved ones. And they don't want information withheld because of an insurance company restriction.

Unfortunately, that essential doctor-patient trust is being undermined by some health plans that attempt to limit the content of discussions between patients and providers. Physicians are increasingly being offered contracts by insurance companies that contain re-

strictive clauses preventing the physician from using sound medical judgment and undermine the essential notion of informed consent.

Sometimes, these contracts explicitly seek to limit the information a doctor can provide to a patient, preventing doctors from discussing proposed treatments until the plan has agreed to pay for it. How can we expect patients to make informed decisions about their own health if doctors can only inform them of options that the plan is willing to pay for?

Other plans achieve the same result more subtly. Some place a general disparagement clause in their contracts, forbidding providers from saying anything that might undermine patient confidence in the plan. The danger of this clause is very real. Patients rely on their physician to tell them which doctors or hospitals are better than others. But in plans with general disparagement clauses, a doctor could not tell a patient that 7 of the last 11 patients he referred to the plan's heart surgeon have died. That is precisely the sort of information doctors should give to patients and is precisely the kind of communication that general disparagement clauses prevent.

Sometimes, contracts contain no explicit restrictions on communications between doctors and patients, but physicians can still find the content of their medical advice restricted. A former neurologist from a large HMO indicated that "I was told it was a mistake to tell the patient about a procedure before checking to see whether it was covered." Whether explicit in a contract or communicated to doctors orally, such restrictions on communication deny patients access to critical information and make a farce out of the notion of informed consent.

Today, because of market concentration, for a physician to buck a "gag clause" and be terminated from one of two dominant HMO's in a community, may mean whether that physician stays in practice. There is genuine fear among providers that if they act too often or too vigorously as a patient advocate, their contract won't be renewed. Under these circumstances, it takes a hero to be a patient advocate. And as we know far too well, heroes are rare.

This legislation is a balanced approach to a growing problem. While I understand the importance of the free market, Congress must protect patients who are unaware that some doctors are no longer able to communicate their best judgment. These restrictions are unethical. They violate the Hippocratic Oath. They undermine the quality of care. And, as far as I'm concerned, they have no place in the health care market.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will see the importance of this issue and help us enact the Patient Right to Know Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Dr. GANSKE today in introducing the Patient Right to Know Act of 1996.

When I was a boy, my mother told me, "if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." Now when my mother said that, she was not talking about protecting the feelings of health plans. She was talking about people, who sometimes, unfortunately, become patients. So she would be quite surprised to see this dangerous twist on her advice in some of the contracts between doctors and health plans we see today. Today, to protect the feelings of health plans, doctors are being asked to restrict what they say to their patients. This is wrong, just plain wrong. No doctor can practice good medicine in a muzzle.

The fact is, when you're a patient, what you don't know can hurt you. That's why Congressman GANSKE and I are introducing the Patient Right to Know Act. The Patient Right to Know Act will prohibit health plans from restricting communications between doctors and their patients about treatment options, their benefits and risks, and other issues related to quality of care. It will ensure that doctors are allowed to tell their patients why a plan decides to pay for, or deny, a treatment. Finally, it will bar plans from restricting doctors from talking to their patients about financial arrangements they have with the plans which might affect those patients' access to care.

The impetus for our bill was the increasingly frequent reports of health plans trying to keep doctors from talking freely to their patients about their health care needs, or forcing doctors to sign contracts that include clauses restricting doctor-patient communications. I was deeply disturbed by these reports, because I am a great believer in the principle of informed consent and restrictions on communications between doctors and their patients make informed consent impossible. Attacks on informed consent—which is the most basic patient protection—simply cannot be tolerated in our society.

I have worked on consumer protection issues for a lot of years now, and I look at it this way: Patients are really just consumers of health care. Like any other kind of consumer, patients need complete and accurate information about the products or services available if they're going to make good decisions about the health care they consume. The only difference is, we are not talking about toasters or washing machines here, we are talking about people's health and lives.

Now Dr. GANSKE here has an advantage, because while I was at law school, learning about the rule against perpetuities, he was in med school, learning how to make sick people well. So when Dr. GANSKE is feeling a little under the weather, and he goes to see his family doctor, he's on a pretty level playing field. He knows what questions to ask. He's probably already read about the latest treatment for whatever it is that ails him.

But the ordinary Joe is at a disadvantage. He does not get the New England Journal of Medicine at home. He places enormous trust in his doctor, and depends on his doctor to tell it to him straight. When a health plan tries to control or censor communications between its doctors and their patients, that critical bond of trust is broken.

Silence isn't always golden. Although he who has the gold sometimes tries to demand

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

silence—the fact is, in today's world, knowledge and information are the coins of the realm. Nowhere is this truer than in the realm of health care.

Hippocrates said "Health is the greatest of human blessings." Surely, it is the most precious although many of us do not realize this until we ourselves or someone we love becomes seriously ill. Then, we would give away anything we have—all of our worldly treasures—to make them well again. At that moment, our greatest ally is our doctor, and our most valuable asset is the information he can give us. That is why passing the Patient Right to Know Act is so important.

IN HONOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, in honor of this year's theme of African-American women, I wish to recognize the passing of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, one of Texas' greatest political figures. She died at the age of 59 from pneumonia, one of the many illnesses which she suffered from in the last years of her life. But the life that she led was extraordinary, and she left a mark that few will ever match, and that none will ever forget.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Jordan distinguished herself from an early age. With her family's encouragement she worked hard to rise above the poverty of her childhood in Houston. She graduated magna cum laude from Texas Southern University. It was there that she first displayed her powerful oratorical skills as a member of the debate team. In 1959 she received her law degree from Boston University.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Jordan made history by setting a number of firsts. She was the first black State Senator in Texas history, elected in 1966. In 1972 she was accorded the high honor of being elected president pro tempore of the Texas Senate, another first for an African-American. Eight years later she recorded another first, becoming the first black from Texas to be elected to Congress. Although she only served for 6 years in the House of Representatives, her impact was monumental.

It was as a freshman Congresswoman, Mr. Speaker, that the Nation first came to know Barbara Jordan. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee she made one of the defining speeches of the Richard Nixon impeachment hearings. Rising above the political rhetoric, she told the world, "My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total, and I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution." Indeed, her statements reminded America of what was truly great about this country.

