

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSE RESOLUTION 121 SUPPORTS
PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I will be returning home this weekend for a particularly happy event. To celebrate the Cambodian New Year and the beginning of the Year of the Ox, we are expecting between 40,000 and 50,000 people from all over America to attend a 3-day celebration in my congressional district, home to the largest Cambodian community in America. Unfortunately, in Cambodia itself, this New Year does not come with the same joy we will see in California.

According to news reports, many families have stayed at home rather than risk their personal safety by attending festivals or touring in cities, particularly in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Fear of violence has returned to the daily life of many Cambodians as relations between the two leading political parties have plummeted.

On March 30 of this year, Sam Rainsy, the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, was the target of a grenade attack that killed 19 and injured more than 100, including Ron Abney, an American who was in Cambodia working on behalf of the International Republican Institute to advance the cause of democracy. Sam Rainsy was only slightly injured in this attack. Sadly, those of us who championed the victory of the democratic process in Cambodia leading up to the free elections in 1993 are now watching the unraveling of peace and democracy in Cambodia.

Following the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements, the United States worked closely to help the people of Cambodia create an environment that would allow democracy to prosper. In the 1993 elections, more than 93 percent of eligible voters turned out to the polls. In the period following these elections, the people of Cambodia made great strides to bring greater prosperity and security to their land. Now, we are seeing these gains slip, causing increasing concern in Cambodia and in the United States. The elections expected in 1998 must not fall victim to attempts by undemocratic forces to turn back the gains made in this decade and plunge Cambodia back into chaos and violence.

Today, I am introducing House Resolution 121 with my distinguished colleagues BEN GILMAN, chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and DOUG BEREUTER, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Both have been leaders in the long effort to establish democracy and peace in Cambodia. The United States must continue

to help the people of Cambodia advance the democratic process and do so in an unbiased manner so that the people of Cambodia choose representatives who they want to lead them. We are introducing this resolution to express our deep concern over the events occurring in Cambodia and our concern for where these events may lead, while expressing our sympathy to the individuals wounded in the attack of March 30 and to the families of those killed. It condemns this incident as the act of terrorism that it was.

House Resolution 121 calls upon our Government to offer assistance to Cambodian officials to help track down and prosecute those responsible for the attack and calls upon the Cambodian Government to accept this offer. Finally, it calls upon all political parties in Cambodia to renounce and condemn all forms of political violence. The right of the people of Cambodia to choose their future without coercion must be maintained.

I know that many Members of this House also are committed to democracy and peace in Cambodia. We encourage you to cosponsor this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that House Resolution 121 be printed at the end of my remarks:

Whereas Cambodia continues to recover from more than three decades of recent warfare, including the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979;

Whereas Cambodia was the beneficiary of a massive international effort to ensure peace, democracy, and prosperity after the October 1991 Paris Peace Agreements on Cambodia;

Whereas more than 93 percent of the Cambodians eligible to vote in the 1993 elections in Cambodia did so, thereby demonstrating the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy;

Whereas since those elections, Cambodia has made significant economic progress which has contributed to economic stability in Cambodia;

Whereas since those elections, the Cambodia Armed Forces have significantly diminished the threat posed by the Khmer Rouge to safety and stability in Cambodia;

Whereas other circumstances in Cambodia, including the recent unsolved murder of journalists and political party activists, the recent unsolved attack of party officials of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic in 1995, and the quality of the judicial system—described in a 1996 United Nations report as “thoroughly corrupt”—raise international concern for the state of democracy in Cambodia;

Whereas Sam Rainsy, the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, was the target of a terrorist grenade attack on March 30, 1997, during a demonstration outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

Whereas the attack killed 19 Cambodians and wounded more than 100 men, women, and children; and

Whereas among those injured was Ron Abney, a United States citizen and employee of the International Republican Institute

who was assisting in the advancement of democracy in Cambodia and observing the demonstration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its sincerest sympathies to the families of the persons killed, and the persons wounded, in the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

(2) condemns the attack as an act of terrorism detrimental to peace and the development of democracy in Cambodia;

(3) calls upon the United States Government to offer to the Cambodia Government all appropriate assistance in identifying and prosecuting those responsible for the attack;

(4) calls upon the Cambodia Government to accept such assistance and to expeditiously identify and prosecute those responsible for the attack; and

(5) calls upon all Cambodian political parties to renounce and condemn all forms of political violence.

RECOGNITION OF MR. JASON
WONG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in commending Mr. Jason Wong, a senior at the Abraham Lincoln High School and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Mr. Wong's scholastic achievements are impressive indeed. He has maintained a high grade point average while taking challenging classes, and he ranks in the top 10 students in his high school class. His academic excellence has been recognized by his earning Golden State Exam honors in algebra and chemistry.

In addition to his impressive academic achievements, Mr. Wong has taken an active role in community service. He is the president of the Lincs Service Society, as well as a volunteer tutor at Ulloa Elementary School. He is a member of the Red Cross Club, American Culture Club, the International Committee against Racism, and the Chemistry Club. He has served as vice-president, secretary, and treasurer of the California Scholarship Federation, as well as a volunteer for the San Francisco Annual Chinese New Year Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jason Wong for his outstanding service to our community and congratulating him for his academic achievements.

● 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.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HAYES OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our distinguished colleague from Illinois, BOBBY RUSH, for reserving this special order. We gather to pay tribute to our good friend and former colleague, Charles Hayes, who passed away on April 8, 1997. We join members of his family, the people of Illinois, and others throughout the Nation in mourning his death.

When he was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1983, Charlie Hayes became the first elected representative of rank and file trade unionists to serve in this legislative body. It was a significant achievement for an individual who had devoted his life to fighting for the rights of working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Hayes was born in Cairo, IL. At an early age, he found employment at a flooring company where he was paid 15 cents per hour. Racism forced blacks who were employed at the plant to work in the lowest paid and least desirable positions, and to endure insults and indignation. The black workers formed a local union, later recognized by the company as the Carpenter's Local Union 1424, and Charlie was elected president at the age of 20. The action started him on a long career dedicated to protecting the rights of workers.

For more than 40 years, Charlie Hayes would fight to guarantee job benefits, equal employment opportunities and job protection for workers. He held various union posts including international field representative, district director, international vice president and regional director, and executive vice president. During his union days, Charlie was one of the highest ranking black elected union officials in the country.

Charlie Hayes was also intimately involved in the civil rights movement in this country. He worked side-by-side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott and the 1963 March on Washington. Charlie was also involved in the 1966 campaign for open housing in Chicago, the march in support of hospital workers in Charleston, SC, and Dr. King's last march in support of sanitary workers in Memphis, TN.

Mr. Speaker, in 1983 Charlie Hayes was elected to Congress from the First Congressional District of Illinois. He won the seat vacated by his friend, Harold Washington, following Harold's historic election as mayor of Chicago. Like many of my colleagues gathered in the Chamber this evening, I enjoyed a close friendship with Charlie Hayes. He was a hard working and dedicated public servant whom I respected and admired. He was also a close friend.

We recall Charlie Hayes for his strong leadership on education issues. As a member of the Education Committee, he made great strides in addressing the Nation's school dropout rates. He introduced full employment legis-

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lation, denounced unemployment as "morally unacceptable," and fought for national health insurance. Throughout his tenure, however, Charlie never forgot the working men and women of America. He stood strong for workers' rights and boasted a 100 percent voting record on issues important to labor.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me that Charlie Hayes has been taken from our midst. We are comforted, however, in knowing that he will never be forgotten. His contributions on behalf of the working men and women of this Nation, and on behalf of his constituents, has earned him a place in history. Charlie has found rest from his labors and he is at peace. I extend my sympathy to Charlie's family and the people of Illinois during this period of mourning.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HAYES OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a parting tribute to one of the foremost pioneers to the working man and woman. The late Congressman Charles Arthur Hayes spent more than 45 years of his life as a trade unionist. He succeeded the late Harold Washington in the House when Washington was elected mayor of Chicago. Congressman Hayes was a man who had a knack for organizing workers on all levels. He helped to organize Local 1424 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America and served as its president from 1940 to 1942.

From 1979 until his retirement in September 1983, Congressman Hayes was the international vice president and director of Region Twelve of the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union. In addition to seeking increased benefits and improved conditions for workers, Congressman Hayes also fought to eliminate segregation and discrimination in hiring and promotion in the industry. Congressman Hayes also sought to provide African-American and women workers with opportunities to serve as leaders in the labor movement.

Mr. Speaker, during his congressional career Congressman Hayes introduced several pieces of legislation to address the educational and employment needs of many Americans. Prominent among these are acts to encourage school dropouts to reenter and complete their education and to provide disadvantaged young people with job training and support services. Congressman Hayes also sponsored bills to reduce high unemployment rates and make it easier for municipalities to offer affordable utility companies. He consistently opposed the actions and programs of South Africa's white-minority government and in 1984 joined other demonstrators at its Washington Embassy in protest of the Pretoria regime's policies of racial separation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with the rest of my colleagues in tribute not only to a pioneer in

workers rights but to a pioneer in human rights.

PROTECTION OF OUR NATION'S FORESTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Representative CAROLYN MALONEY and over 50 cosponsors, the Act to Save America's Forests.

This bill is a dramatic and bold change in direction in how we as a nation protect and treat our public lands. Mudslides, scarred landscapes, preventable forest fires and destruction caused by clearcutting and other misguided forest management must end. This legislation is a huge step in that direction.

