

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEALTH INSURANCE HELP FOR
THOSE 55 AND OLDER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation to make the COBRA health continuation program available to anyone between age 55 and the time they are eligible for Medicare.

Restructuring, layoff, downsizing, cutback, retrenchment—these words are heard too often in the 1990's. Amid corporate struggles to maintain profitability or simply to stay afloat, something else is shrinking: the number of permanent, full-time jobs.

As the level of employer-provided insurance declines and as hundreds of thousands of older workers face early retirement because of corporate downsizing, layoffs, and restructuring, the problem of health insurance for those not yet eligible for Medicare is becoming more and more serious.

While corporate profits were surging to record levels in 1994, the number of job cuts approached those seen at the height of the recession, according to a May, 1995 Wall Street Journal article. Profits rose 11 percent in 1994, on top of a 13-percent increase in 1993. Corporate America cut 516,069 jobs in 1994. International Business Machines Corp. [IBM] notified 1,200 employees last fall that they would no longer have jobs. Yet IBM's fourth-quarter profits were \$2.03 billion.

At AT&T, 40,000 jobs were recently cut. Workers will get a lump-sum payment based on years of service, up to 1 year of paid health benefits and cash to cover tuition costs or to start a new business—but what happens to health coverage after the 1 year?

In Colorado, the Adolph Coors Co. announced plans in February to lay off as many as 150 of its 230 construction workers, despite profits of \$5.3 million in the fourth quarter.

Safety Stores undertook one of the most brutal corporate downsizing in history as a result of its leverage buyout in the mid 1980's. Safeway dumped 55,000 employees with no medical insurance, virtually no notice, and a maximum of 8 weeks severance.

A 1994 Nationwide study of 2,395 employers by A. Foster Higgins & Co., a New York based benefits consulting firm showed that among large companies—those with 500 or more employees—46 percent provide some form of coverage for early retirees, while only 39 percent provide insurance for Medicare-eligible retirees. Fewer than one in five large employers are willing to pay the entire cost of health care for their retirees, while 40 percent of the companies that do offer some form of health care coverage require the retiree to pay all of the costs. Those companies that do provide health care coverage for their retirees are

increasingly requiring them to pay a share of the cost, especially for dependents.

Employee Benefit Research/Institute [EBRI] tabulations of the March 1995 Current Population Survey reveal that almost 14 percent of the near elderly, consisting of persons aged 55–64, was uninsured in 1994. As the baby boom generation approaches near elderly and elderly status, the issue of health insurance coverage for this group becomes increasingly important, particularly if the proportion of individuals aged 55–64 with employment-based coverage continues to decline.

Group health insurance is, of course, much less expensive than individual policy insurance, and that is why the COBRA benefit is so important and useful. The difference in cost can easily be several thousand dollars.

Help with the cost of this insurance is particularly important for those in their 50's and 60's because most insurance premiums rise sharply with age. For example, in the Los Angeles market, Blue Cross of California offers a basic, barebones in-hospital \$2000 deductible plan. This is a PPO plan where you are restricted to the hospitals you can use. For a couple under age 29, it costs \$64 a month. For a couple between age 60 and 64, it costs \$229 a month.

To help ensure that the cost of COBRA continuation is not a burden to business, my bill calls for age-55+ enrollees to pay 110 percent of the group rate policy—compared to 102 percent for most current COBRA eligible individuals and 150 percent for disabled COBRA enrollees.

I know that the cost of paying one's share of a group insurance policy will still be too much for many Americans and many of them will be forced into the uncertain mercies of State Medicaid policies. But for many others, this bill will provide an important bridge to age 65 when they will be eligible for Medicare. I wish we could do more—I'd like to see the gradual expansion of Medicare to all age groups, for example—but in the current climate, this bill is our best hope.

Over the years, I've received many letters from around the Nation on the need for national health insurance reform. Several of these letters describe lives which would be greatly helped by the passage of this legislation, and I include them at this point in the RECORD.

I am attaching a copy of a letter that I sent to several people earlier this year. I have to amend one inference in that letter—that I would have no health coverage after the expiration of the COBRA coverage. I would have coverage if I could afford the ridiculous \$12,000 or \$14,000 figures I quoted previously.

MAN FROM ILLINOIS, AGE 55+.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: I am 60 years old and I have been employed as a publishers representative for many years with a large company, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

They became victims of a hostile take-over and I watched a distinguished company break down under the weight of excessive debt.

About four years ago I developed a heart condition, which was being treated for medically and I was able to function without any handicap in my work. Three years ago, a smaller firm, "XYZ", made me the proverbial "offer that can't be refused" and I joined them with their full knowledge of my heart problem.

A year later, my doctor advised a by-pass operation which went well and after about a month I was back at work. One year later I was laid off due to "a slowdown in the economy." I can only speculate on the real reason but, it followed a letter explaining that the company's self-insurance plan would not allow additional expenses for my heart condition. Thank all of you for COBRA, which now covers me until March, 1993, (at a cost of over \$6000/year). I can only hope the by-pass will last until some other coverage can be found.

The point of all this is: what happens now? As a sixty year old "cardiac case", I have had not one job offer, although many people want me to work for them as a "per-diem" or independent sales representative. I'll probably resort to this, but having talked to many insurance companies, including the company which offers the group policy for the National Association for the Self-Employed, they all say I'm uninsurable. This means that regardless of whether I can afford insurance or not, I can't get it and that leaves me and my family vulnerable for years, until I reach 65 and Medicare becomes available, (assuming you can keep the wolves away from it and it still exists in 1996).

After talking with neighbors and colleagues, I find I am not alone in this problem. There seems to be an increasing number of 55 to 65 year olds, who are laid off for weak reasons, and find themselves very much alone and without a spokesman.

A MAN FROM TEXAS.

I recently turned 62 years of age and have become the recipient of Social Security benefits. During my 48 years of working life (yes, I began at 14 in Idaho at the Farragut Naval training Station), I have paid my way through the various taxing bodies and reaped the harvest and the bounty created by living in this great nation (California since 1948). The major portion of my career was spent with the Bank of America where I was employed for 27 years reaching the highest position of branch manager. After leaving them in 1981, I was in a management position with a local yacht club and following this I worked as a private contractor doing research work for a computer company and an architectural supply firm. The reason I chose to apply for Social Security at age 62 was because I found (over the past year) no interest in my years of experience in any kind of a employment. I applied to a number of employers including the local County School Districts and Administrative offices to no avail! That's enough for background.

Now for the help I hope my State or National government can provide. I recently

● 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.

discovered I had to apply for health insurance. The coverage I now have, which I obtained from my last employer under COBRA and for which I have been paying \$136.27 a month (out of the \$911.00 a month I receive under SS and BofA retirement plans) will soon run out. I applied to Kaiser Permanente which I felt has representative coverage with a comparable cost (I really can't afford to pay more the 15% of my gross income for health care). Because I was honest in answering the application questions I received a letter denying me coverage. I haven't yet applied elsewhere and will not until I get some kind of response to this plea. I suspect I will be further denied or be offered something beyond my economic abilities. I might point out (which I did to Kaiser) that beyond normal physical exams I have had good enough health that I have not had to consult a physician in over 15 years and that was for some minor surgery.

MAN FROM CALIFORNIA.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: Terrorism. From my mailbox.

Monthly major medical premiums to Washington National Insurance Company were raised to \$408. per month (\$5000/year) from \$247. per month (\$3000/year), with a \$1500 deductible! Writing about it even terrifies me.

I am 62 years old now; minimum costs by age 65 will be \$15,000 without considering the usual yearly or 6 months premium increases. I live on a modest fixed income. Premiums have risen over 900% in 11 years.

There are millions like me who will go without insurance and even minimum health care. I know some already. We do not live in the ghetto. We have worked hard, raised families and contributed to our communities.

Who is proposing a way to stop this obscene, outrageous extortion? Please don't write to me reciting the usual clichés about health care. The problem has been defined and redefined already. Action is needed!

A WOMAN FROM ILLINOIS.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: My husband is a retiree and is now covered by Medicare. I am still covered under COBRA; this coverage will last until the end of the year. This is a problem for me.

Over five years ago, I had breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy. There has been no recurrence of malignancy since; however, I am unable to purchase health insurance unless the "cancer clause" is eliminated. I am 61 years old. My insurance will end when I am 62 . . . three years away from Medicare.

Although we are retired and have saved for such a retirement, a recurrence of cancer would "wipe out" all that we have saved for, would endanger our son's college education as well as threaten my own life.

You cannot save my life; but you can save the future that we have planned for our entire lives.

A WOMAN FROM ILLINOIS.

DEAR REP. STARK: Although I am not part of your California constituency, this letter is written to commend and encourage you on your efforts to enact national health insurance for spouses of retirees over 62 years of age. A small packet of information is enclosed to supply additional information in this regard.

I've been out of work for five years due to "corporate downsizing" (or restructuring). I was 59 years of age with 9+ years of service

at the time. Since then, I have paid constantly escalating Ohio Blue Cross payments while eagerly looking forward to the day when I would be covered by Medicare. I recently reached that age and invite you to look at my "big savings". My wife is 61.

Before 65: \$723.62. After 65: Wife's bill, \$491.24; my bill, \$156.40; Medicare bill, \$59.80; (2 months at \$29.90) \$707.44.

These oppressive costs are being taken out of savings accumulated way back from my first job paying 32 cents per hour. I have no pension nor paid benefits. I probably hold the record working for companies going out of business.

My basic plea: Grant Medicare coverage to spouses over 62 years of age wedded to present Social Security recipients.

Want to pull the country out of the recession? Relieve us of this medical cost burden and we'll spend like drunken sailors. . . . I drive a 10 year old car and haven't bought any new appliances in over 15 years.

MAN FROM OHIO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK: My left leg was amputated because of diabetes on 2-6-89. While I was still in the hospital, just after surgery, I was dropped from Travelers Insurance Lifetime and Fifty Thousand Dollar Coverage and Union Pacific Railroad Health Systems. The latter being a Supplemental Coverage. I have no coverage at all now, and can't get any. I have tried to sign up with any and all companies, but was turned down, because no Insurance Company will cover my disabilities (Diabetes and Heart). Have also tried to get Social Security, Medicare and Medicare for Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries because of my disabilities. I do not qualify for any of these, because I am 62 years old and do not have enough quarters in for Social Security. I was told to get in touch with you, and maybe you might be able to help me get some coverage.