On a more personal note, Mr. Speaker, Barbara Jordan served as one of my earliest political role models. I had a chance to see Congresswoman Jordan speak at the 1976 Democratic National Convention. Like everyone else that heard her speech I was moved not only

by her eloquence, but by her definition of public service. "More is required of public officials than slogans and handshakes and press releases," she said. "We must hold ourselves strictly accountable. We must provide the people with a vision of the future." These words continue to guide and inspire me 20 years later.

I wish in the coming days that all Texans would join me in reflecting upon the legacy of Barbara Jordan. She stood for honesty, integrity, and an unswerving commitment to the principles on which this country was founded. Her legacy will endure as we continue to honor these ideals.

PHILADELPHIA GAY NEWS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20 year anniversary of publishing for the Philadelphia Gay News, one of the oldest newspapers serving the gay and lesbian community in America.

I met a young activist named Mark Segal when I was a Republican member of the Philadelphia City Council many years ago. When Mark started the newspaper in 1975, he was a pioneer. In 1975, very few communities had any means for gays and lesbians to know about what was going on in terms of politics, government, health or social events. They had to depend on leaflets and word of mouth. Through the energy of people like Mark Segal throughout the country, that has changed. Lesbian and gay journalism helped that community become more cohesive, politically aware and active. Indeed, trailblazers like Mark Segal helped put the community in the gay and lesbian community. Now, Mark is respected as an elder statesman in gay and lesbian independent journalism in America, though he is anything but an elder. Nationally, Mark was deeply involved in the establishment of gay and lesbian journalists' and publishers' organizations, as well as putting some of their newspapers onto the internet.

Through credible and independent journalism, the Philadelphia Gay News promoted pride in gay and lesbian self identity and educated the community about violence and HIV, AIDS, and other health concerns. The paper helped promote empowerment by giving an advertising avenue for burgeoning gay and lesbian business interests. It gave force to gays and lesbians in Philadelphia government and politics.

I congratulate Mark Segal, his partner Tony Lombardo, who acts as the paper's business manager, and the paper's editor Al Patrick for their commitment to adding to the vitality and diversity of the Greater Philadelphia community.

TRIBUTE TO LAKELAND
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lakeland Elementary School in Norwalk, CA. Lakeland has been selected for the 1996 Program of Excellence Award by the California Council for the Social Studies. Only one school or district is selected each year throughout California to receive this prestigious award.

With the leadership and support of principal Tom Noesen, the creative and imaginative staff at Lakeland have used social studies as the core of an exciting resource-based instructional program, which has attracted the attention of an increasing number of educators. Lakeland School has also developed a remarkable relationship with its students, families, and with its primarily minority community. The staff at Lakeland Elementary are to be commended for achieving such positive educational results and for boosting its role within the community.

In this era of dwindling resources and support for public education, it is encouraging to see enthusiastic and caring teachers that are committed to providing our children the high quality education to which they are entitled. Lakeland School is a prime example of a team effort. Because of the cooperation that exists on the part of the administration to the students, Lakeland School has proved itself to be a pioneer in the effort to prepare our young people for success in the challenging world of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the positive contribution that Lakeland School is making toward the future of America.

TRIBUTE TO WEST SUBURBAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1996
AWARDS HONOREES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals and three organizations in my district who were recently honored for public service and volunteerism by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce (WSSC).

Mr. Lawrence Kinports of LaGrange, IL, was named as the WSSC's Citizen of the Year. Mr. Kinports, a retired business executive and current LaGrange trustee, is renowned in the community for his volunteer work. He serves as an active member of the boards of numerous organizations, including the Southwest Suburban Center of Aging and the Community Extension Project, which serves the youth of his community. In addition, Mr. Kinports has been previously recognized by this Member with my Senior Citizen of the Year Award.

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WSSC Man of the Year Ronald Henrickson of LaGrange is another individual who can't say no when it comes to giving of his time and talents. He is a member of LaGrange's Economic Development/Redevelopment Commission, sits on the board of directors of the Richport YMCA, and volunteers with Mainstreet LaGrange, a redevelopment group in the community.

Ms. Linda Johnson of Western Springs, IL, the Chamber's Woman of the Year, is a successful small-business owner who also finds time for her community. She has been especially active in expanding opportunities for girls and young women, serving as board member of the Whispering Oaks Girl Scout Council and is a past president of the LaGrange Business and Professional Women's Organization. Ms. Johnson also sits on the Western Springs Economic Development Commission and the WSSC Board of Directors, and is the immediate past president of the Western Springs Business Association.

Mayor Carl LeGant of Countryside, IL, the WSSC's Public Servant of the Year, represents all that is good about government service. Mayor LeGant is a true pioneer in his community. He was active in Countryside's incorporation in 1959 and has served in city government since 1963. His honesty and devotion to his community are unquestioned, and after scandal rocked Countryside's government nearly 20 years ago, Carl LeGant was elected Mayor and helped restore the people's faith in their municipal leaders.

Mr. James Durkan of Indian Head Park, IL was recognized with the Outstanding Community Service by an Individual Award. Mr. Durkan serves as president of the Community Memorial Fund, which distributes funds for health and wellness projects throughout the community. He is also active in the LaGrange Kiwanis Club and received the LaGrange Community Nurse Service Association's Outstanding Service Award in 1993 and currently serves on the Chamber's board of directors.

Other WSSC award winners include the Rich Port YMCA as the Outstanding Community Service Organization. The Y, a true landmark in LaGrange, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of serving 15 area communities. More than 200,000 people utilize the Rich Port YMCA each year.

Winners of the Chamber's Beautification Award include Burcor Properties of LaGrange and Courtright's Restaurant of Willow Springs, IL. Burcor and its owner, Jerry Burjan, a former WSSC Man of the Year, have done much to improve downtown LaGrange, including renovating a number of commercial buildings. William and Rebecca Courtright, owners of Courtright's, painstakingly preserved the surrounding natural beauty of a sweeping, wooded hill when they constructed their restaurant in Willow Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honorees on their contributions to the community and wish them and the WSSC much success in the future.

February 27, 1996

AGRICULTURE REGULATORY
RELIEF AND TRADE ACT

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing what some have called Farm Bill II. More accurately we are calling it the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act of 1996. This is a small step toward providing American farmers with the regulatory relief that will enable them to compete in a very competitive global environment.

Many of my colleagues have seen the Agriculture Policy Ledger. The Agriculture Committee has told farmers that there will be less money in the future but in return we have also promised less Government involvement in their lives. The Contract With America contained many of those promises. The Clean Water Act adopted by this House and awaiting action in the Senate would go a long way in addressing a wetlands regulatory nightmare.