Our Nation's 155 national forests are home to 34 million acres of remote wilderness areas and 4,385 miles of wild and scenic rivers. They are a valuable resource that generates nearly \$199 billion in recreation dollars. For a century we have tried to balance the conservation of the land and continued access to those who use it. But, now, how we manage our public lands is no longer in balance. We favor timber creation instead of careful stewardship.

There are currently eight times more roads in National Forests than there are in the National Highway System. Year after year below cost timber sales are pushed through, which does not benefit the environment or the taxpayer. The most egregious step was the passage of the Timber Salvage Rider in the last Congress which waived all laws protecting these forests and had a devastating impact on the land, rivers and wildlife of our Nation.

The Act to Save America's Forest will end clearcutting and other even-age logging techniques throughout all lands controlled by the Federal Government. Under this bill, maintaining native forest biological diversity will be the priority of the Federal forest management activities. No longer will the Forest Service be charged with the task of exploiting and selling off our resources, often below costs, instead of conserving them.

The passage of this bill would also protect once and for all core areas of biodiversity including Roadless Areas, the Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest and over 100 specified areas spread throughout our Nation's forest system.

The overwhelming majority of American people support more environmental protection, not less. The bill I introduce today is a giant step forward fulfilling our obligation to protect and leave for future generations the lands that have been entrusted to us.

RECOGNITION OF ANNIE CHAU

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in commending

Annie Chau, a sophomore at San Mateo High School and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Ms. Chau's scholastic achievements are impressive indeed. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average while undertaking a challenging class schedule. Her academic achievements include the San Mateo High School McConville Award in Freshman Spanish, Golden State Exam Awards in first year algebra, geometry, and chemistry, as well as membership in the California Scholarship Federation. At San Mateo High School, she has served as class treasurer, as well as a member of the math team, Amnesty International, the Interact Club, and the International Club.

In addition to her impressive academic achievements, Ms. Chau has taken an active role in community service. She is a member of the San Mateo County Youth Commission, the San Mateo County Volunteer Center Youth Board, and the Foster City Youth Advisory Committee. Furthermore, she volunteers her talents at the Foster City Recreation Department, the ELLIPSE Peninsula AIDS Services, and the Peninsula Association for Retarded Children and Adults [PARCA].

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Annie Chau for her outstanding service to our community and congratulating her for her academic achievements.

LINKED FINANCING—A NEW ALTERNATIVE FOR AVIATION FUNDING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will establish a new funding mechanism for the Federal Aviation Administration called linked financing. This is an innovative and bold new mechanism for ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration receives the funding it requires while preserving the advantages of the existing tax structure.

I have worked closely with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association on this legislation, and I must credit my friend and former colleague, Jim Lightfoot of Iowa, with advancing this idea in the previous Congress.

Linked financing is based on a simple premise: The services provided by the FAA are an essential Government function, for which users pay. So it ought to be possible to spend more on FAA programs—when and if users are willing to pay more. But as we know, this isn't necessarily the case under existing budget rules. The cap on overall discretionary spending constrains our ability to increase spending on certain transportation programs, even when the users are willing to increase their contribution.

The administration has proposed replacing the current aviation taxes with direct user fees for FAA services to pilots and the airlines. However, user fees have many problems. They are costly to collect, they provide no in-

centive to manage costs, they have safety implications, and—most important—FAA would have little direct accountability to Congress for how the agency spends the money.

Linked financing is a better alternative. It would retain the excise taxes which airway system users now pay on airline tickets, fuel, and cargo. These taxes would continue to feed the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. The trust fund is for aviation spending only, and it finances most of the FAA's budget.

Under linked financing, what aviation users pay in taxes for a given year would depend on what Congress allowed the FAA to spend the year before. When the FAA's spending goes up, the taxes collected would be adjusted upward by a corresponding amount the following year, according to a predetermined formula. A narrow upper limit on the tax rates would keep the rates at a reasonable level. The objective is for tax revenues to match spending from year to year. I am confident that almost all of the necessary growth in tax revenue would result from aviation industry growth, not tax rate increases. After all, most of the long-term growth in FAA operations spending is justified by increased aviation industry growth. But if circumstances make it necessary for this essential safety-related agency to receive more revenue through tax rate adjustment, the formula would provide for that.

On the other hand, when FAA spending drops, tax rates would drop automatically the following year to reflect the decrease. This would ensure that users aren't paying for something they don't get. And aviation users would see a swift and direct benefit from coming to Congress with ways to reduce FAA spending as well as to increase it.

Linked financing also addresses the constraints imposed by the discretionary spending cap. Under the current rules, additional aviation revenue doesn't automatically lead to additional aviation spending. Why? Because overall discretionary spending is capped, regardless of how much money the Government takes in for a particular function.

The purpose of the spending caps is to help reduce the deficit by controlling government spending instead of raising taxes. However, under linked financing, aviation users would pay for the increased spending for FAA—not other taxpayers.

Therefore, the linked financing plan establishes an annual trust fund reserve account which would be available to the appropriations committees to supplement the resources otherwise available to them within the discretionary cap. This annual reserve account would be outside the discretionary cap, so the discretionary cap would not limit the ability of Congress to spend the funds deposited in the reserve account. The amount deposited in the annual reserve account each year would be equal to the annual increase in Aviation Trust Fund revenue, if any.

The key elements of linked financing are:

First, an adjustable tax rate which is linked to the amount of spending on the air transportation system.

Second, an annual reserve account outside the discretionary cap which is linked to the yearly increase in aviation tax revenue.

Linked financing assures that the taxes that aviation users pay are promptly spent for avia-

tion purposes. And it does this without major changes to the current budget process or the ability of Congress to oversee FAA's spending.

As an innovative mechanism for using dedicated taxes—taxes collected for a specific purpose—linked financing could offer a solution for other user-financed government programs, as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration's ongoing opposition to balancing the Federal budget has caused the surplus in the Aviation Trust Fund, once measured in billions of dollars, to dry up. For years I joined many Members of this House in asking that these surplus funds be spent on the intended purpose. The reauthorization of aviation taxes and highway spending programs gives the 105th Congress offers of a unique opportunity to change the way we fund these priority capital programs.

In fact, Senators BOND and CHAFEE recently introduced legislation in the other body which establishes a direct link between the amount collected annually in gas tax revenues and spending for highway programs. And although I disagree with the administration's user fee concept, I was interested to read in the President's budget that a direct link is now needed between dedicated taxes and the level of funding for the agency operations that affect them.

I believe linked financing holds considerable promise for addressing the future funding needs of our Nation's air transportation system, and could also be a solution for other transportation modes, and even other functions of government with dedicated sources of revenue.

Mr. Speaker, linked financing is an idea which deserves serious consideration. I urge my colleagues to give it their attention.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JACKIE ROOSEVELT ROBINSON

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I stand here in this Chamber and shower the late, great Jackie Robinson with praises and accolades for his contribution to major league baseball. Jackie Robinson always had fire in his eyes. There was an intensity in them, a determination from the lonesome odyssey of 1947 when he integrated baseball and changed America.

The versatile Jackie Robinson began his stellar sporting career in 1933 as a letterman in football, basketball, baseball, and track in Pasadena, CA. Destined for stardom, Robinson made the Pomona (CA) Tournament Baseball All-Star team, in his senior year, that included future major league standouts such as Ted Williams and Bob Lemon.

Jackie Robinson's baseball career led him to many challenges outside the sports arena. After being traded to the New York Giants in

December 1956, Robinson contemplated retirement. The following month, Robinson announced his retirement, moving from the dug-out to a desk, trading his bat for a pen. Robinson became vice president of Community Affairs for the Chock Full O'Nuts Co., a restaurant chain. In 1964, he resigned from the restaurant company to organize the Freedom National Bank in Harlem.

The black-owned bank's mission was "a community enterprise which will in every way belong to the people it is to serve * * *." As chairman of the board, Robinson helped raise more than \$1.5 million.

That same year, 1964, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, asked him to become one of six deputy national directors. Robinson was Rockefeller's first black staff member. Rockefeller later named him to his executive committee as special assistant of community affairs.

Today, 50 years later, we honor Jack Roosevelt Robinson for his contributions to our beloved game of peanuts and crackerjacks. Our game where the only race that matters is the race to the bag. When color is only a means to distinguish one uniform from that of another. Robinson made it possible for all Americans to see beyond skin color and assess a person's true character. For without Jackie's inspiration and dedication, America's game would not be what it is today, our national pastime. For this reason we have cause to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this barrier breaker and remember his hardships as well as his triumphs.

PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1997 I wrote to the President to express my support for his \$900 million budget request for the New Independent States [NIS] of the former Soviet Union. On April 11, 1997 I received a reply from the President, outlining why he believes his budget request for the NIS serves the American national interest, promotes market and democratic reform, and merits full bipartisan support. I commend the correspondence to the attention of my colleagues. The text follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 17, 1997.

HON. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to commend you for your Fiscal Year 1998 budget request for increased funding for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. I support your request for \$900 million, including your Partnership for Freedom initiative to encourage economic growth, sustain civil society and promote people-to-people linkages in the New Independent States.

Your direct involvement and leadership in 1993 made the difference in the decision by Congress to appropriate the very large sum

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of \$2.5 billion in assistance for the New Independent States. I believe your direct involvement and leadership will also be essential to win Congressional support for your FY 1998 budget request.

Democratic and market reform in Russia and the NIS are in the national security interests of the United States, and your assistance request promotes these critical U.S. interests.