WOMAN FROM CALIFORNIA.

I urgently need help in obtaining information on any health insurance plans that might be available for non-employed persons who have been turned down by other providers.

My mother is 60 years old and the health insurance provided through my father's employment will soon expire (he retired in August 1987). The provider advised her that she will no longer be covered after this July. She has never filed a claim against this company; her coverage is being terminated because her eligibility through my father is expiring. She will not be eligible for Medicare until she is 65, and she has been unable to find other health insurance due to her age and poor health.

WOMAN FROM CALIFORNIA.

As I am sitting here and collecting my thoughts before writing to you, I find myself becoming more incensed at my health insurance situation or the future lack of it.

At the present time, I have group health coverage for myself and my wife because of the COBRA Law. This coverage is good for another approximately 8 months. At the expiration of that coverage, I can apply for group conversion. Sounds rather civil, doesn't it?

At only \$12,769 or \$14,031 annually for myself and dependent coverage. Needless to say, I cannot afford that. What are my alternatives?

Apply for the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan under which our insurance costs would be \$9,768 or \$8,928 annually?

Ignore health coverage completely and wait for some illness to eat up my assets and then go on state aid?

Change employers and hope that its group insurance is more benevolent?

Or try to convince some responsible person or persons that our bottom line insurance industry is just that and nothing more. Our society has gone through its revolution and evolutions and deregulations. Perhaps it is time to go through a period of regulation (another form of evolution)—regulation of the insurance industry. Or if that is not possible, then I think that the Federal government must step in to fill the void that private industry will not handle—we cannot leave it to Beaver or private industry.

HONORING THE TIMOTHY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Timothy Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

LAUDING THE REPEAL OF THE BAN ON MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH HIV

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend President Clinton in particular and my colleagues in the Congress who agreed in the latest appropriations legislation for fiscal year 1996 to repeal the recent provision in the defense authorization bill which would have mandated summary discharge of military personnel

with the HIV virus. That provision, Mr. Speaker, was an outrage, and I applaud its repeal.

The so-called problem of HIV-infected military personnel is a shibboleth. No logical reason exists to single out those people serving in the armed forces who have HIV. People suffering from other, far more contagious ailments are not subjected to the same discrimination. They are not kicked out and forced to lose accrued benefits and promised health care. This ban is more a reflection of fear and bigotry than rational military and health policy. It is patently discriminatory and unfair.

Although HIV can be contracted in a number of ways, let us not pretend that this ban was not directed at gay and lesbian Americans who contribute to our national defense. Gay and lesbian Americans have served our Nation in the military with great distinction for as long as this Nation has existed. They deserve much better than this.

Mr. Speaker, I share the President's conviction that compassion and clearheaded reason must be employed in confronting the HIV virus and its effects. The repeal of this ban is a positive step in restoring reason to the discussion. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the repeal of the ban on military personnel with HIV.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LUCY BARNESLEY SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE, MD

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the students, faculty, and parents of the Lucy Barnesley School in Rockville, MD on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of their school. The Lucy Barnesley School opened in 1965 for elementary school children and is currently responsible for educating 542 students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Lucy Barnesley is one of four elementary centers in Montgomery County for highly gifted students in grades four and five. In 1979, a program for deaf and hearing-impaired students was incorporated into the regular teaching program. The school boasts a unique fifth grade singing group known as the Fabulous Flying Fingers. Under the direction of Theresa Burdett, the group uses sign language to communicate the meaning of their songs to the hearing-impaired. The group has performed on two occasions at the White House.

The Lucy Barnesley School demonstrates its dedication to children and their education through innovative programs like the Fabulous Flying Fingers. Principal William Beckman emphasizes the importance of innovative teaching methods, team teaching techniques, and a strong sense of cooperation among the faculty at Lucy Barnesley.

Please join me in congratulating the Lucy Barnesley School on 30 years of dedication to the education of children in Rockville and best wishes for 30 more to come.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MICHAEL DOWD

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special individual from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

On the night of February 27, 1995, Captain Michael Dowd tied a rope around his waist, was lowered down the side of a four-story burning building, and saved the life of a 3-year-old child. For this remarkable display of bravery, I am proud to honor Captain Dowd for receiving the New Jersey state Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association's Valor Award.

Valor and courage are attributes that are essential for all firefighters, yet hopefully they are never truly tested in a life-threatening situation. On February 27, 1995, Captain Dowd displayed the kind of valor and courage that not only makes us all proud but leaves us stunned with amazement and admiration.

It is these displays of intense dedication to public service and community, as well as the pure compassion and value for human life, that symbolize what America is all about. Captain Dowd serves as a wonderful role model not only for those in his community of West Orange, NJ, but for the national community as well.

Captain Dawd was willing to risk his own life in order to save another's, and for this he has received the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association's Valor Award. I am proud to give praise and honor to this remarkable individual for his extraordinary demonstration of heroism.

Speaking for the citizens of the Eighth Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations, and wish you continued success.

TRIBUTE TO LA GRANGE POLICE OFFICERS ROBIN PROKASKI AND JIM LIOTTA

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to two outstanding police officers who heroically risked their lives to save two people from a burning house in my district.

Officers Robin Prokaski and James Liotta of the La Grange, IL police department were the first to respond to an alarm that brought them to a burning house in the community in the early morning hours of February 24. One occupant of the house, Jerry Chlapcik, had escaped the flames and smoke, but his elderly wife and his daughter, a quadriplegic, were still trapped inside. Officers Prokaski and Liotta climbed through a window and found the mother attempting to get the daughter out of bed.

Working quickly in the dense smoke, they were able to get both mother and daughter out of the house, handing the victims out of the window.

For their heroic efforts, Officers Prokaski and Liotta were awarded the Chief's Award of Valor from the fire department.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these two brave police officers, and I wish to remind all Americans of the debt they owe those who risk their lives to protect ours.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, we joyously celebrated the 48th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel. For more than 1,800 years, the Jewish people would recite a prayer: "Vesechezena Aynanu B'Schuvcha L'Zion" (May we behold Your return in mercy to Zion). It is by the grace of God that the children of Israel were able to return to their ancestral homeland.

Independence Day is celebrated as a Jewish holiday on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which is recognized on April 24 this year, and marks the Athchalta D'Guela, the beginning of the redemption, as promised by God. The struggle of the survival of Israel is a testament to the determination of Jewish people worldwide. Regardless of how difficult it has been over the last 48 years to protect and defend Israel, it pails in comparison to the trials and tribulations the Jewish people have suffered throughout history. From Moses leading the Jews from slavery in Egypt to surviving the tyranny of the Roman Empire and the ensuing diaspora to the horrors of the Holocaust, the perseverance and faith of the Jews is unmatched.

Unfortunately, this last year has been another tragic test for Israel in its quest for peace. As Israel has tried to expand peace with its neighbors, starting with Egypt and spreading to Palestine and Jordan, we lost one of the great men of our time—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was a true patriot and a man of everlasting honor to his nation, to his people, and to the rest of the world. His quest to resolve the disputes with Israel's neighbors and to expand peace to Syria and the other Arab States will be of lasting historical significance. I continue to miss the presence of Mr. Rabin because of his calming influence in the sea of trouble.

The State of Israel has been the beacon of freedom and democracy in the Middle East for nearly a half a century. I am proud to see the peace process expand and to see Israel and the Arab States begin the process of building economic ties. I firmly believe once these nations cement their relationship through economic association, the binds of peace will be permanent, as long as all concerned respect the peace and security of the Israeli State.

I am, therefore, pleased to join my colleagues in wishing Israel a warm greeting in recognition of their independence. I will always pray for her safety and I will continue to work to ensure that the United States remains its loyal ally and friend. May God continue to bless this nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 127, H.R. 1965, the Coastal Zone Prevention Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall 128, H.R. 2160, the Cooperative Fisheries Management Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote 129, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote 130, H.R. 2715, the Paperwork Elimination Act of 1995, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE WATERTOWN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Watertown Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO ANN BELKNAP
BENNER**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, Ann Benner, a great friend and a truly extraordinary American, passed away. The boundless energy that drove her to be a heroic supporter

of her family and her community every day of her 77 years succumbed in the face of its ultimate challenge. Now, her many companions in the afterlife can enjoy the strength of her spirit and the glow of her love.

Over the 2 years that Ann knew she had terminal cancer, she was at her desk in my district office doing the good work on which I and countless others had come to depend. It is hard to imagine that office without the reassuring presence of Ann. She was a true friend, an invaluable asset and the most compassionate human being I have ever met. I will miss her terribly. All of us in San Mateo and those in Washington who have worked with her will miss her terribly.

When I first sought office 17 years ago, Ann was one of the first people to volunteer for my campaign. It was obvious from looking at Ann's remarkable list of credentials and accomplishments that she was a woman instilled with an incredible sense of community spirit, education and political activism that went far beyond ordinary civic duty. I was only too happy to offer her an outlet for this fountain of enthusiasm, just as I have been happy to do so for the last 17 years. She started that day, and continued every day after that, doing what was necessary to promote the ideas that she believed in and was willing to fight for.

As a special assistant in my district office, Ann took every constituent problem, large or small, with the same zeal that she tackled everything else in her remarkable life. As I did when I first met her, everyone recognized and appreciated that they receive a straight answer from Ann—she told it like it was, and found out all she could about every question or complaint.

One of the most compassionate acts I have ever witnessed was when Ann, at the age of 70, took on the awesome responsibility of adopting a young girl from South Africa. Ann gave that girl access to a modern society that was closed to a South African black. Ann did this with no regard for her own comfort and at considerable personal sacrifice because she thought the treatment that girl had received in South Africa was unjust.

Ann's contribution to the country that she loved began long before I met her, demonstrating the vision and initiative that characterized her whole life. In 1941, she was a founding member of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in San Mateo. In recognition of her commitment to the Unitarian community, the congregation established an annual award for service to the church and community which was named the "Ann Benner Award." In 1945, she was a founding member of the League of Women Voters of Central San Mateo County. Not one to limit herself to one category or cause, Ann was an active lifetime member of the NAACP, promoting civil rights in many effective capacities.