I am firmly committed that we should consider many of the policy issues impacting farmers in a calm and careful manner. This bill will lay the cornerstone for the Agriculture Committee's effort to provide some regulatory relief to producers in the agricultural policy area. This bill reflects our commitment to a two-track approach. The first track, the Agricultural Market Transition Act, contains the major spending items in the agriculture budget. The second track, the one that we are embarking on today, deals with many of the policy issues under the House Agriculture Committee's jurisdiction.

I firmly believe rolling all of the budget and policy issues into one huge farm bill is a mistake. The Senate chose to pursue this approach and in that process ended up spending at least \$800 million above the December CBO baseline. In fact, when you compare the Agriculture Market Transition Act to the Senate bill, we save over \$5.4 billion more than they do.

REGULATORY RELIEF AND REAUTHORIZING THE CRP

The conservation title of the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act fulfills a promise we made to our producers during the 1994 elections and the budget debate—in return for reduced Government support, we reduce the Government's involvement in their lives. The 1985 farm bill established a partnership between the Federal Government and the farmers. That agreement in essence said we will provide income support payments in return for compliance with government regulations.

However, since that time we have reduced payments by nearly two-thirds. At the same time Government regulations have increased exponentially. This is the first step towards stopping increased Government regulation on producers and making the regulations that remain meet the common sense tests that all regulations should have to meet—technical and economic feasibility and a focus on results, not on process.

The bill that I am introducing today with my subcommittee chairmen meets these tests. It protects the environment and allows producers to use their own innovation to meet environmental goals instead of forcing them to use

the innovations of Government bureaucrats. This legislation will also halt several instances of regulatory overkill that have plagued producers since these laws were passed. This legislation goes a long way toward ending this overkill and putting producers back in charge of their land.

Specifically, this legislation will expedite procedures that producers must go through when requesting variances from conservation compliance due to circumstances beyond their control. Conservation systems and plans are clearly defined so that they are technically and economically achievable, are based on local resource conditions and can be met in a cost effective manner. Penalties will remain in place for producers who violate compliance, but will be tempered when producers unknowingly violate compliance. This legislation also encourages producers to request technical assistance from NRCS without fear of being found out of compliance and then penalized.

We also move forward in reducing the paperwork burden on producers by consolidating cost-share programs that producers use to meet environmental goals. Through consolidation we allow producers to fill out one set of paperwork to access cost share programs, instead of the current system that requires producers to identify their needs then identify which government program they can access and then filling out duplicative government forms. This is common sense and should expedite the process. Finally, this legislation authorizes a new program for livestock producers to improve water quality. This is a mandatory program that is fully paid for and should help livestock operations improve the quality of rural areas.

In addition, this bill provides for the reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program up to 36.4 million acres. This program has been a very valuable program that has been enormously popular with farmers, environmentalists, sportsmen and conservationists. Our provision is a simple reauthorization of the program, without modifications to the criteria for enrollment in the CRP.

Mr. Speaker, this is common sense reform that both sides of the aisle should be able to support.

GOVERNMENT CREDIT REFORM

Farmers and ranchers learned the hard way in the late 1970's and 1980's that they could not borrow their way to prosperity. All of us here in Washington concerned with Federal farm policy know that American taxpayers are increasingly unwilling to pay for a continuation of status quo farm policy. USDA farm credit programs that have resulted in billions and billions of dollars going uncollected are high on that list of benefits we can no longer afford.

The bill introduced today seeks to realign Federal lending policies that have been patched together during the last two decades in response to the farm problems in the 1970's and 1980's. Statutory prescriptions that read like regulations are eliminated or streamlined by this bill. USDA farm loans should be used for income generating purposes to enhance our farmers survivability, not support environmental policies that are contained in regulatory activities under other laws. In that regard, the local Farm Service Agency credit office should not be a procurement agency for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill strikes this law.

We all have heard the stories about the farm and home borrower who got his debt written down one day and bought a new pickup the next. Or, farmers, who are always the last to plant in the spring and leave their crops in the fields all winter, are first in line at the county office when it comes time to get their debt forgiven. Of course, a lot of this is coffee shop talk but, on the other hand, the General Accounting Office [GAO] has spent a number of years examining USDA lending practices and has found USDA to be lax or deliberately permissive in response to congressional wishes. There have been nearly a dozen of these GAO reports over the years.

As a 1992 report says, "Lenient loan-making policies, some congressionally directed, have further increased the government's exposure to direct loan losses." The GAO says the old FmHA provided \$38 million in new loans to some 700 borrowers who had already defaulted on loans resulting in losses of \$108 million. Half of these borrowers became delinquent on their second round of loans. This is nothing but throwing good money after bad, and I might add it has done nothing for the farmers but delay the inevitable. This kind of policy cannot continue.

GAO looks at one borrower who " * * * received a \$132,000 direct farm operating loan from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) even though, just 2 months earlier, he had received about \$428,000 in debt relief. By March 1991, he was \$28,000 past due on payments." This may be a single instance but is not likely to be unrepresentative when you consider the aggregate losses of billions.

Unfortunately, the disposition of inventory property, including provisions that make otherwise viable farming units into easements for environmental purposes—all at taxpayers' expense—has been just as irresponsible. This legislation is designed to change those policies as well.

TRADE

Farmers know that there will be less money to spend on production agriculture in the future. The money we do spend must be spent wisely. Farmers must be prepared to respond to agriculture trade in a post NAFTA and GATT world. GATT and NAFTA opened up the world markets. We still must be competitive and fight for market share. That is the goal of this trade title, to give farmers and ranchers the tools necessary to respond to the exploding world demand we see in the Pacific Rim countries, China, and Latin America.

In the 70's exports were largely bulk grains. Today we are seeing more grain than ever move overseas, but it is in the form of processed products, beef, pork, and poultry. Red meat exports are three times the 1986 level. Poultry exports are six times the 1986 level.

The bill we are introducing today continues and fully funds the Market Promotion Program. While the MPP program has come under attack, I remind my colleagues that farmers and ranchers produce a commodity. By the very definition a commodity is just that—nondifferentiated. One bushel of wheat pretty much looks like another bushel of wheat.

Any economist will tell you that the way to move more of a commodity is turn it into a value added product. Differentiate the product and you will add value. Convince the overseas

consumer that U.S. poultry or beef is better and you have sewn up market share. That is the goal of the MPP program and we need to retain the MPP program. Exports are moving toward value added products and MPP will facilitate that movement.