I urge you to speak out in support of your budget request, and to resist earmarks that impair the effectiveness of the U.S. assistance program.

I look forward to working with you in support of this important initiative.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,

Ranking Democratic Member.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, April 11, 1997.

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Thank you for your letter supporting my FY 1998 budget request for \$900 million to reinforce the next phase of reform in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. These funds will help us seize a historic opportunity: to turn the nascent foundations of market economies in the NIS into competitive, open markets that benefit their citizens and Americans alike.

Already, two-thirds of the people in the NIS live under democratically elected leaders in emerging market economies. Reforms are taking hold, but it is clear that the NIS still has a long way to go. Our timely, targeted investments in democracy and market economies can make the crucial difference.

Priority one is to tackle barriers to investment, lock in economic reform and, at the same time, open the region's vast resources to American business. The changes we support today in tax laws, commercial codes, judicial systems and legal protections against crime and corruption will resonate for decades to come. And these investments in good policy can leverage billions of dollars in trade and investment, which means jobs for Americans at home.

Priority two is to bolster generational change, and in so doing strengthen the social underpinnings of democracy. Our proposal will allow us to double people-to-people exchanges that will forge lasting ties with today's pioneers of reform and the young people who will be tomorrow's leaders. With carefully targeted support, we can work hand-in-hand with American foundations, universities, business associations and volunteer groups to nurture an emerging civil society. Indeed, the seeds planted today through thousands of reforms and grassroots networks will become a bedrock for pluralism and good governance.

This funding request also gives us the opportunity to complete structural reforms still under way in Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Many of these countries face the challenge of completing their privatization programs, restructuring energy systems and unleashing the potential of small business. The impact will be seen in thousands of private sector jobs that will be the driving force for economic growth.

I am even more convinced, following the Helsinki Summit, that the time is ripe for this initiative. President Yeltsin pledged to pursue a bold new reform agenda to stimulate investment and growth in Russia. Our assistance can bolster him in this effort. And the leaders of Ukraine, Georgia and many of

the region's other countries have committed to take steps to make reform irreversible.

This initiative—what I call a true Partnership for Freedom—has my strongest commitment. By helping to entrench democratic practices and market economies in the NIS, it advances our overarching national interest in seeing that these countries develop as partners of America. The Partnership for Freedom merits full bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify for the record the proper interpretation of this legislation as it relates to the judiciary. First, let me address the issue of assigning numerical ratings to applicants who are veterans. As amended, H.R. 240 does not require the judicial branch to employ a numerical rating system or assign numerical points to veterans. Nor does this legislation in any way authorize executive branch agencies to adjudicate complaints within the judiciary. All that H.R. 240 requires of the judicial branch is to provide the same degree of protection.

Second, concern was expressed about the appropriateness of the use of the term "regulation" for the judicial branch. Its use is appropriate. Although many of the statutes in title 28 regarding the judiciary and judicial procedures use terms such as "guidelines" or "procedures," a number also explicitly refer to "regulations" issued by the Judicial Conference. For example, 28 U.S.C. §§ 153(b), 155(b), 375(h), 1869(k). The use of this term in H.R. 240 is consistent with these statutes. To be sure, it is not the intent of this bill to require the Judicial Conference to follow Administrative Procedure Act—like procedures to which they are not otherwise subject.

Third, questions have been raised regarding the impact of the provision in this legislation that requires consultation with veterans' service organizations. This provision will not impair the independence of the judiciary. It is my understanding that the judicial branch already consults from time to time with various types of groups such as practitioners who routinely appear before the courts, through the Judicial Conference and through various circuit conferences. Veterans' service organizations have a keen understanding regarding veterans' employment problems and could offer valuable assistance to the Judicial Conference in formulating its policies. Finally, all that is required by this provision is consultation not agreement. None of these organizations would have veto power over any regulations promulgated by the judiciary under this provision of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my remarks. As previously noted, my purpose in addressing the above issues is to present the proper interpretation of these provisions for the record.

A SALUTE TO RUTH HAYRE—DE-
FENDER OF PHILADELPHIA'S
CHILDREN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Hayre, grande dame of Philadelphia's public schools. Ms. Hayre recently announced her retirement from the Philadelphia School Board.

Her departure marks the end of a career in city schools that has spanned five decades. Ms. Hayre was an honor graduate of West Philadelphia High School at age 15. By the time she was 20, she had earned her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania and was headed toward a career in education.

In 1931, Ms. Hayre was denied a teaching job in Philadelphia because of the color of her skin. She joined the school district a decade later as one of the first African-American professionals in the system. Hers was a life of firsts: the first black high school teacher, the first black principal, the first black district superintendent, and the first black woman named to the school board.

Always an advocate for high academic standards, Ruth Hayre in 1988 established a college scholarship program for needy high school students.

In 1946, when she first came to the old William Penn High School for Girls—which was then two-thirds black—Hayre was struck by the way African-American students were pushed into less demanding courses. She complained that one course she was assigned to teach had little value or direction. When she became principal of the school a decade later, she immediately abolished the course.

In 1991, she became the first black woman to serve as president of the Philadelphia School Board. As president, she spearheaded the effort to modernize Philadelphia's schools and to bring the district's curriculum and health education efforts into the 20th century.

As the Philadelphia Inquirer editorialized last week, "For decades, Ruth Wright Hayre's name has been synonymous with quality education. Her retirement next month for health reasons from the School Board of Philadelphia should inspire her colleagues to live up to the exciting standard she set."

In light of her many accomplishments in education, civil rights and the arts, and the void she leaves in lives of all Philadelphians, I am proud to honor Ruth Hayre.

TRIBUTE TO THE CRANBURY
LIONS CLUB 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Cranbury Township Lions Club which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Coincidentally, the Lions 65th anniversary coincides with Cranbury's tercentennial.

Having served as a Lion myself since 1982, I am well aware of the important role and contribution that the Lions Club makes in so many communities around our country.

We have heard before, right here in this Chamber, that the era of big government is over. But it is not good enough to just say it, we must act and reach out to our neighbors and those in need. The Lions have been doing just that for many years all over the country and the world.

We in this Nation have a choice. A choice to volunteer and help each other or let government assume that role. If big government is truly over, then we as individuals need to assume some of the responsibilities of government. We the people, need to help our fellow citizens who are in need.

The Lions Clubs around our Nation have consistently been involved in efforts to help those in need to see better through the collection and refurbishment of used eyeglasses, diabetes education, and a host of other activities. America's Lions are doing their share.

The Cranbury Lion's Club has for the past 8 years supported Project Quest, a campaign for drug prevention focused on Kindergarten through eighth grade students. Project Quest provides funding for teacher training and materials in the fight against illegal drugs and drug abuse among the community's youth.

It is these kinds of efforts, people in one community selflessly helping to solve its own problems, that will guide America into the next century. Since its founding in 1932, by Dr. Gerald Miller, the Cranbury Lions has quietly served as an example to us all.

I would like to congratulate some of the club's longest serving members, Judson Hagerty, Jay Schuyler, Arthur Danser, and George Conley. Each of these men have served the club and their community for over 40 years and together they represent close to 200 years of service.

Each year, the Cranbury Lions are responsible for hosting the township's Memorial Day parade. I want to pay early congratulations to Frank Brennan who is this year's parade committee chairman.

As this Congress continues to emphasize the need for service organizations and volunteers to assume a greater role, it will be organizations like the Cranbury Lions that year after year continue to bring about positive change.

Tomorrow night, the Cranbury Lions will hold their 65th anniversary dinner and I would like to extend my best wishes.

As America looks toward the 21st century, Lion's Clubs around the Nation stand ready and committed, full of energy, creativity, and solutions to help us become a better society and solve the problems that face our Nation. Among those groups is the Cranbury Lions.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND
LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN ELEC-
TRICITY DEREGULATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would create a na-

tional fund to provide matching grants to State and local programs promoting energy conservation, renewable energy resources like wind and solar power, and universal electricity service for low income, rural and other consumers for whom basic electricity service may be compromised by deregulation.

Nationwide, it is estimated that regulated utilities spend between \$6 and \$7.5 billion annually on energy conservation, renewable energy, and low income energy assistance programs. In the brave, new world of deregulated electricity markets, many of these public purposes could fall through the cracks. My bill provides a stable funding source to not only help maintain existing energy conservation, renewable energy and low income energy assistance programs, but to expand them around the Nation.

This is not a new Federal bureaucracy. It is a simple mechanism that will funnel money directly to programs crafted at the State and local level. Its cost to the Federal Treasury will be near zero.

The national program would be funded by a competitively neutral, non-bypassable transmission access charge paid by all electricity suppliers. The charge would be set to a level sufficient to fund qualifying State programs each year, but would be limited to no more than 2 tenths-of-a-cent per kilowatt-hour. The fund would be administered by a joint Federal-State board with oversight from the Department of Energy.

If fully utilized, the national electric systems benefits fund would provide between \$5 and \$6 billion each year in matching grants for locally designed energy efficiency, renewable and low income energy assistance programs. Electric utility industry deregulation without this important incentive-based program would be a disaster for the environment and for low income families.

TAXPAYER BROWSING
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1226, the Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act.

The American public should know that the problem of IRS agents browsing through taxpayer files is not exclusive to Washington, DC. Just last week in Buffalo, NY, it was revealed that at least 18 Buffalo-area IRS agents had used their access as Government officials to snoop through the tax files of thousands of upstate New Yorkers. And of these 18, only 2 were fired for their actions.