More recently, Ann was named the "Democrat of the Year" by the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee in 1975. In 1981 she was named "Woman of the Year" by the San Mateo County Business and Professional Women. And, in testament to her overwhelming contributions to the advancement of women, in 1991 Ann was named to the Women's Hall of Fame of San Mateo County.

Ann's departure leaves a void in my heart and in the community we shared that will be impossible to fill. Because of her efforts, Ann has left the world she entered 77 years ago a richer, more humane place. There will always be a place in my heart for Ann, just as her memory will live on in all the lives she touched. Ann, yours is a light that cannot be extinguished. I send you my love.

IN MEMORY OF LESLIE
STRATHMANN, VILLAGE MAN-
AGER OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Leslie Strathmann, village manager of Friendship Heights. For 9 years Mrs. Strathmann served in exemplary fashion at this post. On April 13, her coworkers honored her at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Friendship Heights community center, naming a conference room in her honor and dedicating the ceremony to her. Leslie Strathmann passed away later that day, her lifetime of dedicated public service cut short by cancer at 54. She will be dearly missed.

Leslie Strathmann's extensive career in public service brought much to the Friendship Heights community. She served as vice president of the Friendship Heights Rotary where she helped organize annual Rotary fundraisers and community service projects to benefit village residents. While serving on the Montgomery County Committee on Committees she reviewed all county committees and helped streamline committee rules and structure. She coordinated Bethesda Action Group meetings between county transportation officials and citizens to resolve traffic and transportation issues.

It is hard to imagine Friendship Heights without Leslie Strathmann. The programs that she helped to create have made Friendship Heights' community center a true meeting place for the community, with classes in various disciplines, care groups for the young, and organizational meetings of all sorts. As village manager, she took it upon herself to do all that she could to better the Friendship Heights community.

In all of her work, Leslie Strathmann helped to resolve the everyday concerns of the people of Friendship Heights. Her skills and her dedication made her a valuable member of the Friendship Heights community. Leslie Strathmann leaves behind a vacancy that will be hard to fill, not only as village manager, but in the hearts of the people that knew her. She will be missed, but she will live on in love. I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring and remembering Mrs. Leslie Strathmann, and in giving condolences to her husband of 33 years, Dr. William D. Strathmann, her two sons, Joseph and William, her daughter-in-law, Kathleen, her father, Joseph R. Micali, and her sister, Judy M. Daly.

THE FUTURE IS OURS TO CREATE

HON. RICK WHITE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society [WOCN] to Seattle, in my home State of Washington, June 15 to 19, for their 28th annual conference. The theme of the conference, "The Future Is Ours To Create," will focus on future opportunities and challenges relating to the changing and expanding role of ET—enterostomal therapists—nurses and other nurses specializing in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is the only national organization for nurses who specialize in the prevention of pressure ulcers and the management and rehabilitation of persons with ostomies, wounds, and incontinence. WOCN, an association of ET nurses, is a professional nursing society which supports its members by promoting educational, clinical, and research opportunities, to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies, and incontinence.

In this age of changing health care services and skyrocketing costs, the WOCN nurse plays an integral role in providing cost-effective care for their patients. This year's Seattle conference will provide a unique opportunity for WOCN participants to learn about the most current issues and trends related to their practice. I am honored that WOCN has chosen Seattle to host its conference and wish them every success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. DUNNE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor one of my constituents, William C. Dunne, for his long and distinguished career with the U.S. Secret Service.

This month Bill Dunne retired from the Secret Service and tonight his colleagues from the law enforcement community, as well as his family and friends, will all come together to honor him at a retirement dinner.

One from a family of 10, Bill was born and raised on Chicago's Southwest Side. After receiving a degree in law enforcement administration from the University of Oklahoma, Bill began his career as a special agent with the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Within 2 years Bill was presented with the opportunity he sought since childhood—to become a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.

For over 20 years, Bill served with distinction as a special agent with the Secret Service. Bill worked in the Secret Service's Syracuse and Chicago field offices, as well as the Washington, DC, headquarters where he served on the protection detail for President

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Ronald Reagan. In Washington, Bill's protection experience, talents, and skills caused his elevation to head the protection detail for former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

During his distinguished career, Bill Dunne traveled abroad frequently ensuring the safety of U.S. Presidents, Vice Presidents, and other Government officials in foreign lands. Bill's protection duties over the years also included Presidential candidates, foreign diplomats, and Pope John Paul II during his visit to Chicago in 1979.

His last assignment was in the capacity as a supervisor in the Chicago field office. In addition to his protection responsibilities, Bill led many successful criminal investigations in counterfeit and fraud cases involving U.S. currency and financial instruments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in saluting Bill Dunne, his wife Pat, and their four children, Bill, Patrick, Shannon, and Colleen, and to wish them the best in the future.

HONORING THE SALEM-BLACKMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Salem-Blackman Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their homes catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, MILES A. SUAREZ POST 711

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of Americans from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 711 has for 75 years offered a steadfast portrait of loyalty, sacrifice, and self-resolve.

Our loyalties mark the kinds of persons we have chosen to become. Real loyalty endures inconvenience, withstands hardship, and does not flinch under assault. The individuals who make up the Miles A. Suarez VFW Post consistently allow this genuine loyalty to pervade the whole of their lives.

The members of VFW Post 711 remind us that the loyal, patriotic citizen expects no great reward for coming to his country's aid. On the contrary, a devoted patriot seeks only that his country flourishes.

When it comes to honoring their country, their faith, and their comrades, the veterans of post 711 have demonstrated both the wisdom to know the right thing to do, and the will to do it. Truly, they have lived up to the obligations of loyalty, patriotism, and service.

To be a loyal citizen means to achieve a high standard of caring seriously about the well-being of one's Nation. I am proud to honor and praise VFW, Post 711 for exceeding this standard. Congratulations for your 75 year history of community pride and American patriotism.

AGRICULTURAL WATER DELIVERY ACT

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to help remedy a problem that is particularly burdensome to the water delivery companies in the West. Like many seasonal businesses, complying with the Fair Labor Standards Act has become a huge burden to both water delivery companies and their employees.

Irrigation has never nor will it ever be a 40 hour a week job. During peak agricultural months, water must be managed and delivered continually. Later in the year, the work load is light, consisting mainly of maintenance duties. Time off and winter compensation have been the methods of compensating for overtime during these peak agricultural months. Instead of being allowed to offer their employees winter compensation or time off, water delivery companies must now lay off water delivery personnel after the peak agricultural months.

Under current law, contained at 29 U.S.C., sec 213(b)(12), an exemption from the maximum hour requirement exists for employees

hired to work in conjunction with water delivery companies that deliver water "exclusively" for agricultural use. This exemption was designed specifically to address the unique problems faced by water delivery companies when complying with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Under the current interpretation of the law, water delivery organizations must deliver their water "exclusively" for agricultural purposes to qualify. For many water delivery organizations who deliver a small portion of their water for nonagricultural purposes, this interpretation has been disastrous. They are unable to benefit from the exemption even though it was designed with water delivery companies in mind.

I am introducing legislation that would expressly set the requirement of water to be ultimately delivered for agriculture purposes at 75 percent. This adjustment more accurately reflects the realities of agricultural water delivery. It would also benefit agricultural employees by making it possible for employers to provide them with year-round compensation rather than seasonal wages.

IN HONOR OF CARMEN
MALDONADO: WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carmen Maldonado, a woman of distinguished character and grace. The Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth, Inc. will honor her with its Woman of the Year Award on April 28 in Linden, NJ.

Mrs. Maldonado arrived in New York from her native Puerto Rico in 1950. While living in New York, she met and married Sal Maldonado and later moved to Elizabeth with their children Edgar, Joseph, Carmen, and Edna Isabel. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Maldonado began working with the Elizabeth Board of Education. For a quarter of a century, she has dedicated herself to improving our educational system. As a liaison between the community and the school district, Mrs. Maldonado interacts with the students, parents, and teachers to create a better environment for our school children.

Mrs. Maldonado genuinely cares about her community. She dedicates her energy to various community services that aid the citizens of Elizabeth. For example, Mrs. Maldonado devotes her time to improving city services for the elderly as a board member of Community Services for Senior Citizens. Her charitable commitment to the community does not stop there. She is also involved in improving the educational needs of the adult community, an active member of P.R.O.C.E.E.D., Inc. and president of the local Y.M.C.A. With her busy schedule as a full time mother and career woman, Mrs. Maldonado still finds time to help her community.

In addition, Mrs. Maldonado is a member of other organizations, including the Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth, Inc. and Saint Patrick's School and Church. Over the course of her distinguished career, Mrs. Maldonado has won

many awards. She has been honored by the Hispanic Association of Saint Patrick's and has received the Elizabeth Port Pride Day Good Neighbor Award.

Mrs. Maldonado's commitment to the people of Elizabeth exemplifies the true meaning of compassion, dedication, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Carmen Maldonado, an outstanding individual.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 25th anniversary of the founding of Foster City, CA to pay tribute to the city and its citizens for building an exemplary community.

Foster City was originally founded and developed by T. Jack Foster. In 1960 he acquired the 4 square miles known as Brewers Island in order to begin building a vision that today we honor as a dream fulfilled. The original concept was to develop a balanced community able to function physically, economically, and socially to meet the needs and desires of its residents.

A massive construction operation was necessary to convert the land into a new city of the future. Eighteen million cubic yards of fill were necessary to provide gradient for the storm water runoff and cover for the utility lines as well as support for the buildings. Two hundred and thirty acres of lagoons had to be created to collect the storm water and hold it for pumping into the Bay. Drinking water was later brought to Foster City through the City of San Mateo from the San Francisco water system.

Foster City faced a number of adversities both political and physical. The engineering challenge of creating Foster City from the marshlands of Brewer's Island required enormous financial backing, but this did not deter its developers. For 5 years the Foster City Community Association fought an intense legal battle with the district board to obtain incorporation of the city. Despite the daunting task, the citizens of Foster City overcame the mire of bureaucracy to deliver on a promise that T. Jack Foster had originally envisioned. On April 27, 1971 Foster City was incorporated thus establishing a council/city manager form of local government with a five member city council. By 1971 there were more than 10,000 residents of this emerging community, and they voted to incorporate as a city. Since that time, public facilities, commercial developments, and new homes have continued to be built.