Specifically, the trade title allows credit guarantees for high value and value-added products with at least 90 percent U.S. content by weight.

Next, it provides protection to producers of any agriculture commodity who suffers a loss due to an embargo imposed for reasons of national security, foreign policy, or limited domestic supply.

The Secretary is given the flexibility to use the funds of the various export programs in ways that better accomplish the programs' objectives and to ultimately increase U.S. agriculture exports.

The Secretary is given the responsibility to monitor compliance with the agriculture provisions and sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the Uruguay Round Agreement. The Secretary will report any country failing to meet its commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreement to the U.S. Trade Representative for appropriate action.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The committee considered three important objectives when developing the rural development title: flexibility, local planning and decisionmaking, and sustainability. The rural development reforms included in this package meet all three.

In regards to flexibility, GAO issued a number of reports concerning the cumbersome and counterproductive regulations associated with present rural development programs. The programs are small and narrowly focused and each is equipped with its own rules and regulations. Many communities do not bother applying for funding due to the time and money involved in completing an application. And, since every rural development dollar is designated for a particular use, applicants often apply for available, instead of needed, funding. The Senate bill makes some improvements in terms of how rural development money can be spent. However, all the regulations, limitations, and restrictions would still apply. Our bill provides maximum flexibility by consolidating all rural development funding and including precious few regulations. The regulations are essentially two-fold. First, the money must be used for rural development activities currently eligible for funding. And, second, the money must be used to the benefit of small towns, particularly those with 10,000 people or less. That's it. This kind of flexibility cuts costs and confusion, saves time and energy, and allows rural America to get down to the business of rural development rather than bogged down in the business of bureaucracy.

A theme that dominated one GAO report is the need for local leadership and long-range planning in rural development. According to the report, "each area has unique qualities that require customized, rather than off-the-shelf, solutions to its economic problems."

The report continues, "While the effectiveness of Federal programs may be uncertain, their inefficiency in delivering benefits is self-evident." Finally, the report concludes by recommending " * * * exploring alternatives to the

current set of Federal rural development programs, not merely better ways to coordinate them." While the Senate bill does throw a bone or two at State and local government, it jealously holds control of rural development programs in Washington—settling for off-the-shelf solutions to local problems. Our reform bill promotes local solutions to local problems by distributing consolidated rural development funds to the States. In turn, each State may administer its own rural development programs in close consultation with local government and the private sector. It is worth noting that State and regional governments already administer 4 out of the 5 major sources of Federal funding for water and waste projects. The States will gain one more if Senators CHAFEE and KEMPTHORNE's safe drinking water amendments become law. It just makes sense to turn these rural development programs—which include water and waste—over the States to maximize coordination and get the job done.

Finally, in regard to sustainability, we all know that Federal funding for rural development is shrinking. In a single year—from fiscal year 1995 to fiscal year 1996—funding for rural development will be cut anywhere from 25 to 43 percent, depending on how USDA arranges its portfolio—ratio of grants to loans and loan guarantees. With the possibility of even deeper cuts coming in order to balance the budget and to provide increased funding for some programs that usually see annual increases, rural development programs may be sacrificed. What will rural towns, hospitals, and water districts do when the money runs out?

The Senate bill would wait and see. Our reform bill preempts the problem. It transfers administration of rural development to the States and requires each State to establish a revolving fund to be used for rural development. By capitalizing State revolving loan funds, which grow in size and operate in perpetuity, States can continue to provide rural development financing long after Federal funding comes to an end. In addition to sustainability, there's also efficiency in the State revolving fund. Even EPA Administrator Browner agrees that States—through State revolving funds—can actually provide more money at lower interest rates than traditional Federal programs—and do it all faster.

One final point in regard to rural development. I asked the administration and many Democrats on the committee who had concerns about this title to work with me to achieve flexibility, State, and local planning and decisionmaking, and sustainability. But, all I ever heard was the status quo. In light of GAO's criticism of current programs, I think we owe rural America better than that.

RESEARCH

The bill provides for a simple 2-year reauthorization of the research, education, and extension functions of USDA. Research should be the cornerstone of our farmers ability to compete in world market places. A simple extension of authorities will allow the committee to finish the work we have begun on an extensive review of the Federal research programs.

The Agriculture Committee has embarked on an extensive review of the Federal research effort. Last summer, I along with Representatives ALLARD, DE LA GARZA, and JOHN-

SON sent out a comprehensive questionnaire. We asked researchers and research users what can be done better and how can we spend the \$1.7 billion annual commitment to agricultural research and extension to make sure producers and consumers will have a competitive and safe food supply in the 21st century.

In addition to the survey which I just discussed, the House Agriculture Committee has had the General Accounting Office conduct the first accounting of our Federal agricultural research investment since 1981. This report will be delivered to the committee by the end of next month.

Finally, we have scheduled a series of hearings this March and plan on producing a comprehensive rewrite of our Federal Research Program. Unfortunately, the other body has chosen to simply clean around the edges leaving in place research policies that fail to meet the needs of the agricultural sector as we transition into the free market. That is unacceptable and I urge my colleagues to support the Agriculture Committee in our effort to modernize USDA's research program.

This is a board overview of the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act. Taken together, it's a strong package that will relieve the regulatory burden in rural America, reduce redtape and provide a consistent and dependable export policy.

RUSSIA AND THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES [NIS]: PROMOTING U.S. INTERESTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, at a recent executive session of the House Republican Policy Committee, which I chair, the Salvatori Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies at the Heritage Foundation, Dr. Ariel Cohen, made a presentation on the state of affairs in Russia and implications for American foreign policy. He offered an analysis of the December 1995 legislative elections and the presidential elections scheduled for next June, focusing on the growing influence of Communists and ultranationalists. His observations about Russia's stalled economic liberalization, military onslaught against the citizens of Chechnya, and sale of nuclear reactors to Iran force one to reconsider American economic assistance programs for Russia. His briefing report follows.