Quite simply, if the Government is going to compel personal information from its citizens, then there is a corresponding obligation to preserve the privacy of that information. Tax snooping is a clear case of abuse of Government authority, at the expense of others' privacy and freedom.

The repugnance of Government agents rifling through our possessions without cause is

precisely what sparked our constitutional prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure.

That is why I support H.R. 1226, the Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MICHAEL A. MARTONE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Honorable Michael A. Martone, an Oakland County District Court judge from Troy, MI who will receive the Italian-American of the Year Award. This award, presented to Judge Martone by the Italian-American Study Group of Troy, is in recognition of his outstanding and continued commitment to the youth of our community.

Judge Martone has developed and implemented a unique alcohol and drug intervention program which actually brings the courtroom to middle and high schools. His program, dubbed "Court in the Schools: Critical Life Choices," illustrates to young adults the lifelong consequences of failing to think critically and breaking the law. On September 9, 1996, Judge Martone gained national recognition for his efforts to establish the program around the nation when he was profiled on NBC's "Today Show." More than 12,500 students have participated in the program, not only in Michigan but in New York, Missouri, Florida, and Arkansas.

In addition to continuing his expansion of "Court in the Schools," Judge Martone remains active in the community as a volunteer with the Troy Community Coalition, Oakland County's HAVEN Courage House, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Martone's accomplishments and outstanding contributions to the youth of our Nation. On this special occasion, I send my very best wishes to him and his wife, Martha Rose and their two sons, Jonathan and James.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA
CLARITA VALLEY'S BOY SCOUT
TROOP 2

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on Saturday, April 19, 1997, Santa Clarita Valley's Boy Scout Troop 2, will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Sponsored by the Kiwanians Club of Valencia, Troop 2 remains the largest troop in the valley, with over 130 boys currently registered.

Throughout the years, Troop 2 has served almost 3,000 boys and produced 65 Eagle Scouts while managing to remain an active part of the community. From helping distribute

emergency water supplies in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake to participating in the annual 4th of July parade, Troop 2's volunteer efforts serve as a reminder of the dedication and commitment of the Boy Scouts of America.

On behalf of the citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley, I am honored today to help recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Troop 2.

THE UNDER 12 SYRACUSE BLITZ
BOYS SOCCER TEAM WINS NA-
TIONAL INDOOR SOCCER CHAM-
PIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the under 12 Syracuse Blitz Boys soccer team for winning the National Indoor Soccer Championship on March 17, 1997.

The North American Indoor Soccer Championship features qualifying regional tournaments at 20 sites around the country. The winning teams are then invited to participate in the grand finals. This dedicated group of athletes competed against 22 teams in their age bracket, including teams from Massachusetts, Maryland, Kansas, and Tennessee, as well as Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. It was Syracuse's second championship win in a row, as they won the indoor title last year.

Our central New York community is proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by the members of the 1997 Syracuse Blitz Boys soccer team.

Members of the 1997 Syracuse Blitz Boys under 12 National Indoor Champions are: Brian Knapp, Brian Perry, Mac Wilkie, Isaac Collings, Devin Dean, Josh Kristoff, Frank Monteleone, Patrick Ridall, Joey Spadaro, Alex Dowley, Brendan Quinlan, Joey Antonacci, Chris Paulus, Justin Crowley, and Matt Ponichtera. Coaches include Coach Bob Escobar, and assistant coaches Don Ridall and Craig Wilkie.

Congratulations to all the team members and coaches for their impressive achievements.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FED-
ERAL EMPLOYEES EMERGENCY
LEAVE TRANSFER ACT OF 1997

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 1995, in response to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the Office of Personnel Management [OPM] transmitted to Congress the Federal Employees Emergency Leave Transfer Act of 1995. With jury selection just begun in the Oklahoma City trial, it is time to pass this bill that would enhance the use of transfers of leave to assist Federal employees who are adversely affected

by disasters or emergencies as declared by the President. I am reintroducing the bill today as we mark the anniversary month of the bombing in Oklahoma City. The bill was passed by the Senate and House last year and failed to go to conference because of opposition to an unrelated amendment attached in the House.

In 1988, Congress authorized a 5-year test of voluntary leave transfer and leave bank programs within Federal agencies. These programs were designed to help employees faced with a medical or family emergency who had already exhausted all available leave. In 1994, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee's Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits held a hearing on the programs, which documented their success. Legislation I authored making them permanent was subsequently enacted.

Current leave transfer law limits, in some situations, the transfer of donated leave from one agency to another. Current law also requires that donated leave be used only for personal or family medical emergencies, and that employees exhaust all personal leave balances before qualifying for leave donations.

In the wake of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April 1995, affected employees were excused from duty without being required to use their available leave. This was made possible by OPM's efforts to coordinate agencies' existing leave transfer programs. It became apparent from this experience that such situations would be better handled by establishing in law the necessary authority for special leave transfer programs to address needs created by Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies.

Senator TED STEVENS (R-AK), chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee first introduced OPM's proposal, S. 868, on June 21, 1995. The bill was approved by the committee, without amendment, on August 10, 1995. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on October 19, 1995. The Congressional Budget Office determined that S. 868 would not affect direct spending or receipts, and that any administrative costs resulting from its implementation would be minimal.

S. 868 was referred to the House Subcommittee on Civil Service which did not hold hearings on the measure, but referred the bill to the full House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. The full committee attached several other measures, including the Veterans Preference bill, to S. 868, and the House subsequently passed the bill as amended. The Senate, however, failed to consider the bill as amended and it did not become law.

The bill I introduce today is identical to S. 868. It requires that in the event of a major disaster or emergency, the President would have the authority to direct OPM to create a special leave transfer program for affected Federal employees. Employees need not be facing a medical emergency to qualify, they would need the leave because of the adverse effects of the disaster or emergency. The bill would allow agency approved recipients to use donated leave without having to first exhaust their own accumulated leave. It would allow employees in any executive agency to donate leave for transfer to affected employees in the

same agency or other agencies. It would also allow agency leave banks to donate leave to any emergency leave transfer program established under this act. OPM would be permitted to establish rules for the operation of this special program.

The Federal Employees Emergency Leave Transfer Act enjoys the support not only of OPM but of the Federal employee organizations, has no budgetary impact, and has not been controversial. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

IN HONOR OF THE PULASKI CADETS, INC., 164TH ANNIVERSARY MILITARY REVIEW AND BALL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pulaski Cadets, Inc., an organization which will be celebrating its 164th anniversary on April 19, 1997. This momentous occasion will recognize the contributions of Danuta Sieminska, operations manager of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union and Thomas Wojlawowicz, president of the Pulaski Day Parade at the annual Military and Review Ball to be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the United Poles in America in Perth Amboy.

The Pulaski Cadets, Inc., have a long and distinguished history of service to their fellow Americans. This independent company, named after the famous Revolutionary War Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski, was incorporated in 1833. Its roots extend back to March 1778 when General Pulaski, commander of the American Cavalry, received permission from the Continental Congress to form an independent legion headquartered in Baltimore. During the War for Independence, the Pulaski Legion participated in a number of battles including Egg Harbor, Yorktown, and Savannah where General Pulaski was mortally wounded.

After the Revolutionary War, the Pulaski Legion was ordered to report to New York to defend that region of the new nation. In 1833, some descendants of the Pulaski Legion veterans decided to organize their own unit and named it the Pulaski Cadets. The official title of New York City Guard was bestowed upon the Pulaski Cadets in 1839. This elite military unit was attached as 1st Company to the 11th Regiment and later to Company G of the 55th Regiment, which caused an awkward situation since the 55th Regiment spoke mostly in French. They were subsequently granted a transfer to the 9th Regiment. During the Civil War, many of the commissioned officers served with honor and distinction. The organization of the Militia—now called National Guard—made it possible for the company to continue on an independent basis. This tradition was kept alive until shortly after World War I.

The organization of the Pulaski Cadets was revived in 1985 by Brig. Gen. Jan K. Krepa and his Adjutant LTC Dziekanowski. The mission of this newly revitalized group included providing educational opportunity for the

young people of the area through the Pulaski Cadets Scholarship Fund. Over the past 12 years, more than \$12,000 has been distributed to qualified students attending American colleges and universities. This financial assistance has made a real contribution to the academic success of many fine young men and women.

It is an honor to have such an exceptional organization working on behalf of the residents of my district. The Pulaski Cadets, Inc.'s efforts to promote the educational achievement will be long remembered. I am certain that my colleagues will rise with me and pay tribute to an important piece of our American history.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Oak Lane Community Action Association [OLCAA] as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. In 1972 a group of citizens formed an organization based on the ideas of community action and involvement. As the group approaches their silver anniversary, they have upheld the ideals of the original founders.

OLCAA began their activism with a series of block meetings regarding quality of life issues in the neighborhood. They soon began expanding these meetings into all inclusive East Oak Lane town meetings. As the organization stands now, it not only has a positive impact on the neighborhood, but on the city of Philadelphia as well.

OLCAA has been able to take a diverse community and package its differences into a unified body of energy and strength. By working as a team, they have experienced successful community improvements in many different arenas. The group has sponsored initiatives such as integration in real estate, citizen safety programs, and educational and recreational projects at Ellwood School and the Oak Lane Library. With the 35th Police District as their partners, OLCAA developed the first Police Bike Patrol program in residential Philadelphia.

I wish to honor the members of this organization and community for diligent hard work and passion that should serve as a model to all communities in this Nation. They have focused their energy on creating a better community for themselves and their neighbors. Unselfishly, they have extended this focus to the city of Philadelphia and its residents. OLCAA has overcome obstacles to create a neighborhood that fosters close relationships between citizens, and is a place of unity.