Foster City is a community of people dedicated to the purpose of education and maintaining the quality of life of the community. In keeping with these commitments, 1996 marks the opening of a new library, a remodeled recreation center, and an updated Brewer Island Elementary School. Foster City remains a planned community today—dedicated to the fundamental values that ultimately enrich America as a whole.

Today, Foster City is widely regarded in the San Francisco Bay Area as one of the pre-eminent communities in which to live. Prosperity has come with stability. It is the proud home of over 30,000 people. It is especially meaningful for me to be able to rise today on behalf of each of those citizens to pay tribute to the city they call home.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the celebration of Foster City's Silver Anniversary, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the community of Foster City for its admirable accomplishments and outstanding determination.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK GARCIA

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who resides in my district, Francisco "Frank" J. Garcia. Frank was recently recognized by the Points of Light Foundation for his exceptional community service, 1 of just 20 recipients of the prestigious 1996 President's Service Award.

Frank is a local restaurant owner in Anaheim, CA. His restaurant, La Casa Garcia, is actually located just across the street from my district office. Everyone just raves about the food there. In fact, the Orange County Register has recognized La Casa Garcia for serving the best Mexican food in the area.

But what's amazing is this, Mr. Speaker. Since 1987, Frank has served more than 50,000 needy individuals at his restaurant with free, home-cooked meals on Thanksgiving Day. In fact, just last year, Frank led 500 volunteers to serve a complete Thanksgiving dinner to needy people throughout our community. He organized the event, collected the food through donations and wholesale prices, and recruited the necessary volunteers to make the whole day a success.

Frank has so much to be proud of. The President's Service Award, established back in 1982, is the most prestigious award ever presented for community service. The winners are honored not only for their own outstanding work, but also as representatives of volunteers in every community nationwide. The award recognizes individuals who have performed outstanding work in public safety, education, environmental protection, and humanitarian aid.

In a recent news article in our local paper, Frank noted that "everybody needs to take pride in themselves. We all should support each other." These are powerful words that emulate the kind of life all Americans should lead.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Garcia is a shining example of the American spirit and an exemplary inspiration to us all. His outstanding public service has set a high standard for others to follow. I want to congratulate him for this honor and thank him for serving his fellow man so selflessly. May God bless him and reward him for his kindness and generosity.

HONORING THE SOUTH ALLEN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the South Allen Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro, where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J.
ZALEWSKI

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding young man from my district, Michael J. Zalewski, who was recently honored for academic excellence at St. Rita High School.

During St. Rita's academic awards banquet, Mr. Zalewski, a senior bound for the University of Illinois, was recognized nine times for his scholastic achievements. He was cited as a member of the St. Rita 1996 Academic All-Stars, a winner of the 1996 Heeney Award, as an Illinois State scholar, and as a recipient of the Presidential Educational Award.

Mr. Zalewski was named as a member of the Gold Honor Roll at St. Rita, the JETS Science Team, the National Honor Society, and was listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students." In addition, he received the U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Michael J. Zalewski, and of course his parents, Michael R. and Millie Zalewski, on his academic achievements, and extend to him, as well as

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the members of the Class of '96, my best wishes for much success in the future.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD "ROY"
HUELBIG: A TRUE AMERICAN
HERO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward "Roy" Huelbig, an exceptional individual, who had distinguished himself through tireless dedication to the veterans, firefighters, and police officers of his community in Hoboken and throughout the State of New Jersey. Mr. Huelbig will be honored for his numerous years of service by United Cerebral Palsy of Hudson County at a ceremony at the F.A. Mckenzie American Legion Post 165 in Bayonne, NJ on April 27.

Mr. Huelbig's record of service to helping others began in Hoboken, where he was born and raised. He attended Our Lady of Grace Grammar School and St. Michael's High School in my hometown of Union City. When the Nation called, Mr. Huelbig answered by entering the U.S. Army in 1943, where he served in the European theater of operations during World War II. For his steadfast bravery in combat, Mr. Huelbig was awarded four battle stars and a Purple Heart.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Huelbig was appointed to the Hoboken Fire Department in 1948, which benefited from his valuable contributions as a firefighter for over 25 years. After retiring from a position with the A-P-A Trucking Co. in 1986, Mr. Huelbig devoted his time to a number of charitable organizations. Mr. Huelbig's expertise in community involvement has been an invaluable resource for a number of groups throughout the State. While Mr. Huelbig serves as secretary of the Retired Police and Fireman's Association, it is the veterans of New Jersey who owe Mr. Huelbig the greatest debt of gratitude. He is chairman of the Hoboken Elks Lodge 74 Veterans' Committee which "adopts" five individuals at the Veterans Home of Paramus by celebrating birthdays and Christmas with them, in addition to organizing field trips to sporting events. A past commander, Mr. Huelbig now serves as legislative chairman of the Disabled American Veterans Hoboken Chapter 8, which helps raise funds for the five veterans hospitals in New Jersey.

Even though Mr. Huelbig has exhibited a tremendous commitment to community organizations, the main focus of his life has been his family. He was married to the former Ellen Lynsky who passed away in November 1985. Mr. Huelbig is the father of three children: a daughter, Kerryann Ganter, and two sons, Kevin and Roy Huelbig. He is also the proud grandfather of five.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and dedicated individual as Edward "Roy" Huelbig residing in my district. His efforts are testimony to the fact that one person can make a difference in the lives of others. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this true American hero.

THE WOUND, OSTOMY AND
CONTINENCE NURSES SOCIETY

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House and ask permission to extend and revise my remarks.

I am pleased to welcome the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society [WOCN] to Seattle, WA on June 15-19, for their 28th annual conference. The theme of the conference, "The Future is Ours to Create," will focus on future opportunities and challenges relating to the changing and expanding role of ET (enterostomal therapists) nurses and other nurses specializing in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is the only national organization for nurses who specialize in the prevention of pressure ulcers and the management and rehabilitation of persons with ostomies, wounds, and incontinence. WOCN is a professional nursing society which supports its members by promoting educational, clinical and research opportunities, to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies and incontinence.

In this age of changing health care services and skyrocketing costs, the WOCN nurse plays an integral role in providing cost-effective care to patients. This year's Seattle conference will provide a unique opportunity for WOCN participants to learn about the most current issues and trends related to their practice. I wish WOCN every success in their conference.

HONORING THE SOUTH SIDE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the South Side Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike

and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R.—, TO EXTEND COMMUNITY NURSING CENTER DEMONSTRATIONS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of home- and community-based services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, I rise to introduce legislation to extend the demonstration authority under the Medicare Program for community nursing organizations [CNO].

In 1987, Congress authorized the CNO demonstrations to test the efficacy of capitated nursing delivery organizations at providing quality services outside the nursing home setting, without requiring beneficiaries to join HMO's. CNO programs serve Medicare beneficiaries in home and community-based settings under contracts that provide a fixed, monthly capitation payment for each beneficiary who elects to enroll.

The benefits include not only Medicare-covered home care and medical equipment and supplies, but other services not presently covered by traditional Medicare, including patient education, case management and health assessments. CNO's are able to offer extra benefits without increasing Medicare costs because of their emphasis on primary and preventative care and their coordinated management of the patient's care.

At the end of this year, current authority will expire for these effective and growing programs, which currently serve approximately 6,000 Medicare patients in four States.

Mr. Speaker, we need to act now to extend this demonstration authority for another 3 years. This experiment provides an important example of how coordinated care can provide additional benefits without increasing Medicare costs. For Medicare enrollees, extra benefits include expanded coverage for physical and occupational therapy, health education, routine assessments, and case management services—all for an average monthly capitation rate of about \$21. In my home State of Minnesota, the Health Seniors Project is a CNO serving over 1,500 patients in four sites, two of which are urban and two rural.

These demonstrations should also be extended in order to ensure a full and fair test of the CNO managed care concept. These demonstrations are consistent with our efforts to introduce a wider range of managed care options for Medicare beneficiaries. I believe we need more time to evaluate the impact of CNO's on patient outcomes and to assess their capacity for operating under fixed budgets.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the extension of this demonstration will not increase Medicare expenditures for care. CNO's actually save Medicare dollars by providing better and more accessible care in home and community settings, allowing beneficiaries to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and nursing home admissions. By demonstrating what a primary care oriented nursing practice can accomplish with patients who are elderly or disabled, CNO's are helping show us how to increase benefits, save scarce dollars, and improve the quality of life for patients.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider this bill carefully and join me in seeking to extend these cost-savings and patient-enhancing CNO demonstrations for another 3 years.

AEGIS EXCELLENCE AWARD TO LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the Long Beach Naval Shipyard has, throughout its history, demonstrated that it is one of the most effective, cost efficient yards, public or private, in the Nation. Despite this impressive record, the Navy recommended, as part of the 1995 base closure round, that the Long Beach Naval Shipyard be closed. That recommendation was ratified by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission and signed into law by President Clinton.

The closure of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in September 1997 will be a tremendous loss to the Navy and to the Nation. Just how serious this loss will be was demonstrated again last month when the Long Beach Naval Shipyard was given the AEGIS Excellence Award by Rear Adm. G. A. Huchting, the Navy's AEGIS program manager, "for its outstanding contributions to the completion of the Regular Overhaul [ROH] of the USS *Antietam* (CG 54)."

In his message to Cpt. John Pickering, commanding officer of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Admiral Huchting said, "Long Beach Naval Shipyard's excellent support to both the crew of *Antietam* and the AEGIS Program Office was instrumental in ensuring the success of this complex and technically demanding availability."

"The execution of *Antietam's* overhaul was challenged by several unexpected difficulties, such as consistently poor weather conditions, which significantly delayed progress on all outside work. Long Beach Naval Shipyard accepted each challenge with an aggressive attitude and extraordinary flexibility. Through superb teamwork and perseverance, shipyard personnel accomplished nearly 100,000 mandays of industrial work, enabling *Antietam* to complete its availability on time and under budget.

"Long Beach Naval Shipyard's professionalism and dedication to quality were key factors in the redelivery of an upgraded *Antietam* to the Fleet. In recognition of this outstanding accomplishment, I am very pleased to present

the AEGIS Excellence Award to Long Beach Naval Shipyard for an effort that truly exemplifies AEGIS team spirit and the pursuit of excellence. Congratulations on a job well done!"