RUSSIA AND THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES [NIS]: PROMOTING U.S. INTERESTS

Briefing to the House Republican Policy Committee, Hon. Christopher Cox, (R-CA), Chairman

THE ISSUES

The Future of U.S.-Russian Relations Remains Uncertain. The future of U.S.-Russian relations is uncertain. Much depends upon the outcome of the presidential elections in Russia, currently scheduled for the summer of 1996. In December 1995, elections communists, nationalists and their allies captured over 50 per cent of the popular vote to the Duma (the lower house of the Russian

parliament). Currently, President Yeltsin is trailing the pack of presidential candidates, with his popular support in single digits. The most popular candidate is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, an anti-American ultra-nationalist. Another dangerous contender is Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the unreformed communist party. He, too, could win the presidency of the second largest nuclear power on earth. Victory for either Zhirinovskiy or Zyuganov would gravely endanger Russia's young democracy and market reforms. A communist or a nationalist at Russia's helm could eventually place that country, with its considerable military power, on a collision course with the United States in Central Europe or the Middle East.

Yeltsin's Presidency Faltering. President Yeltsin's own prospects look grim. He has all but announced that he is about to run for the presidency, but his health is failing, and Russia's internal economic and political crisis continues unabated. The war in the breakaway republic of Chechnya, and economic difficulties are eroding the popularity of Yeltsin's administration.

No one knows who will rule in Moscow by the end of 1996, but the period of romantic partnership with the U.S. and the West is over. Russia is striking out on its own, taking a path that has already led toward confrontation with the West. In fact, Russia is in the midst of a political turbulence fraught with dangers for the West. The chances are good that the next American president will have to deal with a new set of players in Moscow, different from the current team. The U.S. cannot afford to appear partisan. Washington should be firm in expressing American support for democracy, elections, free markets and the support of individual rights in Russia. But the continuous and unquestionable support that the Clinton administration is providing Boris Yeltsin makes less and less sense. Questions about how closely and for how much longer Yeltsin should be embraced need to be addressed.

From Sphere of Influence to Empire? Anti-Western, anti-American, and xenophobic sentiments are growing in Russia. Moscow is attempting to re-establish its influence in neighboring regions that were once a part of the Soviet Union. The Kremlin is employing combination of economic, diplomatic and military means to achieve a sphere of economic and military influence in what Moscow calls its "near abroad." Yeltsin's newly appointed foreign minister, Yevgueni Primakov, and other influential policy makers insist that the West scale down relations with former Soviet states, including Ukraine, and conduct these ties via Moscow. But in fact, preventing the emergence of a Russian empire in the lands of the former Soviet Union should be a top Western priority. Nothing less than Russian democracy and a future threat to vital Western interests are at stake. Moreover, an anti-Western policy may lead Russia to forge alliances with anti-Western forces in Iran, Iraq, China and Lybia.

The War in Chechnya. One of the main goals of the Russian attack on the quasi-independent republic of Chechnya in December of 1994 was to ensure control of a vital oil pipeline and stem illegal activities, such as drug-trafficking and smuggling, that were being conducted or condoned by the former administration in the Chechen capital of Grozny led by President Jokhar Dudayev. Russia launched massive but covert military actions to support Dudayev's opponents. In 1994, Dudayev turned to radical Islamic elements in the Middle East and Central Asia

for support. This exacerbated the religious aspect of the conflict between the Muslim Chechens and Christian Orthodox Russians. Overt Russian military action began on December 12, 1994, when the army marched on Grozny. The city was destroyed by a brutal aerial, tank and artillery assault. Since the start of the campaign, over 30,000 people have been killed, and more than 300,000 became refugees. Hostilities continue, with hostage taking crises having erupted in July of 1995 and January of 1996. The southern border region of the Russian Federation increasingly resembles Lebanon or Yugoslavia, replete with hostages, refugees and vendettas.

The sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. The Islamic regime in Teheran has launched a bid to acquire nuclear weapons. It is buying two Russian-made nuclear reactors that will produce radioactive plutonium which can be enriched to become weapons-grade raw material for the manufacture of atomic bombs. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself does not support this sale, which could endanger both Russian and Western security. Iran, with its formidable oil and gas resources, does not need nuclear power. If Teheran wants an additional source of electricity, Russia could sell electrical power from its own ample resources. In addition, to compensate Russia for the lost reactor sales, the U.S. could increase its Russian uranium quota, or cooperate in building safer nuclear reactors on Russian soil.

Aid to Russia. The Bush and the Clinton administrations have provided over \$4 billion dollars in aid to Russia since 1992. Over \$20 billion has been provided by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Western governments and multilateral organizations, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Combined aid monies and loans to the USSR and Russia for the period 1985-1995 amounted to over \$100 billion. The results of these aid programs have been mixed. The primary agency which implements aid is the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID), which often disregards Russia's real needs and pushes its own "development" agenda, utilizing personnel with expertise gained in Third World countries. The AID approach is hardly appropriate for Russia.

Technical assistance in the transition to free markets and democracy is vital. It should be administered by an independent board of U.S. policy makers, Russian area experts, and U.S. business representatives, and with guidance from the U.S. Department of State. The Russians need training in Western-style finance, accounting, management, law, and many other issues. They also need support in the development of the democratic institutions of an emerging civil society, as well as student and scientist exchanges.

ARMS CONTROL TREATIES WITH RUSSIA

Four treaties were signed by the USSR and the Russian Federation that require improvement, revision, rethinking. These are:

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II). This treaty, limiting the number of strategic nuclear weapons on both sides, was signed between President George Bush and the last leader of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, in 1990, and has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Senate or the Russian Duma. In the U.S., START II is facing a challenge in the Senate. The senators understand that START II makes sense in Washington only if the treaty is compatible with a sound and rational policy that includes missile defense. But the main obstacles to START II ratifica-

tion are not in Washington. They are in Moscow, where a majority of deputies in the newly elected Duma will probably refuse to ratify. While raising objections based on American intentions to build a missile defense, the real reason for the Russian intransigence lies elsewhere. The Russian military establishment wants to keep large, land-based multiple warhead missiles, such as the SS-18, SS-19 and especially the mobile SS-24. The reason for that is twofold. First and foremost, the Russian elite mistakenly thinks that these are the attributes of a superpower, and that with these tools of destruction Russia will retain the place of its predecessor, the USSR. Secondly, the Ministry of Defense wants to retain the level of investments that were made during the Soviet era. Such old thinking indicates that the lessons of the past have not been learned. Russia cannot become a superpower through such a muscle-bound strategy. Only a democratic Russia with freedom, prosperity and opportunity for all can build wealth and strength commensurate with superpower status.

Ballistic Missile Defense/Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. In an era of nuclear proliferation, the American mainland needs to be defended from accidental or terrorist missile launches. This is especially pertinent with Russia selling nuclear reactors and China selling ballistic missiles and technology to the extremist regime in Teheran. The efforts of Saddam Hussein to develop a nuclear ballistic missile capability are also well documented.