On their 25th anniversary, I would like to wish the Oak Lane Community Action Association continued success in their efforts, and I congratulate them on achievements already made.

CAMBODIA

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago, I took part in a congressional delegation that traveled to Cambodia. It was a distinctly unique opportunity to visit a country where the people democracy has taken root, although not without its fair share of difficulties, and has begun to grow and mature with the assistance of the United States.

First of all, I want to commend our fellow Americans in the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, especially Ambassador Kenneth Quinn and Edward Birgell of the Agency for International Development. They have done an outstanding job in less than ideal circumstances, and I strongly believe that the growth of democracy in Cambodia is due in no small part to their efforts.

Ambassador Quinn and his colleagues at the United States Embassy play a pivotal role in Cambodia's development. Under Ambassador Quinn's guidance, they work on a number of extremely important initiatives. They provide assistance to Cambodia to rebuild the judicial system and implement the rule of law. They coordinate POW/MIA efforts with the Cambodian Government. They helped Cambodia draft labor laws in accordance with international standards. Most importantly, they are heavily involved with establishing and strengthening the democratic processes, which provides permanence to their work in Cambodia. Their achievements are truly remarkable, and I salute each and every one of them.

As most of you know, Cambodia has had a difficult time in the last few decades—a tumultuous history to say the least. In 1975, the country was torn apart and nearly decimated by the genocidal Khmer Rouge. The turbulent civil wars punctuated by short periods of rest did not end until the United Nations [U.N.] sponsored the October 1991 peace treaty followed by U.N.-supervised elections in 1993. As a result of the elections, a new democratically elected government headed by two prime ministers was established. This "power-sharing" arrangement, although somewhat unwieldy, was necessary to maintain the fragile partnership and put Cambodia in a positive direction for the last 5 years—a generally forward-looking, fledgling democracy with market-based economic policies, free press, multiparty political system, and nongovernmental organizations. It is fair to say that the last several years have been Cambodia's most peaceful and productive period in the 20th century.

Ripped apart by civil wars, the people of Cambodia are in the midst of rebuilding their nation. Cambodia still bears wounds from those past internal conflicts. For instance, the country is still a huge minefield. About 1 in 10 Cambodians have been injured by landmines. While there is a concerted effort to remove the landmines—over 1,500 people are employed specifically for this task—at the current pace, it will still take at least several decades. Still they persevere.

Unfortunately, the U.N.-brokered fragile partnership by necessity is rapidly fraying at the edges. With the 1998 national elections right around the corner, cooperation between the two prime ministers has almost ceased. The results are dramatic. Human and civil rights violations are rising and corruption is running rampant. These factors increase the political and economic risks resulting in a slowdown in foreign investment and aid. The downward spiral will result only in chaos.

This dramatic downturn deeply concerns me, for it undermines all the hard work of Ambassador Quinn and his colleagues in the U.S. Embassy to keep the peace. In my conversations and meetings with them, I was deeply impressed with their conviction and devotion to the Cambodian people. They have made tremendous personal sacrifices. In many cases, their families are unable to join them in Cambodia. Also, they work in facilities that are in dire need of improvements. I saw facilities that would not pass OSHA regulations here in the United States, and it deeply concerns me that our fellow Americans must work in such conditions. Moreover, Embassy staff are at a security risk, for there have been numerous threats against their lives. We should all be extremely proud that this group of devoted people represents us and our interests in Cambodia. They represent the epitome of public service.

It also undermines all of the hard work that the Cambodian people have put in—paid for by their blood, sweat, tears, and untold number of lives. They are amazing. I can honestly say that I have never seen a more inspired and hard working group than the people of Cambodia. Their resilience and perseverance deeply moved me. Over a million Cambodians were killed in one of the bloodiest genocides in history, yet they still persevere. Human and civil rights violations rise, yet they still persevere. Political violence occurs more and more frequently, yet they still persevere.

They persevere because the burning fire of eternal optimism in the face of insurmountable odds resides in the Cambodian people. I saw it in their faces. I heard it in their voices. I felt it in their deeds. They persevere because they have suffered under a totalitarian regime. And now, they have tasted democracy and have seen the shining city on the hill. They look to America and see the nation that Cambodia can be—a nation of freedom and opportunity. They look forward with the hope of a better tomorrow. They have tasted democracy, and they have no wish to go back.

We must reaffirm our commitment to Cambodia by fully supporting our Embassy in Cambodia. We must provide them with the resources necessary to do their job effectively. In the coming months as we consider the annual appropriation bills, I strongly urge my colleagues to consider the situations of our fellow Americans working in the Embassy and our Cambodian friends. Ambassador Quinn and his colleagues are promoting the basic ideals that form the core of our Nation in the great democratic tradition—the ideals that make America the greatest nation in the world. Let us do all that we can to give them the support they deserve.

MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will contribute to the improved health and well-being of many Americans. The symptoms and complications related to diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension could be significantly diminished by a change in lifestyle brought about with the help of medical nutrition therapy. Medical nutrition therapy is a service provided by a registered dietitian (RD) or nutrition professional that entails counseling in diet, drug interaction, vitamin therapy, and physical activity. It can improve the quality of life of seriously ill patients while saving health care dollars by speeding recovery, reducing the incidence of medical complications, lowering the number and length of hospital stays, and decreasing the need for drug and surgery treatments. Currently, this treatment is not covered by Medicare, thereby discouraging those who do not want to pay for it out-of-pocket from receiving it.

Today, I am introducing the Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 1997 with Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO and Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and 98 cosponsors. This bill will provide Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional upon the referral of a physician. My colleagues and I have drafted this bill with the intention of changing what is currently a sick care system, which only pays for care when people get sick and sicker, to a health care system which pays to keep people as healthy as possible. It is my hope that this bill will help to save Medicare, and most importantly, to save lives.

We all know we should not wait until we hear a crunching sound under the hood of a car before going in for an oil change. Medicare is paying for the health care equivalent of rebuilding engines, but won't pay for the oil change to prevent it.

IN HONOR OF REGINA RUTKOWSKI:
CHOSEN TO BE MARSHALL OF
BAYONNE'S CONTINGENT IN THE
TRI-STATE PULASKI DAY PARADE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Regina Rutkowski, who was chosen as marshall of Bayonne's contingent to the Tri-State Pulaski Day Parade which will march along Fifth Avenue in New York City on October 20, 1997. Mrs. Rutkowski will be invested with the marshall's sash at a brunch held in her honor on Sunday, April 20 at the Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne.

The journey which has led Mrs. Rutkowski to be recognized with this honor began in Po-

land where she was born to Franciszka and Teodor Razin. Along with her family, the future Mrs. Rutkowski suffered the ravages of World War II. Her father, a noncommissioned officer in the Polish Cavalry, was captured by the Nazis and placed in a concentration camp for 3 years. The family was later relocated to a German labor farm from which Mrs. Rutkowski still can clearly recall the bombardments in this strange country. After the war, her family moved to England where Mrs. Rutkowski's father joined the British Army, becoming a member of the military band. Mrs. Rutkowski acquired a passion for music from her father, an accomplished musician and composer. In her own right, Mrs. Rutkowski is an accomplished artist with numerous works of art to her credit.

Upon her family's arrival in the United States, Mrs. Rutkowski continued her education which culminated with her graduation from Jersey City State College magna cum laude with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Subsequently, the former Regina Razin met and married Richard a Rutkowski who went on to become mayor of Bayonne from 1990 to 1994. This joyful union produced three children: Richard, Jr. who manages the Hi-Hat Caterers along with his wife Bonnie; Stephen, a chiropractor in Connecticut who is married to Dr. Teresa Rutkowski; and Robert, a graduate of Widener University Law School. Mrs. Rutkowski's family circle is completed by her brother and sister-in-law Thomas and Helen Razin and their two sons Thomas and Richard.

Mrs. Rutkowski has long been an active community member. This extraordinary woman has been a valued member of many Polish-American organizations, including the Pro Arte League of the Kosciuszko Foundation, AMERPOL Club of New Jersey, the Polish-American Heritage Committee of Bayonne, and Bayonne's Third of May Polish Constitution observances. Additionally, Mrs. Rutkowski serves on the Parish Council of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Bayonne and is a member of the parish's centennial committee and the Mt. Carmel Guild.

Regina Rutkowski is a vivid example of community spirit. It is an honor to have such a caring and dedicated individual in my district working on behalf of her fellow residents of Bayonne.

HONORING TO PATRICK GRIFFIN
TANNER

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Patrick Griffin Tanner, who tragically died last week at the tender age of 19 in New Orleans. Patrick, a native of Washington, DC, was a tireless worker for the enrichment and betterment of his city, Nation, and world.

In his short, yet tireless and noble life, young Patrick was involved in the Big-Brother program; a volunteer at the Ivymount School; a volunteer at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church; he worked in the Special Olympics;

served as a volunteer for housing rehabilitation and disaster relief programs in several States, as well as in rural Virginia and the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington. At the close of his life, he was working in New Orleans for the Habitat for Humanity organization. He was indeed a well-rounded and giving boy.

I knew of Patrick through my efforts as a Congressman to give him advice and encouragement for his desire to enter the U.S. Naval Academy. He would have been a credit to the U.S. Navy.

When I dwell on how tragic it is to lose such a fine, upstanding young man, I must say that of all the benefits which education and virtue confer upon me, the contempt of the death of a young person is one of the greatest.