Admiral Huchting's message confirms what those of us who fought to preserve the shipyard argued, that the Long Beach Naval Shipyard is a critical national security resource which, when closed, cannot be replaced. And it further reaffirms the quality, commitment, and dedication of the shipyard's work force. Though they are slated to lose their positions as the shipyard closes, the men and women who work at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard remain committed to doing the best possible job on behalf of their Nation. These dedicated men and women deserve our highest praise and deepest gratitude for the contribution they are making. The AEGIS Excellence Award is well deserved. I am proud to represent the employees of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard who earned it through their superb efforts and their commitment to excellence.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY TROLZ

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary citizen, businessman, and community leader in my district, Mr. Jerry Trolz of Goshen, IN, and to his hard-working employees.

Jerry is the owner of Goshen Stamping Co. I recently visited with him at his plant to observe an innovative "Partners in Education" Program which he has developed in conjunction with Goshen High School.

Under this program, Jerry puts talented high school students to work in his company as part of a structured academic/work curriculum. The students are given an opportunity to develop basic work skills and work habits and begin to learn a trade while they are still in school.

Before they can be admitted into the program, students must demonstrate a proficiency in basic reading, math, writing, communications, and economics. They must also demonstrate a commitment to the basic values of hard work, honesty, and integrity. Successful participants are guaranteed a job with Goshen Stamping after they graduate.

The partners in Education Program is filling an important niche in both the education and business communities in the Goshen area. It gives motivated students—particularly those who do not wish to attend college—a chance to learn a trade and secure a good paying job. At the same time, it provides companies such as Goshen Stamping with the steady influx of skilled workers they need to remain competitive in the increasingly global economy.

The program is working extremely well for both the students and the sponsoring businesses. Indeed, Goshen Stamping recently received the Emerson Tool Group's 1995 Distinguished Supplier Award, in recognition of its quality workmanship and skilled work force.

This is a reflection not only of Jerry's business skills, but also of the talented and dedicated employees at Goshen Stamping, and

the commitment they have made to excellence in the work place.

While Jerry Trolz has been a leader in developing the Partners in Education Program, his contributions to the community do not stop here. Earlier this month, Jerry was named the 1996 winner of the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club of Goshen, in recognition of his lifetime of community service.

Jerry is a charter member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Goshen; past chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of Elkhart County; past president of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce; and past president of the Goshen Industrial Club.

He is currently director of the Goshen Salvation Army and Goshen Hospital Health Systems Board; president of the Greater Goshen Association, a member of the advisory boards of First Source Bank, Goshen Partners in Education Committee, the Elkhart Career Center and Ivy Tech State College; and a long-time supporter of Lacasa, Habitat for Humanity, and Youth for Christ.

Mr. Speaker, it is all too common to hear people complain these days that our educational system is not doing a good enough job of motivating and teaching students, or that government is not doing enough to address the problems in our communities.

Jerry Trolz does not believe in complaining. He believes in solutions. In receiving the Book of Golden Deeds Award, Jerry was quoted as saying, "Community service is the rent you pay for being here on earth."

I am pleased to call attention to Jerry's lifetime of community service, and hope that his efforts will serve as an inspiration to all Americans to give a little more of their time and energy to make their communities and our country a better place to live.

IN MEMORY OF RONALD H. BROWN, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer some thoughts on the tragic passing of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. I would first like to convey my sincere condolences to his family: his wife Alma, and his children Tracey and Michael.

As I survey his life it is difficult not to be impressed by the richness and breadth of Ron Brown's accomplishments. It is the quintessential American story. He rose from modest beginnings in Harlem to the pinnacles of law, politics and government. Secretary Brown's life was an affirmation that in America a man of imagination, talent and determination could succeed.

His joy in serving as Secretary of Commerce was infectious. His dedication to helping young Americans aspire and succeed was genuine. And his commitment to serve his country was a constant throughout his life.

His smile, hopefulness and generosity will be missed.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SMYRNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Smyrna Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM G. HOUSTON

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished service of William G. Houston, an educator who has served the Lake Shore Central School District as Superintendent for over 30 years, on the occasion of his retirement.

Over those 30 years, William Houston dedicated his life to the enhancement of the Lake Shore District, and proved himself to be extraordinarily available to his faculty, staff, parents, and most importantly, students.

Considered the Dean of Superintendents in Western New York, William Houston's 30 year commitment to the same district far exceeds all others in Western New York, as well as most Superintendents throughout the entire State.

Throughout his tenure with Lake Shore Central, William Houston has established himself as an institution synonymous with academic commitment, rugged independence, insight and vision, hard work and dedication, and community involvement.

With retirement comes many opportunities, several personal, many professional. May he

meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor and which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Houston family, his colleagues, friends, the Lake Shore School District, all of us who have served as educators, and indeed, the entire Western New York community, to honor Superintendent William Houston for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to our community and its education.

JIM GILLIS PAYS DIVIDENDS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, managing other people's money demands a trustworthy, intelligent and sensible person. Not only is he or she responsible for shareholders' money, but for their well-being and livelihood. John Gillis is such an individual, who fulfills this responsibility with enthusiasm and dedication.

John Gillis, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Bay City Credit Union is retiring after serving 6 years as Vice Chair and 9 years as a member of the Board. He also served on the Asset/Liability Management, Building, and Personnel Committees. Prior to serving on the Board, John served for 7 years on the Credit Committee and served as its Chairman.

John spent tireless hours in these volunteer positions and performs his duties above and beyond the call of duty. His willingness to take on additional tasks and his 100 percent attendance record are extraordinary. John's keen awareness of his responsibility to keep the credit union strong matched well with his ability to speak with conviction rather than convenience.

The United Bay City Credit Union has over 16,000 members. The Board is charged with the tremendous responsibility and challenge of overseeing all activities of the credit union, including how to invest assets and watching out for shareholders' interests. John is a truly dedicated board member who always puts the credit union members first. His leadership and commitment will be sorely missed.

A lifelong resident of Bay City, John graduated from Handy High School. He started working for General Motors Powertrain when it was Bay City Chevrolet and is a valuable employee. An avid golfer, John will now have a little more time to practice his swing.

John could not have achieved these accomplishments without the support of his loving family including his wife, Kay, and their three children, Kevin, Matthew, and Amy.

John Gillis represents the spirit of volunteerism and community service which makes our country one of the greatest Nations in the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing John Gillis and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

THE PRESIDENT'S LEGACY OF
DEBT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, under President Clinton's spending policies, the national debt will increase by more than \$1.1 trillion—rising from \$4.1 trillion in January 1993 to \$5.2 trillion in December 1996. By failing to balance the budget in 5 years as he promised, this legacy of debt means higher mortgage, car and student loan payments for working families.

My Republican colleagues and I have put the brakes on out-of-control Federal spending. We have cut Government beyond targets set by the budget resolution—this means a savings of \$23 billion to the hard working American taxpayer. We have terminated hundreds of wasteful government programs and provided offsets to pay for disaster assistance. Since January, 1995, when Republicans gained control of Congress, my colleagues and I have saved taxpayers \$43 billion.

These numbers are proof that we are doing what we promised the American people—we are committed to balancing the budget in 7 years. While the President fights to maintain the status quo and bloated bureaucracies, my colleagues and I are fighting to relieve the American taxpayer.

My Republican colleagues and I support policies that help America's hard working families earn more and keep more of what they earn. This ensures they will have more time to do more for themselves, their children, their church, and their community.

IN HONOR OF CERRITOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Cerritos Community College on its 40th anniversary celebration. On Saturday, April 27, 1996, members of the community, Cerritos College staff, and city officials will join in celebrating 40 years of providing exemplary educational opportunities to area residents.

Cerritos Community College was established on June 10, 1956, when residents of Norwalk, Carmenita, Bloomfield, and other elementary districts voted to form a junior college district. The proposed college site was acquired on December 5, 1956, and soon after, construction began. By the end of 1959, eight buildings had been completed on campus, and funds were made available to provide the remaining facilities to accommodate a student body of 3,500 students. By 1961, the campus was beginning to look like a college, with the completion of four more buildings. In 1964, the campus included 95 acres, and 15 permanent buildings. By 1965, the enrollment of 10,000 students exceeded the expectations of all associated with the college.

By 1966, the college had grown to 135 acres, and soon after, enrollment exceeded 11,000 students. The administration and board of trustees turned to building the excellence of the academic program, which already had a strong foundation. Innovation in satellite courses, televised instruction, open entry classes, and the move into audio-visual instruction marked the coming decade. By 1972, enrollment reached an astonishing 17,000 students.

By its 25th anniversary, Cerritos College had educated nearly 250,000 students since it first opened its doors. Course offerings had expanded, a satellite campus had been implemented, and faculty and staff had grown to meet the community's needs. The college today has a automated on-line system, a modern teleconference center, and a learning assistance lab.

Today, Cerritos College serves area communities with a combined population of more than 450,000, and has an assessment value exceeding one billion dollars. Thousands of Cerritos College graduates have gone on to become distinguished members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cerritos Community College staff, administrators, President Fred Gaskin, and the board of trustees for being a part of Cerritos Community College's 40 years of valuable service to and education of our community.

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that would require television broadcast stations to dedicate at least 5 percent of their advertising time to public service announcements on drug and substance abuse.

Drug abuse and illegal narcotics trafficking are skyrocketing. Cocaine, heroin, marijuana and designer drug use have dramatically increased in the last 3 years particularly among our young people. Many education and expensive drug treatment programs have failed.

My colleagues, it is critical that we fight illegal narcotics on four fronts: interdiction; enforcement; education; and treatment. It is critical that we reduce demand and find better, more effective means of increasing drug education.

During the past few years one of the key participants in the drug education war, television, has shirked its responsibility. Television broadcasting in the United States, a publicly granted franchise, has backslid in its public responsibility and public obligation. Since 1991, support for antidrug messages in the media has decreased from one message per day to almost zero.

Mr. Speaker, nothing in our society influences children and adults more than television. Television in many instances has a greater influence than home, church and school. Television has a public service responsibility to assist America in a national crisis—

and we have a national crisis with drug and substance abuse.