Ballistic Missile Defense is a limited and achievable goal for the U.S. It should not be thwarted by the obsolete 1972 ABM Treaty signed with the USSR, a country that no longer exists. Russia today claims to be heir to the now-defunct Soviet Union, and is demanding that the U.S. abide by the 1972 treaty.

Senators James Inhofe (R-OK) and Robert Smith (R-NH) have informed Majority Leader Robert Dole that they will "object to any unanimous consent agreement that would call up START II for final Senate action" if either the treaty or the Clinton administration prevent the U.S. from deploying a ballistic missile defense system.

Despite what critics in Moscow and Washington say, a BMD will not cause a new upward spiraling arms race. The deployment of a defense system will lessen reliance on offensive missiles and will allow the U.S. to achieve lower levels of strategic arms as delineated in START I and II. The limited National Missile Defense will not be aimed against Russia. It is a purely defensive system, and, as President Reagan envisaged, America can cooperate with Russia and its Western allies on developing and deploying such a system.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Russia joined the CWC and expects the U.S. to do the same. America should support the creation of an arms control regime in the area of chemical weapons. However, such a regime needs to be enforceable and verifiable. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the current CWC, and therefore, the Congress should oppose it and refuse to ratify. The CWC is not verifiable because of the nature of chemical weapons. The ease of secret production, low tech equipment—all make verification extremely difficult. Secondly, the convention is unenforceable, as it places this authority in the hands of the U.N. Security Council, which would be hampered from doing an effective job as all of its permanent members have veto power. It is easy to fore-

see this body becoming deadlocked precisely when incidents of serious violation arise. Instead, the U.S. should propose a different regime, similar to the NPT, which will divide countries (including the permanent members of the Security Council) into weapon states and non-weapon states. Such a regime would circumvent the issue to veto power in the Security Council.

Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE). This treaty places limits on the numbers of conventional weapons, such as tanks and cannon, permitted in the European theaters of operation. It was signed with the now-defunct USSR in 1990, after more than two decades of negotiations. In the fall of 1995, the U.S. agreed to Russia's unilateral revision upwards of the limits imposed by the CFE on the northern and southern flanks of Russia. However, the threat to Russia used to justify these revisions is far from obvious. Beefing up the numbers of tanks and cannon on the borders of Russia's neighbors, be it the Baltics or in the Caucasus, raises questions about Moscow's intentions. This is especially relevant with all the rhetoric currently circulating in Moscow about reconstituting the Soviet Union and denunciations of the accords which led to the dissolution of the USSR. Moreover, Russia is far behind on meeting the weapons system destruction targets stipulated by the CFE.

OTHER ISSUES ON THE U.S.-RUSSIAN AGENDA

Peacekeeping in Bosnia. Many conservatives have misgivings about sending American troops to enforce peace in Bosnia. But if the U.S. has to do it, it is better to keep Russia in than out. The Russian military will gain experience interacting with NATO in Bosnia. This is a positive development. Peace in the region is in the interests of both the U.S. and Russia. However, this peacekeeping mission has to have clearly defined goals and objectives. It must neither exacerbate differences on the ground between NATO and Russian commanders nor magnify them into a political confrontation. It is important to guarantee that the command and control system in Bosnia ensure a close interaction between NATO and Russia. Such a structure should be able to withstand the stresses and strains of a "worst case scenario," and keep tactical disagreements in check.

The Partnership for Peace (PFP). This is a gateway for NATO-Russian cooperation. Through the PFP, Russia and NATO can learn to work together, and learn about each other. It goes without saying that after the end of the Cold War the security architecture in Europe is going to be redesigned, and that a democratic and peaceful Russia should have a place of honor at the European table. NATO will feel more comfortable with a Russia that is not entangled in a bloody war in Chechnya, with a more democratic military without the hazing of recruits, and with a strong professional component.

U.S.-Russian security cooperation and NATO enlargement. The issue of NATO enlargement to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic has become a bone of contention in U.S.-Russian relations. NATO expansion does not threaten Russia and is not a move toward encirclement. It is not a new cordon sanitaire. Simply stated, Central and Eastern Europe is that area of the European continent where bitter confrontations between the Slavs and the Germans have taken place over the last several hundred years. Two world wars have started there. If NATO is not expanded, Russia and Germany will find themselves locked in a new race aimed at dominating this key area. In this

century the West abandoned the Poles, the Czechs and the Hungarians, first, to Hitler's aggression, and next, to Stalin's tyranny. This should not and must not happen again. These sovereign countries have the right to apply for membership in NATO, and NATO members should decide when and how new members will be accepted. Moscow cannot have veto power over this decision. The Republican Party has decided to include NATO expansion in its Contract with America, which was enthusiastically endorsed by the American people in the elections of 1994. There will be support in the U.S. Congress for NATO enlargement. And in the future, when the time is right, Russia, too, can explore the possibility of full membership in NATO.

The alleged promise that the Clinton administration gave to Russia not to expand NATO in order to secure Russian military cooperation in Bosnia is a mistake. If a hardliner comes to power in Russia or the Bosnian operation concludes, the U.S. should work to accept the three Central European states into NATO and keep the doors open for others if and when they are ready.

Crime and Corruption. Russia and other New Independent States (NIS) have become leading "exporters of crime," together with Columbia, Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, and others. Law and order in Russia has collapsed; organized crime is merging with "legal" government structures, and it is difficult to say where the mafiosi end the government begins.

The main export items are weapons, drugs, and illegally obtained raw materials, such as oil, gasoline, timber and lumber, and precious metals. Today, organized crime syndicates are taking over whole manufacturing companies with tens of millions of dollars in sales. The total criminal exports from the NIS is in the billions of dollars.

Many Russian and Eurasian criminal organizations operate internationally, including in the United States and Western Europe. Russian organized criminals and corrupt officials have access to weapons and technology of mass destruction, including uranium, chemical and biological weapons and the raw materials and components for their manufacture, as well as scientists with specific weapons-related expertise.

FACTS

On August 17, 1991, hardline elements of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Russian army, and the KGB attempted a coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The coup was repelled by the Russian people under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, who had been elected only two months earlier. The coup leaders were put on trial and jailed—but were released in 1993. Yeltsin emerged as the strongest political leader in the USSR.