In composing my remarks for Patrick's tribute, I recalled some remarks by the Roman poet Horace. Horace wrote the following in the year 65 B.C., but it seems as though when he wrote these remarks, he was thinking of Patrick Tanner. Horace wrote:

The wise man who can command his passions, who fears not want, nor death, nor chains, finally resisting his appetites and despising the honors of the world, who relies wholly upon himself, whose angular points of character have all been rounded off and polished is indeed a free man.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick Griffin Tanner is indeed a free man now. The chains and shackles of this world have indeed been lifted; his spirit has soared, his soul is at rest.

In closing, I send my heartfelt wishes to his parents, John and Nancy Tanner, as well as to his sister, grandparents, relatives, and friends. Patrick will be sorely missed.

“WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION” PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Vicksburg High School for winning first place at the State competition of the “We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution” program. This organization works to educate young people about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and their place in American history and our lives. Over the past 10 years, more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students have developed a better understanding of their responsibilities as American citizens through participation in this program.

The following distinguished students will be participating in the “We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution” national finals which will be held here in Washington on April 26–28: Adrian Brown, Benjamin Bryant, William Campbell, Brian Crawford, Sarah Czaika, Richard Feibelman, Michael Finney, Katherine Flanagan, Stacey George, Beth Hassell, Claude Jarrett, Eric Johnson, David Jones, Quincy Jones, Ormonde Landry, Shelia Lewis, Scott Lovorn, Farrah Martin, Dionne Murphy, Nicole Nixon, Allison Price, Taylor Rowland, Ryan Roy, Amanda Schilling, Anna Sorey,

Jason Stewart, Jennifer Sykes, David Thomas, Tonya Tonth, John Vollar, Michael Warren, Emily Weatherly, and Hugh Whitten.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sherry Fisher, who deserves much of the credit for the team's success. The district coordinator, Sam Habeeb, and the State coordinator, Lynette McBrayer, also made important contributions to the team's efforts.

These students set an example for responsible American citizens and scholars. They are a great asset to their families, the Second Congressional District, the State of Mississippi, and this Nation. I wish them the best of luck at the national finals.

HONORING BERTHA DAUBENDIEK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of our environment, Ms. Bertha Daubendiek. On Saturday, April 19, as part of Michigan's Earth Day activities, Ms. Daubendiek will be recognized and honored for her longtime accomplishments in working to preserve our precious natural resources.

After graduating with honors from Grinnell College in 1938, Bertha Daubendiek made Michigan her home, and made activism and voluntarism her new calling. In 1970, her activities prompted both chambers of the Michigan legislature to acknowledge her as one of the States's premier volunteers. As her interest turned to the environment, her commitment to community increased as well. In 1979, Ms. Daubendiek received the Detroit News' Michiganian of the Year Award for her work in the completion of 50 nature preservation projects. In 1994, Ms. Daubendiek was inducted into the Michigan women's Hall of Fame.

Some of Ms. Daubendiek's most significant work has been as founder and executive director of the Michigan Nature Association. This unique group of individuals have banded together and created preserves in 51 of Michigan's 83 counties, enhancing the State's natural beauty. They have performed this task without using a penny of taxpayer funds. In addition to this, Ms. Daubendiek is the author of Michigan's natural beauty road law. Passed in 1970, the law is responsible for the preservation of more than 800 miles of roadside habitat.

If you drive around the great State of Michigan, you may notice new license plates on some of our automobiles that display the saying, “Great Lakes Splendor.” I believe this statement is true because of the efforts of people like Bertha Daubendiek.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to a true environmental hero, Bertha Daubendiek. She is an inspiration to me and countless others who work to protect our precious environment.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1362—VETERANS MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1997

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I have joined with Congressman STUMP, many of the Republican and all of the Democratic members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee to introduce the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997. This strong show of support by so many members of the committee clearly indicates the high priority my colleagues and I give this legislation.

For some time our committee has been exploring the intra-government transfer, or subvention, from Medicare to VA. This year the committee began the process at the urging of veterans and the Veterans Health Administration. Veterans wanted to gain access to the veterans health care system. VA felt it was in their best interest to explore nonappropriated funding as a growing part of their resource base.

VA has submitted a budget during this session of Congress that identified VA collecting and keeping funding from the Medicare trust funds for treatment of certain Medicare-eligible veterans. This is a critical part of the strategy VA has outlined for its future. The Independent Budget, an assessment of veterans programs' resource needs written by four of the major veterans' service organizations and sponsored by many more, also endorses the concept of using Medicare funds in VA.

I am convinced the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997 we are introducing today offers the best and the most risk-free way of exploring the viability of this funding option for both VA and for Medicare. This bill does not propose VHA develop a new managed care system tailored to treating a new population of veterans. Instead, it provides VA the opportunity to offer the services it has available to treat aging veterans who might not otherwise receive this care. This will allow VA to limit its care responsibility for new veterans to the services and capabilities that it has available right now.

In addition, the demonstration project authorized by this legislation is time- and site-limited. There are additional safeguards in place to ensure that the Medicare trust fund will not spend any additional funding for veterans who choose VA as a health care provider.

The veterans that this bill will affect are lower and middle-income veterans—some of whom have lost access to VA health care services as constrained resources have compelled VA to stop treating so-called discretionary veterans. VA will receive no funding from Medicare for veterans who are receiving care in VA medical centers today.

We believe that our bill creates opportunities for everyone involved to benefit. The Medicare trust funds have a chance to save money because VA will discount Medicare's rates for providing care to the new Medicare-eligible veterans it will treat. Specifically, Medicare

would receive a mandatory 5-percent discount on its reimbursement for services provided to eligible veterans in VA. For this reason, it is our strong view that this bill will produce savings for the Medicare trust funds.

VA will benefit by opening its doors to care for new veterans. Most importantly, veterans will benefit by having a new choice of health care provider.

I hope that my colleagues will view this bill, not just as a bill good for veterans, but as an opportunity to help preserve Medicare for older Americans as well.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY
TUFTONIA'S DAY 1997, APRIL 21,
1997

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor the more than 78,000 alumni who this Monday, April 21, 1997, will turn their attention to their alma mater in celebration of the 13th annual Tuftonia's Day.

Tuftonia's Day is a gathering of students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents to celebrate the achievements of the Tufts community. This community extends not only to the campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA, but also as far away as the campus abroad in Talloires, France. Students and graduates of Tufts live in more than 100 countries around the world. Tufts is truly a world-class institution of higher education. Tufts University strives to instill in all its students, from undergraduate through the professional degree program, the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's community.

For this reason the focus of this year's Tuftonia's Day is again TuftServe. The purpose of this is to highlight and show appreciation for the volunteer work that the alumni of Tufts have contributed to their local communities. In fact, Tufts alumni logged over 218,915 hours of community service last year. This outstanding record should stand as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their commitment to the community and loyalty to their alma mater.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to House Joint Resolution 62 as it was considered on the floor of the House of Representatives earlier this week. Although the House considered related legisla-

tion, House Joint Resolution 159, during the 104th Congress, the differences between these two measures is substantial. House Joint Resolution 159 would have required a supermajority in Congress to approve any bill which would raise Federal revenue. This year, however, the House leadership decided to include an exception to this rule. While I agree there may have been a need to provide for exemptions to the supermajority requirement, I believe the leadership should have excluded measures which would close tax loopholes or eliminate corporate welfare provisions from the Internal Revenue Code. Unfortunately, House Joint Resolution 62 did not address either of these possibilities.

Instead, the resolution was specifically altered to allow for a change in the Tax Code which would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of families in the United States. The night before this measure was considered on the floor, Members of the House leadership drafted language which would, in effect, exempt legislation designed to modify capital gains tax rates.

As a result, House Joint Resolution 62 would have made it more difficult for Congress to cut out corporate welfare, while making it easier to enact tax programs that would disproportionately benefit the wealthiest Americans. When House Joint Resolution 159 was considered during the 104th Congress, it did not contain this glaring inequity, and I was able to support it. However, this is clearly not the same initiative we considered a year ago.

I believe it is crucial that Members of Congress commit themselves to eliminating the budget deficit and crafting a fair and equitable Tax Code. Certainly, an income tax hike is no way to accomplish these goals. House Joint Resolution 62, as it was first drafted, was a well-intentioned initiative, designed to protect the American public from such an increase. However, in the end, it became a dysfunctional, inequitable measure which could have obstructed our path toward these objectives. I am pleased the House defeated this measure, and I urge my colleagues to turn their attention to eliminating unwarranted revenue subsidies and putting our Nation's financial house in order.

SALUTE TO CLEVE McDOWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Cleve McDowell who was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Fudge McDowell on August 6, 1941, in Drew, MS. Dr. McDowell departed this life on Thursday, March 13, 1997, leaving a proud legacy as a mentor, civil rights leader, and community activist.

He received his early education in the Drew (MS) Public School system where he served as class president, editor of the school newspaper, captain of the debating team, and a member of several varsity sports teams.

Dr. McDowell was an honor graduate of Jackson State University in 1963, and had done further study on the graduate level during the 1970's. While at Jackson State University, he worked as a student assistant under the last Medgar Evers (1962-63). He became the first African-American student to attend a white graduate school in Mississippi by enrolling in the University of Mississippi Law School with the aid of a Federal Court Order and the U.S. Army troops in June 1963. He later enrolled in Texas Southern University Law School in Houston, TX, where he became president of the Student Bar Association and received several merit awards. He later worked on the field staff for the Mississippi State Conference (1964). Dr. McDowell left the Mississippi Field Staff to join the staff of the Chicago Branch of the NAACP and served on committees of the National Youth Work Committee of the NAACP, where he worked in employment, voter education registration, fund raising, and community development.