We all know how television changes perceptions and attitudes in our society. Devoting a small fraction of airtime and public airwaves to fighting the drug war and ridding our children and Nation of this scourge is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in reversing the disturbing trend toward drug use. Help our children and all Americans by cosponsoring this important bill.

RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING
CORPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday April 25, 1996

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will afford U.S. nationals the opportunity to participate in reserve officer training corps scholarship programs.

Under current law, American Samoans born in American Samoa are considered U.S. nationals. These are persons who owe their allegiance to the United States, but are not U.S. citizens. Persons born in American Samoa are the only persons in the world who are given this status, as persons born on all other U.S. soil may become U.S. citizens by right of birth.

Also under current law, only U.S. citizens are authorized to enlist in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, or ROTC for short, scholarship programs, and only U.S. citizens are eligible to become military and naval officers.

The legislation I am introducing today would require U.S. national residents residing in a State of the United States and desiring to apply for a ROTC scholarship program, to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of being accepted into the program. The legislation would also require U.S. nationals who are not residents of a State of the United States, to become a resident of a State, and to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of becoming a resident as defined in our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation strikes a fair balance between two competing interests. On the one hand, it gives the resident of American Samoa the same opportunities to become military and naval officers as the residents of the States and the other territories. On the other hand, while keeping the requirement that all military and naval officers be U.S. citizens, it requires U.S. nationals to prove their willingness to serve our country in a timely manner, thereby ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not spent on someone who will later prove ineligible for service.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a copy of the legislation with my statement.

H.R.—

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

Section 2104(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (6), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421-1459), become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the program for advanced training; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

'(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the program for advanced training."

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

(a) GENERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (4), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421-1459) become a resident of a State (within in such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program."

(b) ARMY RESERVE AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (5), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421-1459, become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436) or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program."

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT

Section 12102(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" the first place such term appears;

(2) by inserting a comma after "United States" the first place such term appears; and

(3) by inserting ", or is a national of the the United States eligible (as provided in sections 2104 (b), 2207(b), or 2107a(b) of this title) for advanced training in, or financial assistance as a member of, the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps" after the close parenthesis

HONORING THE SYKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Sykes Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people giving freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and to urge support for closing the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant.

It was 10 years ago, April 26, 1986 that reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant exploded. And the effects of that explosion are still with us today. Millions of people, including more than a million children, were exposed to the high levels of radiation that escaped from the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant.

Many have suffered the consequences of that exposure, which has led to thyroid cancer, birth defects, diseases of the immune system and more.

The world has responded to the suffering of the people affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The Ukrainian-American community, the Belarusian-American community, the Moldovan-American community, the Russian-American community and other Eastern and Central European-American communities have led the way, sending millions of dollars and teams of doctors and nurses to help the relief efforts. But even 10 years after this disaster, the effects of Chernobyl are still with us. There is much work left to do.

I have introduced, with other Members of Congress, a resolution to help ensure that the world and the people most directly affected by Chernobyl will one day be able to put this tragedy behind them. The resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to continue its efforts to close all the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl in a safe and expeditious manner. It calls upon the President of the United States to continue to support the process of closing the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant. It calls upon the President to continue and enhance humanitarian, medical, social impact planning, and hospital development assistance for Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other nations most directly affected by the Chernobyl disaster. It calls upon the President to encourage national and international health organizations to expand the scope of research into the public health effects of Chernobyl. And it recognizes April 26, 1996, as the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

The people of the United States have a deep interest in freedom and democracy in Eastern and Central Europe, which will contribute to peace and prosperity around the world. Our efforts to assist the nations affected by the Chernobyl disaster will benefit all nations, including our own. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO JOE GROSCOST ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and recognize an outstanding citizen from Sandusky, OH. Mr. Joe Groscost will be retiring from his distinguished career of teaching and coaching at the conclusion of the 1995-96 school term.

Joe started his coaching career as an assistant swim coach at Perkins High School in 1966. He became the head coach in the fall of 1967. Joe started one of the first girls' high school swim programs no northwest Ohio in 1978. His record as a head coach is outstanding. He holds the Ohio State High School record for the number of victories as a head coach at one high school with 455 wins and 136 losses. His teams have garnered more than 135 titles. He was selected Boys Northwest District Coach of the Year five times plus Girls District Coach of the Year two times.

Mr. Groscoast founded the Vacationland Swim Club in 1970 to promote swimming and fitness in his community. The club has been in continuous existence since that time and is an asset to Sandusky community. Mr. Groscoast also started a learn-to-swim program that has been instrumental in teaching young children how to swim and water safety.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. "G" as he is affectionately known, has been a positive influence on the lives of the many young men and women who have come in contact with him. He has been instrumental in guiding many teens and has provided constructive assistance to people that have come into contact with Joe even after their high school days were over.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the successful accomplishments of Joe Groscoast and to wonderful example he has set for others.

ERMA BOMBECK: AN AMERICAN MODEL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Erma Bombeck, who passed away on April 23, 1996. Erma Bombeck, columnist, suburban housewife, and life philosopher shared her humor with America for 25 years. Ms. Bombeck celebrated the day to day chaos and hysteria of suburban life in her syndicated column "At Wits End."

Ms. Bombeck lives on in best selling books such as: "The Grass Is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank," and "If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?" A true humanist, in 1989 Ms. Bombeck wrote a touching tribute to children surviving cancer titled, "I Want To Grow Hair, I Want To Grow Up, I Want To Go To Boise." She then benevolently went on to donate her \$1.5 million advance fee to cancer research, 3 years before she was diagnosed with the dreadful disease. After a bout with breast cancer, she was stricken with a fatal kidney disease. Although she received a kidney transplant in early April, she was unable to recover.

As a resident of Arizona, we are proud that such a talented woman made her home in our beautiful State. Erma Bombeck will be remembered for bringing everyday life to a comedic artform. The columns, which are her legacy, will be proudly displayed for years to come in a place of honor all across America, the family refrigerator.

IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM "BILL" SENN

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Dr. W.L. "Bill" Senn, one of Baton Rouge's most-respected businessmen and community leaders,

on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of service with Exxon Chemical Americas.

Bill received bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in chemistry from Louisiana State University and served in the U.S. Air Force. His Exxon career began in 1957 as a chemist in the Exxon Research Laboratories in Baton Rouge. He served in various supervisory assignments including department and division head posts until 1976.

Dr. Senn served as manager of the company's engineering department for 2 years and then was named manager of Exxon's Baytown, TX chemical plant. In August 1981, he returned home to Baton Rouge as manager of the Baton Rouge Chemical Plant which he has headed since.

Mr. Speaker, I've known Bill Senn since 1986 and have always sought and valued his counsel. Whenever I return home and whatever I do, Bill is always there supporting local communities with his time and talents.

Since he and his wife, the former Patricia Harrison of Baton Rouge, will continue to make their home in Baton Rouge, I expect Bill will be just as active in the community after retirement as he is now.

Highlights of his involvement in industry, governmental affairs, and community organizations include serving in the past as chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Chemical Association [LCA], chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Public Affairs Research Council, and chairman of the Baton Rouge United Way general campaign. He has been chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance since its inception and also currently serves on the LCA board.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bill Senn has served his company and community with distinction and integrity. I value the counsel he has shared with me over the years and wish him the best as he moves on to new challenges and opportunities.

THE DRIVE AWAY FROM ETHANOL WELFARE ACT OF 1996

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to eliminate the ethanol tax subsidy.

In the November 1994 elections, the American people voted for a Congress that would balance the budget, scrutinize every cent that Federal Government spends and examine every Federal program, including corporate welfare. For far too long American taxpayers have subsidized one of the most egregious examples of corporate welfare—the ethanol industry.

Some people have asked me why should I care about the ethanol tax subsidy. Let me tell you why.

In November 1995, Congressman BILL ARCHER of Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, moved the Balanced Budget Act, through his committee. That bill

included a provision to eliminate the ethanol tax subsidy. However, before the full House could even consider that historic legislation that provision was stripped out. A vote was not even allowed.

My constituents were outraged. My congressional offices were besieged by upset phone callers. At first, I wasn't exactly sure why they felt so betrayed. Frankly, I didn't know much about the ethanol industry.

I discovered that between the years of 1983 and 1994, the State of Washington lost \$164 million in Federal highway money which means that Washington State motorists spent an additional \$97.71 per driver on car maintenance and repairs in 1993.

In my State, the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency recently called for the lifting of the winter-time oxygenated fuel program. Their reasoning was that Puget Sound drivers were paying as much as \$25 million a year in reduced gas mileage, clogged fuel filters and fuel injection systems and slightly higher increases at the pump. The Air Control Agency went on to find that the exhaust from cars is much cleaner and any environmental benefit from ethanol is negligible.

While working people and their families in my State paid Federal gas taxes, the safety of their everyday driving was being compromised because there was not enough money to repair roads and bridges. And, Federal highway money was being used to subsidize ethanol production which, in turn, was artificially inflating the price of beef, milk, and pop that families were paying at the corner store in my State.

What I learned was that Americans are paying Federal gas taxes designated for highway construction and bridge repair and those same hard-earned dollars are paving the ethanol industry's road to the bank with gold.

Today, I am introducing the Drive Away From Ethanol Welfare Act of 1996. It has 53 original cosponsors and enjoys the support of Chairman BUD SHUSTER, Chairman BOB LIVINGSTON, and Chairman BILL CLINGER. It is a very bipartisan bill because the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee, SAM GIBBONS, was my first original cosponsor.

The Drive Away From Ethanol Welfare Act ensures the elimination of this ridiculous tax break in the year 2000. It reduces the tax subsidy immediately by 3 cents. In the interim, no ethanol producer will have an investment stranded.

The Drive Away From Ethanol Welfare Act eliminates the cashflow provision that has made the industry profitable for two decades. Ether will no longer be eligible, immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to take a stand against an egregious case of corporate welfare.

CONGRATULATING THE SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE FOR WINNING THE 1996 CBA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to

the Sioux Falls Skyforce for winning the Continental Basketball Association championship. By defeating the Fort Wayne Fury 4 games to 1, the victorious Skyforce returned home to Sioux Falls with the franchise's first championship in its 7-year history. Led by most valuable player Henry James, the Skyforce battled their way through the playoffs, gathering momentum with each closely contested game, and capping their season of a lifetime with Devin Gray's buzzer beater to give the Skyforce their cherished championship.