The Soviet Union dissolved on December 25, 1991. Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and other Newly Independent States (NIS) appeared on the map instead of the USSR.

On September 21, 1993, Boris Yeltsin disbanded the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation (the Soviet-era parliament). The recalcitrant Supreme Soviet became the site of intense opposition to Yeltsin and his market reforms. After a week-long standoff, Yeltsin ordered the Russian army to shoot at the parliament building (the "White House"). At least 130 people were killed. The new parliament (the Duma) was elected on December 12, 1993.

Today, Boris Yeltsin's health is failing. He has had two heart attacks in four months.

His behavior is sometimes erratic; and intelligence services report that he has a heavy drinking problem.

Presidential elections are scheduled for June, 1996, but it is not certain whether they will take place. Hard-line nationalist and communist forces are on the rise, and the democratic reformers are retreating. The main contenders include President Boris Yeltsin; ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy; economist Grigory Yavlinsky (a moderate reformer); retired General Alexander Lebed (an authoritarian and charismatic nationalist); and Gennady Ziuganov (leader of the communist party).

During the Bush and Clinton administrations, Russia received over \$4 billion in direct US aid, over \$20 billion total in Western aid, and over \$50 billion in loans from the G-7 countries and multilateral financial organizations, such as the IMF, the World Bank and EBRD. Together with the Soviet debt, Russia owes just under \$130 billion.

In 1994, Russia started a war in the break-away republic of Chechnya, that has to date killed over 30,000 people, made over 300,000 others refugees, and cost over \$6 billion.

In the spring of 1995, Russia joined the Partnership for Peace (PPF), a "halfway house for some to join NATO." However, today there is little likelihood that Russia will join in any time soon. Russia's reaction to NATO expansion East has been shrill and hostile. Most Russian politicians are erroneously claiming that NATO has aggressive designs against Russia and are using the NATO expansion issue to build up nationalism and anti-Western sentiments at home.

Russia agreed to cooperate with NATO in a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, allegedly in exchange for a Clinton administration promise not to expand NATO, acquiescence to an increase in the number of conventional weapons in place on Russia's northern and southern flanks in violation of the CFE treaty, and freedom of action in the former Soviet area. Russia has over 2,000 peacekeepers in Bosnia.

Russia's unilateral violation of the CFE treaty, signed in 1990, threatens other former Soviet states, such as Ukraine, the Baltic countries, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. The build-up also jeopardizes the oil resources of the Caspian Sea.

Russia has signed agreements to supply at least two nuclear power reactors to the militant Islamic regime in Iran, which is implementing a nuclear weapons program.

Trafficking in radioactive materials and chemical weapons by corrupt Russian officials is well documented. Germany alone has made over 100 arrests related to nuclear material components exported from the NIS. General Anatoly Kuntsevich, head of the Russian Presidency's Chemical Weapons Department, illegally sold over 1600 pounds of chemical weapons components to a Middle Eastern country. Kuntsevich was subsequently fired and is currently under investigation.

One of the top Russian mafiosi, nicknamed "Yaponets," is in U.S. custody on racketeering charges.

Russian organized crime in the U.S. netted over \$1,000,000 in medical insurance fraud and hundreds of millions in gasoline tax fraud from 1992-1995. A large portion of these illegal proceeds is invested in Western and offshore banks and real estate in California, Florida, and other locations.

The Russian mob is successfully building ties to the Chinese "triad" gangs, Japan's Yakuza, the Sicilian La Cosa Nostra and Central Asian mafias. The strategic airlift

capabilities of the former Soviet army are often used for illicit transactions, such as drug smuggling and stolen car transportation.

THE RECORD

President Clinton has made relations with Boris Yeltsin too personal. As Yeltsin's popularity plummeted, Clinton fed the flames of Russian resentment toward the U.S. with his unequivocal support of the Russian president, especially after the dramatic shooting at the Parliament building in October of 1993 and the beginning of the Chechen war. As a result, the U.S. is now perceived by many in the Russian political elite as partisan and uncritically supportive of Yeltsin's faltering policies, such as the Chechen war. The Clinton policy has endangered the ability of the U.S. to maintain relationship with segments of the Russian society that oppose President Yeltsin.

The Clinton administration has also been too slow to recognize the importance of countries other than Russia. For example, without Ukraine, the Russian empire cannot be recreated and will have only limited access to the heart of Europe. Azerbaijan controls vital oil and gas reserves, while Georgia is situated in a strategically crucial location in the Caucasus. Nevertheless, the Clinton administration has often neglected these countries, promoting a "Russia-first" policy.

The Clinton administration failed to prevent the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, despite America's share in the massive financial aid provided to Moscow by the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions. The reactors are a vital component in the Iranian bid to acquire "Islamic" nuclear weapons.

U.S. assistance to the reform efforts in Russia and other former Soviet states has been poorly executed. Much of the \$4.1 billion dollars in U.S. assistance allocated to date has been wasted. The Bush and Clinton administrations made an error in choosing the U.S. Agency for International Development as the main implementing agency for assistance. AID has its expertise in the developing world, not in post-communist transitional economies.

The organized crime from the former Soviet Union is becoming a global threat. In FY 1995, Congress funded and the FBI established a law enforcement academy in Budapest, Hungary where law enforcement officials from the region will train. There is now a small FBI liaison office in Moscow. The FBI is allocating more resources towards countering the Russian mafia than previously.

WHAT TO DO IN 1997

To promote democracy and the interests of the United States in Russia, The U.S. should:

Develop a Russian policy based on the support ideas and interests, not on the fate of individual politicians. The U.S. should support democracy and free markets, as well as political forces advocating these ideas, not controversial individual politicians such as Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin is the elected president of Russia and was a key figure in bringing about the collapse of the Soviet communism. However, today some of his policies and his personal style are controversial, and his popularity is plummeting. Moreover, there are other reform-oriented politicians in Russia with whom a dialogue should be maintained.

Advocate broad-based cooperation with Russia and other NIS members to ensure their integration into global markets and

the democratic community of nations. The U.S. should continue selective and targeted technical assistance programs and provide support to prodemocracy forces and nascent market institutions in the NIS. The U.S. must design and implement trade, investment and assistance programs for Russia and the NIS that reduce inflation, lower market barriers and stimulate growth. Congress should support these programs. Thriving Russian and Eurasian markets would create jobs and export opportunities for American businesses. U.S. assistance programs should be taken away from AID and given to an independent board of policy makers, area specialists and business representatives. Such a board can be jointly appointed by the president and Congress.