He served as staff consultant to the Cook County Department of Public Aid (Chicago). He also served as personnel director-program analyst for Coahoma Opportunities, Inc., of Clarksdale, MS. In April 1969, McDowell joined the Mississippi Head Start Training Coordinating Council as its executive director. In October 1973, he joined the Governor's Office of Human Resources and OEO as the Head Start coordinator for the State of Mississippi. In May 1974, McDowell became associate director of the Mississippi Bar Legal Services Program where he served until he started his private practice of law in Drew, MS, in 1975. In addition, he served as managing attorney for the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Clarksdale, MS, from 1977 to 1979; served as a member of the Mississippi State Penitentiary Board of Directors (1971-76); and was elected to serve as Tunica County Judge (1978-82).

He was a member of the Mississippi State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Magnolia Bar Association. He was admitted to practice in the Northern and Southern United States District Courts, Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Dr. McDowell was an active member of Epilox Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and was worshipful master of Drew Lodge No. 6 of the Most Worshipful Stringer Masonic Grand Lodge (Prince Hall) of Mississippi. He was also a member of the Knights Templars Royal Arch, a 32d Degree, and Shriner Masonic units.

Dr. McDowell was the senior pastor of the Greater Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Drew, MS, and chairman of the Sunflower County, Democratic Party. He also served as the public defender for Sunflower County, MS. He was also a former member of the board of alderman and past vice-mayor of the city of Drew, MS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and the civil rights community in saluting Dr. Cleve McDowell for his outstanding contributions to this Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, over the past two decades, college tuition costs have skyrocketed by over 200 percent while median household income increased by just 82 percent.

Increasing college tuition has caused many students to rely more and more on college loans and other forms of aid to finance their way through college. The average student loan has risen from \$518 in 1980 to \$2,417 in 1995. In total, student loan debt has reached an all time high of \$24 billion.

Education is a high priority, and we have to find other ways to finance it besides sinking our children into debt. That's why I am introducing this bill that would allow families to exclude from income tax any educational assistance provided by their employers toward the education of their children.

Several companies have already taken the lead in providing this kind of assistance. For example, General Motors [GM], Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp., and the United Auto Workers [UAW] have developed the Scholarship Program for Dependent Children. Under GM's program, the auto maker will provide up to \$1,000 annually in tuition assistance for each dependent child of active, retired, or deceased GM workers who are pursuing post-secondary education or training.

We need to encourage this kind of employer-employee partnership to meet the needs of working Americans without expanding the size of Government. This legislation would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill and support employer-employee cooperation in education.

MINNECHAUG GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball team on winning the Massachusetts Division I championship.

Throughout the season, these young women's positive attitude distinguished them from their competition. On the way to 23 victories and only 2 defeats, their teamwork, selflessness, and the courage to never give up, propelled their success. Game after game, they rallied to victory after disappointing starts. This is the hallmark of a championship team.

In winning their first State championship, first western Massachusetts championship, and the first championship by any western Massachusetts team in 4 years, I commend them. This is a milestone achievement. I hope that the members of the team, coach Dave Yelle, and the Minnechaug Regional High

School community know that all of us in the second district join them in taking pride in their season. Congratulations, Falcons.

KILDEE SALUTES CESAR CHAVEZ
AWARDS CEREMONY**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader, whose efforts have helped improve the lives of all Hispanics. Cesar Chavez has been immortalized in my home town of Flint, MI.

On April 19, 1997, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Flint/Genesee Chapter will hold the Third Annual Cesar Chavez Awards Ceremony. The day will begin with a "March for Justice" which will take place on Cesar Chavez Drive in Flint, MI. The march will pay tribute to 20,000 strawberry workers and also honor the memory of Cesar Chavez and the 10th anniversary of the naming of Cesar Chavez Drive in Flint, MI.

It is with great pride and admiration that I will honor Cesar Chavez and the legacy he has left behind for all Americans to follow. Cesar Chavez fought for many of the same ideals and human rights that I have fought for during my tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives. Cesar Chavez worked selflessly to create a foundation for future generations of Hispanics to build upon.

Therefore, it is reassuring to see the Hispanic community in Flint carrying on the work that Cesar dedicated his life to. It will be an honor for me to welcome Richard Chavez to Flint, MI on April 19, 1997. Richard Chavez is the brother of Cesar and is currently an executive board member of the United Farm Workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to rise today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to Cesar Chavez and all American workers who continue to fight for equal rights for all people.

SALUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM "BILL" RICHARDSON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mississippi [MS] State Representative William "Bill" Richardson who was born December 26, 1951, in Indianola, MS.

Mr. Richardson suddenly departed his life on Tuesday, March 25, leaving a proud legacy as a husband, father, educator, community activist, and public servant. He was the faithful husband to Doris and the loving father to Hope and Tiffany. Words cannot describe the dedication and devotion he showed to his wonderful family.

He received his early education in the Sunflower [MS] County Public Schools and re-

ceived a bachelor's degree from Mississippi Valley State University [MVSU] and did post graduate work at both MVSU and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Mr. Richardson served almost 20 years as an educator in the Indianola [MS] School District where he taught Social Studies and Civics. In 1992, after an active career in the Sunflower County community he was elected to the Mississippi State House of Representatives. While serving in the Mississippi Legislature he was appointed to the Committee on Education, the Committee on Agriculture and the Joint Legislative Parole Commission. During the 1995 Legislative Session, Representative Richardson was elected Sergeant-at-arms of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus.

During his illustrative career, he remained active in the Mississippi Association of Educators, the National Educators Association, the Indiana Association of Educators, the Board of Directors for Delta Housing, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Raspberry United Methodist Men's Club, and the Sunflower County Chapter of the MVSU Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring a devoted husband, father, and public servant for his outstanding contributions to the State of Mississippi.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 607: HOME-
OWNERS INSURANCE PROTEC-
TION ACT**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Homeowners Insurance Protection Act which will amend the Truth in Lending Act and stop the abusive practice of overcharging homeowners for private mortgage insurance.

Private mortgage insurance has given millions of Americans the opportunity to become homeowners. This is a valuable service that mortgage industry provides; however, most homeowners are unclear about their rights under this insurance. Many Americans believe that private mortgage insurance insures them, when, in fact, it insures the lender while the homeowner pays the premium. As the practice stands, homeowners who have paid off 20 percent of their loan no longer need the insurance, but they do not realize it and continue to pay the premium throughout the life of their mortgage. In some cases, 20 to 30 extra years of payments. For an individual who pays \$350 per year on a 30-year mortgage, that can mean paying an extra \$7,000 to \$10,000 of unnecessary premiums.

This legislation will bring about two simple reforms. It will require full disclosure of a homeowners' right to cancel the insurance once they have down 20 percent on their home. It will also require the mortgage lenders to inform consumers at least once a year of their cancellation rights. Both of these requirements must be provided by the creditor at no extra cost to the consumer.

This bill will protect the rights of homeowners from overpaying unnecessary premiums while maintaining the important role of

private mortgage insurance in promoting home ownership. Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL SERVANTS ON
THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 19, 1997 we mark the 2-year anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, one of the most reprehensible tragedies in our Nation's history. I rise today to pay tribute to the fallen Federal workers and the other victims who perished in an event that continues to tug at the heart strings of the entire Nation.

The cowardly and meaningless act of terrorism against the civil servants and children in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building has touched off a 2-year period of national soul-searching and introspection. Many of the victims families are attempting to move forward in their lives. In fact, the mother of Baylee Almon, whose limp body in the arms of a firefighter became the symbol of the heroism and heartbreak of the bombing, was recently married and is taking steps to move beyond her daughter's death.

We lost many of these fine men and women 2 years ago and I want to once again extend my heartfelt sympathies to all of their families, their friends, their coworkers, their neighbors, and those they serve. As the old saying goes, "time heals all wounds"; but, the Oklahoma City tragedy will require significantly more than 2 years to diminish the effect it has had on the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, it has long been my view that Federal workers are one of our Nation's greatest assets. As President Lyndon Johnson once noted:

So very much of what we are as a Nation—and what we are to achieve as a people—depends on the calibre and character of the Federal career people. In no other endeavor can you more directly serve our country's cause—or the values on which we stand—than in the public service.

Mr. Speaker, the people we lost in the bombing were not nameless faceless bureaucrats, and, Mr. Speaker let me be perfectly clear and to the point—I get angry over those who would denigrate our civil servants. All too often it is the prevailing habit of this body to attack the character and devotion of our Federal employees. Mr. Speaker, we must stop the senseless scapegoating and needless bashing of our civil servants.

Yes, there are nonperformers, just like there are at corporations and factories across our country. But, Mr. Speaker, the great majority of these men and women are Americans with a deep love for their Nation who, in many cases, have bypassed more lucrative careers to serve their fellow citizens.

Federal employees play an integral, albeit often invisible role in our daily lives. Federal employees make sure that our senior citizens

get their monthly Social Security checks and that our veterans get the care and treatment they need. Federal employees are responsible for printing our money and insuring it when we make deposits at the bank. Federal employees protect our borders and make sure the food we eat is safe. The bottom line is that Federal employees devote their days, and often their nights, to ensuring that our Government and our country is a better place to live.