I would like to congratulate coach Mo McHone, the Skyforce organization, and the players for their commitment to excellence during this championship season. I would also like to thank the people of Sioux Falls and the surrounding communities for their loyalty and support for the Sioux Falls Skyforce throughout the existence of the franchise. Skyforce players could always count on the fans to fill the arena, cheering them on through the last-second victories and the heartbreaking losses.

On behalf of all South Dakotans, I extend to the Sioux Falls Skyforce my congratulations on winning the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship.

HONORING THE WOODBURY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE WISDOM OF ABE MARTIN

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, Abe Martin, the mythical philosopher created by the early 20th century Indianapolis News writer, Kin Hubbard, said this:

When Lem Moon was acquitted of the murder of his wife, he was asked by Judge Pusey if he had anything to say. And he said, "I never would have shot her if I'd realized they wuz going to put me through so much red tape."

Abe's wisdom endures.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HARRY A.
FOSTER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man who devoted much of his life helping and improving the lives of others through his devotion to Michigan's agricultural heritage. Harry A. Foster passed away recently in his home in Okemos, MI on March 11, 1996.

Harry was born and raised on his family's farm in southwestern Michigan where he excelled in 4-H and Future Farmers of America [FFA] projects. At a young age, he earned his American Farmer Degree while active in the FFA and served as State President of the Michigan Farm Bureau of Young People. He was also an alumnus of Michigan State University's Agricultural Technology Program and earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics.

After graduation, Harry served as a 4-H extension agent in Livingston County. In 1961, he became the initial employee of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association [MACMA] where he provided 27 years of outstanding service. After serving MACMA, he became Executive Director of the Michigan Asparagus and Michigan Plum Advisory Boards where his contributions were numerous. Mr. Foster's long and distinguished professional career is a testament to his dedication and to his genuine concern for agriculture and farmers in Michigan and around the country.

Harry's community involvement extended beyond his professional career. He was an active member of the Okemos Community Church and served as president of the Okemos Board of Education. Due to his outstanding advocacy and his enduring compassion, he courageously envisioned and founded the Dyslexia Resource Center.

Harry took great pride in the relationships he developed in the Nation's Capitol on behalf of the producers and their marketing interests he represented so fervently. Many of the actions of this genuine farmer's friend have benefited producers and their attendant industries across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in celebrating the many accomplishments and achievements of Harry Foster and in honoring his memory.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JANIE A.
GREENE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, celebrating 101 years of a thriving lifetime is a monumental achievement. I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Janie A. Greene, a resident of Brooklyn since 1933. Mrs. Greene was born on April 29, 1895, and she has experienced a bountiful life.

Janie was born in Georgetown, SC, to her proud parents Prince and Clara Browne. In 1915 she married Walley Greene. They remained married until he died in 1931. Four children were born out of that marriage, Thelma Greene McQueen, Clifton Greene, Oreda Greene Dabney, and Myrtle Greene Whitmore, whom she presently resides with. A devoted family member, Mrs. Greene has 11 grandchildren, and a host of great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

The church is a central part of Mrs. Greene's life. She has been a member of People's Institutional A.M.E. for over 55 years. Mrs. Greene is presently a charter member of the South Carolina Club and also a member of the Virginia Smith Missionary Society. Among her varied interests are: gardening, reading, shopping, and preparing daily brunch for herself and her family.

It is indeed rare for a person to live to be 101 years old, but it is even rarer to experience such a rich life in that length of time. I am proud to claim her as a resident in my home borough of Brooklyn.

THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Ukrainian-Americans across the country will commemorate the ten year anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

It is hard to believe that 10 years have passed since the devastating news of the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. While the official death count remains at 33, we all know that the number of lives affected by this tragedy reaches well into the thousands. Besides those who have died because of the exposure, others have lost their health, their economic well-being, their environment, and their spiritual outlook on life.

We have been, however, successful in providing some of the most needed assistance to those who have suffered. The work of so many dedicated relief organizations has paved the way for aid, medical care, and government

programs which have provided invaluable care for the victims of the Chernobyl calamity. Unfortunately, it is not likely we have experienced the full consequences of the disaster. Nor have we provided all the resources needed to help those living through this nightmare. As we remember this event this weekend, we must renew our pledge to continue our help in the future.

I am proud to represent a large and energetic Ukrainian community—an active and spirited community which has dedicated itself to helping the people of Ukraine. As we all work together to support Ukraine's flowering democracy and strong economic growth, we continue to hold a special place in our hearts for those affected by the Chernobyl disaster. We will remember Chernobyl.

THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE AND PERSONNEL ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R.—, the Federal Railroad Administration Performance and Personnel Enforcement Act. The bill will provide for institutional reforms at the Federal Railroad Administration and other improvements to the rail safety statutes aimed at promoting a safer, more secure rail safety network. I would like to emphasize that the railroad system is essentially safe today, thanks to the substantial gains in safety that have been achieved since the late 1970s. In 1978, the train accident rate was nearly 15 accidents per million trainmiles, or 3.9 times what it was in 1995. Railroads are safe when compared to other modes of transportation as well. About 40,000 people are killed each year on the Nation's highways, compared to about 600 fatalities that are attributed to railroad operations.

Yet rail travel is becoming increasingly complex and we must ensure that our safety requirements keep up with today's operational realities. Traffic on the mainlines continues to grow and the increased use of freight, intercity passenger and commuter traffic on the same corridors poses new challenges for ensuring safety. Unfortunately, after the 2 best years in rail safety history, rail accidents appear to be on the rise. In January and February alone rail freight and passenger accidents resulted in 19 fatalities, 230 injuries, and \$64 million in property damage.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, I sponsored three hearings on the issue of rail safety during the month of March. These hearings focused on the issues of human factors and grade crossing safety, equipment and technology in rail safety, and advanced train control technology. This

last hearing was held jointly with the Technology Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

One thing is clear from these hearings: the Federal Railroad Administration needs to be reformed. In three significant areas where rulemakings are pending (power brake safety, two-way end of train devices and track safety standards), the Federal Railroad Administration has missed the statutory deadlines for completing the rulemakings by as much as 2 years. In the wake of the Burlington Northern Sante Fe accident at Cajon Pass, CA, the Federal Railroad Administrator issued an emergency order requiring use of the two-way end of train device for operations in the area. Sadly, the emergency order would not have been needed had the FRA met its statutory deadline for the rulemaking.

And in another area of concern, the Hours of Service Act, the FRA and rail labor and management have all been guilty of foot dragging in establishing pilot projects that were supposed to form the basis for changes to the act during the next authorization cycle. A report on the subject is due at the end of the year, and to date not a single pilot project has been implemented. This is unacceptable and I believe that my bill, through a combination of institutional reforms that will force FRA to be more accountable in carrying out congressional mandates, and improvements to the rail safety statutes will help ensure safety on the Nations' railroads.

HONORING THE WESTMORELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "There fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and

qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

EARTH DAY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, we have just celebrated Earth Day here in the United States and, I hope, rededicated ourselves to protecting our environment. But at the same time, there are others on this planet commemorating the anniversary of an environmental catastrophe.

I'm speaking of the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. On April 26, in Kiev as well as in many other cities around the globe, including many here in the United States, people will gather to discuss the aftermath of that accident. But more importantly, they will be looking to the future, and not only to seek assurances that there will be no more such disasters but to rededicate countries and citizens to environmental protection.

I am particularly proud, Mr. Speaker, to note a most unique and important partnership which has developed around the anniversary. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Foundation [CCRF], a group based in Short Hills, NJ, and Hamden, CT and formed 5 years ago, has already turned about \$2 million in donations into about \$40 million in airlifted supplies to the people of Ukraine, most urgently needed pharmaceuticals.

CCRF has now received a large grant from the Monsanto Co. and together this charitable organization and this American firm are launching on this anniversary a major healthcare initiative for children and women in outlying areas. It will enable CCRF and the Ukrainian doctors and hospitals with whom it works to extend vital care to people in farm communities. The initiative will have strong focus on prenatal care and education for pregnant women.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a great model for the other groups, other companies, other countries, not just a one-shot, one-day commemoration of an environmental disaster but a longer-term commitment by an American-based charitable group and an American corporation.

I might add that our State Department, especially Ambassador Richard Morningstar, the Coordinator of Assistance to the CIS, and our United States Ambassador in Ukraine, William Miller, have been most cooperative in assisting the development of this project.

Today in Kiev there was an airport event welcoming a United States Government airlift of more than \$11 million of needed drugs and medical equipment. At that event, both Ambassador Morningstar and Ambassador Miller as well as high-level Ukrainian officials praised the Monsanto/CCRF project as a

model for companies and charitable organizations everywhere and a sign that the Chernobyl commemoration is not just a 1 day event.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SERVICE MEN
AND WOMEN IN BOSNIA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is an old military saying which alerts us to expect the unexpected. This time-tested adage is as true today as we send young fighting men and women to Bosnia as it was two generations ago in World War II.

On April 27, 1996, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and the VFW Post 3729 will commemorate the 52d anniversary of Exercise Tiger. Exercise Tiger was designed to be a dress rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of France. But as is so common in the "fog of war," the best laid plans are always subject to the unexpected, the unanticipated, the unforeseen.

And so it was on April 28, 1944 when an American amphibious assault force which was practicing for the D-Day invasion was suddenly attacked by German warships. The surprise attack resulted in the death of 946 men, the second highest death toll of that long and embittered war.

Today, over 20,000 U.S. service men and women are serving in Bosnia in an effort to again secure peace in Europe. These dedicated individuals, like those who have served so honorably before them, have the difficult task of fulfilling the commitments made by American foreign policy makers. And like those who served in uniform over 50 years ago, the unexpected can happen at any moment with devastating effect.

I wish to salute the fine men who served and died 52 years ago while conducting Exercise Tiger. There is a special kinship between those American heroes and the men and women who today are serving in Bosnia. I wish also to pay tribute to Walter Domanski of the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and Bill Cadmus, Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3729. These two fine individuals are "keepers of the flame," ensuring that Americans will remember and reflect on the sacrifices that our military has made and continues to make on our behalf.