Condemn Russia's interference in the affairs of its neighbors. The survival, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all NIS countries are important to future peace and prosperity in Eurasia. The U.S. should support the independence of Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Central Asian states, many of which are being drawn into the Russian orbit against their will. Washington should intensify its ties with Ukraine, the Baltic states, and countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The West should provide them with support in developing foreign and domestic policy decision making bodies and mechanisms, training their bureaucracies, and increasing security cooperation. Technical assistance in privatization of industry and agriculture should also be provided.

Make clear to Moscow that the use of brutal force against states or areas of the former Soviet Union, based on the model of Chechnya, is unacceptable and will trigger Western retaliation against Russian economic and political interests. While the U.S. should support the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, the West should oppose the brutal methods of the Russian military in handling internal dissent, such as in Chechnya. The Clinton administration should cease issuing declarations of support for Russia's actions in Chechnya and boost OSCE efforts to resolve the Chechen crisis peacefully. A high profile OSCE mission to Chechnya and Russia, followed by a mediation effort, is in order.

Maintain Dialog with Moscow over NATO Expansion. The U.S. should maintain a constant dialog with Russia on this topic, pointing out possibilities for Russian-NATO cooperation and stressing that NATO is not a threat to Russian security. While NATO enlargement will occur, Russian participation in the Partnership for Peace and the dialogue with Brussels should be expanded simultaneously. A secure Western border is in the interests of Russia, Belarus and other Eastern European countries.

Oppose Russian moves, such as sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, that threaten international security and the interests of U.S. allies in Eurasia. The U.S. should take all the steps at its disposal to prevent Iran, Iraq and other rogue states from gaining nuclear and chemical weapons capabilities. For example, voluntary export controls, similar to the COCOM regime during the Cold War, on technology sales to these countries should be

put in place. Pressure should be applied against the governments arming rogue states, up to and including the imposition of selective economic sanctions. At the same time, other options, such as an increase in Russian uranium sales and civilian space launches, should be explored with Moscow, that may bring about a voluntary cancellation of the reactor deal. The U.S. should also cooperate with pro-Western circles in Turkey and Azerbaijan to promote democracy and oppose radical Islam in Eurasia.

Assist Russia and other NIS countries in fighting against organized crime and corruption. This can include help with writing comprehensive criminal and criminal procedure codes. Some of the old Soviet legislation lacks important legal concepts, such as conspiracy to commit a crime. In addition, U.S. law enforcement agencies should cooperate, to the degree possible, with trustworthy and reliable law enforcement personnel in the East. In particular, they can assist in developing a witness relocation program. They should strive to track and penetrate Russian and NIS criminal rings dealing in weapons of mass destruction and narcotics. American law enforcement agencies should monitor East-West financial transactions more closely. Deposits that originate in the NIS should be carefully screened and the legitimacy of earnings established.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Why should we provide aid to Russia?

The window of opportunity for the West in Russia may be closing. While there is still time, we should provide aid that strengthens free markets and free minds. Communism destroyed both of these for seventy years. Many Russians still want to learn about democracy and capitalism, and we should provide them with a fighting chance before it is too late.

What if hard-liners take Yeltsin's place?

We should act now to strengthen relations with all countries in the region, which will be under even more threat than the West if hardliners come to power in Moscow. We should expand NATO to include Poland, the Czech republic and Hungary, and prevent any U.S. or international assistance to an aggressive, anti-American or anti-Western government in Moscow, should one emerge. We should still maintain a dialogue with Moscow, explaining what we will see as unacceptable policies and clarifying what price Russia may pay if "red lines" are crossed. Eventually, if the need arises, we may need to plan for military contingencies.

Doesn't NATO expansion endanger Russia?

No, it does not. NATO enlargement is aimed at creating a zone of stability and security in Eastern and Central Europe, and to hasten the integration of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary into the West. NATO expansion is also aimed at preventing competition between Germany and Russia in the area which triggered the two world wars. NATO is a defensive alliance, and its posture in Central Europe should remain defensive.

Why shouldn't we be more cooperative with Russia? After all, the cold war is over; Russia is a democracy and a great power, too. Why shouldn't we allow Moscow a greater role in policing unstable regions, such as the Caucasus or Central Asia?

We can cooperate with those in Russia who are interested in building a market economy and democratic polity. Democracy is still struggling for survival in Russia. More time needs to pass before we are sure that it is there to stay. As for Russia's role in the region, it will always be considerable due to Russia's sheer size and economic, political and cultural weight. However, there are forces in Russia that dream of re-establishing the Soviet Union or the Russian Empire. These circles are anti-Western and anti-American. They cannot be ignored. We should oppose Russia's heavy-handed interference into the affairs of its neighbors and attempts to violate their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In view of Chechnya, what should the U.S. do to prevent Russia from invading its neighbors?

We should boost our relations with Ukraine, the Baltic States, and countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia. There are as many people there as there are in Russia. We should draw "lines in the sand" and stick to them. For example, we should tell Moscow that we will block all IMF and World Bank assistance if an NIS country is invaded. We should clarify to Russia that the U.S. will lead the international diplomatic campaign to restore the independence of a violated country. If Russia crosses these lines, we should consider imposing restrictions on exchanges and economic and trade sanctions against Russia. We should also demand from Moscow that the war in Chechnya stop.

What about organized crime in Russia?

There is wide-spread crime and corruption in Russia. Crime undermines reforms. People mistakenly think that the cause of crime is free market capitalism, but this is, of course, not true. Crime is rampant because there is no rule of law in Russia. Moreover, real democracy barely exists there, and the country still has a long way to go before a free market system is fully established.

Is Russian organized crime a threat to U.S. and Western security?

Yes, it is, because Russian criminals are very sophisticated, well-educated, and well-connected world-wide. They often boast advanced college degrees, KGB and special forces training. There is great potential danger in the merger of former communist, KGB and criminal elements in that part of the world. In particular, access of organized criminals to weapons of mass destruction and technology to produce those makes this threat particularly acute.

How can we stop the Russian "mafia"?

The Russian government will have to deal with its own criminal organizations one day, but many in the current Russian government, including law enforcement officials, are themselves corrupt. Until such time as NIS governments are able to effectively combat criminal organizations, the West has to apprehend and prosecute criminals from Russia and the NIS affecting its interests.

Are all people from the former Soviet Union criminals?

No, because many of them travel for legitimate business, education and tourism purposes.