MERCURY ELECTRONICS: FIFTY
YEARS AT THE FRONT LINES,
DEFENDING AMERICA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company that has provided important contributions to our national defense and to the defense of freedom worldwide. That company is Mercury Electronics, celebrating its 50th anniversary this month.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

For half a century, Mercury Electronics has provided essential components for our Armed Forces in the air, on land, and at sea. In this role, they have contributed mightily to America's defense, and the part that our Armed Forces have played in protecting the free world throughout the cold war. They continue this activity, helping the United States and her men and women serving under arms to secure the peace and safety necessary for the preservation of the American way of life.

Not only has this company been a vital part of America's defense, but it has also been an exemplar of what America is all about. For the entire 50 years of its existence, Mercury has remained in the city of York in my district, providing jobs and economic stability. By remaining in its original locality, it has provided a continuity for its workers that has allowed them to build families in the area, and to remain close to their loved ones. Mercury Electronics has been a prime example of what small business can do. Its dedicated employees have enriched the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mercury Electronics on this occasion. Mercury has served America, not only in the role of manufacturing items for our armed forces, but also by showing what can be accomplished by hard-working people enjoying the freedoms their products have played a role in preserving. I congratulate Mercury Electronics on their 50th anniversary, and wish them many more.

GRANT PERMANENT MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO ROMANIA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, last month, our colleague, PHIL CRANE, chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, introduced legislation to grant permanent most-favored-nation status to the country of Romania. It is a bill that is overdue and I commend my colleague and the sponsors of the legislation for taking this step.

Of all the Eastern European nations journeying from a centrally planned economic system to that of a free market economy, Romania has had the longest road to travel. It suffered through 40 years of a Communist economic policy. Its 1989 revolution exposed the hollowness of that economic legacy, but it also exposed how deeply ingrained that way of thinking can become. Nevertheless, despite tremendous obstacles, Romania has not faltered in its attempt to join the Western economic community of nations.

Romania is making the hard choices. It is taming inflation. Between 1994 and 1995, the inflation rate was cut in half from 62 percent to 28 percent. After selling off numerous state enterprises, at the cost of increased unemployment, Romania's rate of unemployment has shrunk from over 11 percent in 1994 to less than 9 percent in 1995.

Romania's private sector has grown into a formidable economic force. Today, 45 percent of Romania's gross domestic product comes

from the private sector. By the end of this year, estimates show that 70 percent of its GDP will be generated by thousands of entrepreneurs who finally have the opportunity to determine their own economic future.

Romania is traveling a road that we in this country have encouraged by provisionally granting them MFN status. As a result, trade between our two nations has increased as United States exports take advantage of these new market opportunities. I review of Romania's economic policies, when coupled with its attempt at political democracy building, I believe that the prudent course of action for the United States is to make permanent a benefit we have granted Romania several times before. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support Chairman CRANE's bills.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADM. MICHAEL
KALLERES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Vice Adm. Michael Kalleres, who will be honored on April 28, 1996 by the Parish Council and the entire Cathedral Community of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This distinguished citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District will address the congregation during the Liturgy and again during a formal luncheon to be held in his honor. This event will take place at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, IN of which he and his wife, Georgia, have been longtime pioneer members.

Admiral Kalleres retired from active duty in September 1994 after 32 years of distinguished service as a naval officer. During this time, he led eight commands in combat and in peacetime, including two Financial Management Directorates. In addition, he led surface ships, squadrons, and two Joint Fleet Organizations.

Admiral Kalleres earned a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Management and Engineering from Purdue University and a master of science degree in Political and International Affairs from George Washington University. He is also a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College and the National War College.

Admiral Kalleres has received 18 military awards and decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and the 1990 Son of Indiana Award for Military Service. Admiral Kalleres' dedication and involvement in the community has been recognized by several other organizations. In 1988, he was awarded the Saint Andrew's Medal for public service by the Greek Orthodox Church. Moreover, Admiral Kalleres received the 1993 Leadership Award from the American Hellenic Institute, and, in March of that same year, he was vested into the International Service Order of Saint Andrew as an Archon. He received the AXIOs (Worthiness) Medal from the State of California, the 1992 State of Illinois Distinguished Citizen Award, and he was recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash in

1994. Admiral Kalleres has also been cited in the Marquis Who's Who since 1990.

This past January, Admiral Kalleres was elected to the National Board of the Salvation Army, where he serves on the Disaster Relief and Communications Committee. Furthermore, he is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at Purdue University, and he currently serves as a member of the Defense Science Board for Strategic Mobility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this fine citizen for his dedication to the United States, as well as his community in northwest Indiana. Admiral Kalleres' loyalty and dedication to his country should serve as a model for the citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District and all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANCIS A.
MAIER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a much respected family man who was a part of Dallas' business community and a part of Dallas' family, Mr. Francis A. (Frank) Maier. He was among the 35 people who died in a plane crash on April 3 while on a trade mission to war-torn Croatia with United States Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Mr. Maier was 50 years old.

Mr. Maier was originally from the Bronx in New York City. He attended college at Manhattan College earning a bachelor's degree in business administration. After graduation, he began his career at Westinghouse in 1967. Mr. Maier had a 20-year-long career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, and held several positions at Westinghouse, including director of project finance. A recruiting firm lured him to Dallas from Westinghouse in 1993.

As President of Enserch International, a subsidiary of Enserch Development Corporation, Mr. Maier dealt with trade issues for Enserch and represented his corporation and his country overseas. In the past several months, Mr. Maier had been to 10 Asian and European countries.

This is a sad time as we mourn the deaths of all of the people who died on that ill-fated flight, but we must not forget all of the contributions that these people gave to our country. Everyone in Dallas feels the loss of Mr. Maier's family and all of Dallas grieves with them.

HONORING THE WILSON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the Wilson Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

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By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL
PARK WILDERNESS

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act of 1996.

This bill, essentially identical to one that I introduced in the 103d Congress, is intended to provide important protection, and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding some 240,700 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation Systems.

Covering 91 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams. Indeed, the proposed wilderness will include examples of all the natural ecosystems present in the park.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain a true gem in our National Parks System also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

The wilderness boundaries for these areas are carefully located to assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings, and developed areas, privately owned land, and water supply facilities and conveyances—including the Grand River Ditch, Long Draw Reservoir, and the portals of the Adams Tunnel. All of these are left out of wilderness.

The bill is based on National Park Service recommendations. Since these recommendations were originally made in 1974, the north and south boundaries of Rocky Mountain Na-

tional Park have been adjusted, bringing into the park additional land that qualifies as wilderness. My bill will include those areas as well. Also, some changes in ownership and management of several areas, including the removal of three high mountain reservoirs make possible designation of some areas that the Park Service had found inherently suitable for wilderness.

In 1993, we in the Colorado delegation finally were able to successfully complete over a decade's effort to designate additional wilderness in our State's national forests. I anticipate that in the near future, the potentially more complex question of wilderness designations on Federal Bureau of Land Management lands will capture our attention.

Meanwhile, I think we should not further postpone resolution of the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that have been recommended for wilderness designation. Also, because of the unique nature of its resources, its current restrictive management policies, and its water rights, Rocky Mountain National Park should be considered separately from those other Federal lands.

We all know that water rights was the primary point of contention in the congressional debate over designating national forest wilderness areas in Colorado. The question of water rights for Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness is entirely different, and is far simpler.

To begin with, it has long been recognized under the law of the United States and Colorado, including in a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive Federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself.

Division One of the Colorado Water Court, which has jurisdiction over the portion of the park that is east of the continental divide, has already decided how extensive the water rights are in its portion of the park: the court has ruled that the park has reserved rights to all water within the park that was unappropriated at the time the park was created. As a result of this decision, in the eastern half of the park there literally is no more water for either the park or anybody else to get a right to.

This is not, so far as I have been able to find out, a controversial decision, because there is a widespread consensus that there should be no new water projects developed within Rocky Mountain National Park. And, since the park sits astride the continental divide, there's no higher land around from which streams flow into the park, so there is no possibility of any upstream diversions.

On the western side of the park, the water court has not yet ruled on the extent of the park's existing water rights there. However, as a practical matter, the Colorado-Big Thompson project has extensive, senior water rights that give it a perpetual call on all the water flowing out of the park to the west and into the Colorado River and its tributaries. As a practical matter under Colorado water law, therefore, nobody can get new consumptive water rights to take water out of the streams within the western side of the park.

And it's important to emphasize that any wilderness water rights amount only to guarantees that water will continue to flow through and out of the park as it always has. This preserves the natural environment of the park.

But it doesn't affect downstream water use. Once water leaves the park, it will continue to be available for diversion and use under Colorado law.

Against this backdrop, my bill deals with wilderness water rights in the following way.

First, it explicitly creates a Federal reserved water right to the amount of water necessary to fulfill the purposes of the wilderness designation. This is the basic statement of the reserved water rights doctrine, and is the language that Congress has used in designating the Olympic National Park Wilderness, in Washington, in 1988.

Second, the bill provides that in any area of the park where the United States, under existing reserved water rights, already has the right to all unappropriated water, then those rights shall be deemed sufficient to serve as the wilderness water rights, too. This means that there will be no need for any costly litigation to legally establish new water rights that have no real meaning. Right now, this provision would apply in the eastern half of the park. If the water court with jurisdiction over the western half of the court makes the same ruling about the park's original water rights that the

eastern water court did, then this provision would apply to the entire park.

The bill also specifically affirms the authority of Colorado water law and its courts under the McCarran amendment. And the bill makes it clear that it will not interfere with the Adams Tunnel of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which is an underground tunnel that goes under Rocky Mountain National Park. Why should we designate wilderness in a national park? Isn't park protection the same as wilderness, or at least as good?

The wilderness designation will give an important additional level of protection to most of the national park. Our national park system was created, in part, to recognize and preserve prime examples of outstanding landscape. At Rocky Mountain National Park in particular, good Park Service management over the past 79 years has kept most of the park in a natural condition. And all the lands that are covered by this bill are currently being managed, in essence, to protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will

never be roads, visitor facilities, or other man-made features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains.

This kind of protection is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As surrounding land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape.

Further, Rocky Mountain National Park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year.

This bill will protect some of our nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. And it will affirm our commitment in Colorado to preserving the very features that make our State such a remarkable place to live.