So, as we pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the Oklahoma City tragedy, I urge my colleagues and my fellow Americans to give great care and thought to those who would criticize our Federal Government. Yes, you get angry at the IRS; yes, you may get angry at law enforcement officials, but do not allow that anger to be directed at individuals. Let it be directed at policy. Let us all be a civil society and strive to make America the great Nation we all know it can be.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
HENDRICKSON

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Hendrickson of Bridgehampton, Long Island, NY, an esteemed and accomplished meteorologist who has been bestowed the 1997 Albert J. Myer Award for a career of dedicated service to the National Weather Service.

Mr. Hendrickson is an exceptional and worthy recipient of this honor, named for Brigadier General Myer who founded the National Weather Service in 1870. For 67 years, Mr. Hendrickson has provided an unbroken tenure to the National Weather Service, which operates a forecast facility at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, Long Island.

During his highly distinguished career, Mr. Hendrickson has been awarded numerous honors by the National Weather Service for his accomplishments as weather forecaster. These prestigious awards include the Helmut E. Landsberg Award, named for the father of modern climatology; the Thomas Jefferson Award, named for America's third President who, among his many talents, was an accomplished weather observer; and the Edward H. Stoll Award, given to weather observers with 50 years of service.

Mr. Hendrickson is so clearly worthy of the many professional honors and recognitions bestowed upon him. He is also deserving of the personal gratitude of all Americans for a lifetime of superior service to the study of weather observation. Mr. Hendrickson's efforts have broadened our understanding of the science of weather observation, and has contributed greatly to the ability of all meteorologists to forecast the force of powerful weather systems. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Hendrickson and weather observers like him, many lives have been saved because our neighbors have been able to take precautionary actions before destructive hurricanes or blizzards have struck their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in offering our collective praise and gratitude to Richard Hendrickson for his 67 years of dedicated, accomplished service to the National Weather Service.

ACT TO SAVE AMERICA'S FORESTS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a New Yorker, I feel strongly about a former New York Governor, Teddy Roosevelt's legacy: The National Forest System; 95 percent of America's forests have been cut down, just 5 percent remain standing—which is owned by the American people.

The practice of clearcutting forests and even aged logging is destroying one of America's most beloved resources.

It not only upsets the forest ecosystem by draining the soil of important nutrients. It weakens the land—creating the potential for dangerous mud slides.

The poor policing of loggers is also threatening the existence of the American grizzly bear, salmon, and common song birds.

Our legislation will:

Prohibit clear cutting and even aged logging and other abusive practices on Federal land.

Change the mission of the Forest Service by setting it up as the enforcement agency for preserving plants and animals native to forests. It actually requires the Forest Service to repair past damage either by program or by allowing the forest to heal itself.

And it brings Americans into the enforcement fold by providing rewards for citizens who report violations.

In America right now—Less than 6 percent of the original forests are still standing.

In the lower 48 States just 1 percent remain. This legislation doesn't cost much—but it can save 100's of millions in road building subsidies.

The Act of Save America's Forest will effectively shift the focus of the forest management of Federal lands from corporate profit, to protection and nurturing of our rare and natural resources.

THE JOSEPHINE BUTLER UNITED
STATES HEALTH SERVICE ACT

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker: I rise to honor the memory of Josephine Butler by introducing the Josephine Butler United States Health Act. This legislation is named after a heroic African-American fighter who lived in this Nation's Capital. The Josephine Butler United States Health Service Act seeks a comprehensive, universal national health care system based on health care for people, not profits; on community control of health care, not corporate

control; commits to the proposition that a health care system in the richest Nation in the world should be available to everyone living in this Nation, and that such a health care system must be dedicated to the whole person, their family, and their community.

Josephine Butler was a holistic activist, whose passion and tireless energy encompassed not only health care but statehood for the District of Columbia, the environment, the trade union movement, women's rights, the welfare of children, the arts, peace and justice for all nations, and neighborhood parks. Josephine Butler, called by some the Harriet Tubman of the District of Columbia, a founder and former chairperson of the D.C. Statehood Party, was guided by a fierce commitment to the right of self-determination for all peoples. Ms. Butler brought the D.C. statehood movement to people across the United States and to the United Nations.

Josephine Butler was an international and a courageous peace activist. She was founder of the D.C. chapter of the Paul Robeson Society, and a founder of the World Congress of Peace. Her concern for peace was worldwide—from the former Soviet Union, to the island of Grenada, the Middle East, South Africa, and back to the District of Columbia. In 1994 Ms. Butler received the National Partnership Leadership Award from President Clinton for the work she had done in transforming the once crime-ridden Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park into a place of beauty. Her work as co-chair of the Friend of Meridian Hill led the President to cite the group as a "shining example for the nation" of what community activism can accomplish.

Josephine Butler, born January 24, 1920, moved to Washington, DC, seeking medical treatment for typhoid fever as a young girl from the Brandywine area of Prince George's County where her father had been a sharecropper. She began working in a laundry and took the lead in organizing laundry workers in the D.C. area into a union. She remained involved in union activities, committed to the rights of workers for the rest of her life.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, Jo Butler was incapacitated with tuberculosis. Upon recovery, she became a volunteer for the D.C. Lung Association, and then the association's community health educator, where she worked from 1969 to 1980. Her deep commitment to adequate health care for all led her to serve as a founding board member of the Committee for a National Health Service formed in the 1970's. She died on March 29, 1997, but remains alive in our hearts, supporting our efforts to achieve universal health care for this great Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND LITERACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mr.

GOODLING, and the ranking Democrat on the Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, to introduce important, bipartisan legislation to reform this Nation's fragmented and duplicative array of employment, training, and literacy programs. The Employment, Training, and Literacy Enhancement Act will consolidate over 70 Federal programs through the establishment of three block grants to States and localities for the provision of employment, training, and literacy services, and through amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The bill would accomplish key reforms in this country's job training system by building on the three principles of individual choice; quality training for the 21st century; and the transfer of resources and authority for employment, training, and literacy programs to States and local communities. By amending, consolidating, and improving existing programs established under the Job Training Partnership Act [JTPA], the Adult Education Act, the Wagner Peyser Act, and other statutes, we hope to build on the many positive reforms that are already underway in States and local communities, while encouraging further reform and breaking down barriers to State and local program integration.

The three block grants that are established under division A of the bill would comprise each State's employment, training, and literacy system—an adult employment and training opportunities grant; a disadvantaged youth employment and training opportunities grant; and an adult education and family literacy grant. While the legislation separately amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, vocational rehabilitation programs are not block granted with job training.

Specifically, title I would drastically reform the current JTPA State and local delivery structure, as well as its fiscal and performance accountability provisions. The bill provides maximum authority to States and localities in the design and operation of their individual employment, training, and literacy systems. We reduce administrative requirements, paperwork, duplicative planning, reporting, and data collection requirements and eliminate bureaucracy throughout the system. At the State level, Governors would pull together representatives of the State legislature, key State agency heads, and leaders from business, local communities, and others to develop a single State plan and performance measurement system for the three block grants and for programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act. Governors are also asked to designate work force development areas throughout the State, for the distribution of funds and service delivery under much of the system.

To ensure the involvement of employers in the design and implementation of local systems, the bill requires the establishment of local, employer-led, work force development boards. These boards would provide policy guidance and oversight over local systems, and would be responsible for the establishment of local full-service employment and training delivery systems—easily accessible single points of entry into the employment and training system. Local elected officials would continue to play an important role in the development and implementation of the local system.

Title II of the bill amends JTPA by merging its existing nonschool-based summer employment and year-round programs—resulting in the disadvantaged youth employment and training opportunities block grant. The main focus of reform under this block grant is to increase the focus of these programs on longer term academic and occupational training, rather than short-term employment fixes—requiring that all employment experiences under these programs be tied to academic and occupational learning opportunities. Under the bill, communities may continue to carry out programs such as summer youth employment, if linked to additional learning opportunities. The block grant is designed to result in improved academic and occupational opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the community, as well as completion of high school, or its equivalent, and other positive results such as placement and retention in employment, or continuation into postsecondary education or training. States and localities would also be required to show how the hardest to serve disadvantaged youth are served within their programs.

Title III of the bill would amend the current adult employment and training programs authorized under JTPA by establishing a single delivery system for all adults, that maximizes individual choice in the selection of occupations and training providers. The bill encourages an employment first approach to job training—providing training services to individuals who are unable to obtain initial employment, or employment that will lead to self-sufficiency, through core services and intensive job search assistance. With limited exceptions, training services for adults would be provided through the use of vouchers—referred to as skill grants in the bill—distributed through an easily accessible full-service employment and training delivery system. While a single employment and training system would be established through this block grant, funding for dislocated workers would remain protected. States would continue to be required to use State reserve funds to provide rapid response assistance—for dislocated workers—and additional assistance to areas that experience substantial worker dislocation. The bulk of funding under the adult training system would be sent to local work force development areas for the establishment of full-service employment and training delivery systems; provision of core or up-front services through the full service system; provision of intensive services; and the provision of training services. Not only will this legislation result in improved services to dislocated workers, but it will also result in enhanced services provided to welfare recipients who must make the transition from welfare to work.

Title V of the bill amends the current Adult Education Act and the National Literacy Act, consolidating numerous categorical programs into a block grant to the States. While this title is maintained as a separate act, adult education and literacy programs share planning and performance provisions with the job training system, pulling adult education and family literacy programs into the broader system. This is particularly important because a large number of under- and unemployed individuals will need to improve their literacy skills before they can participate in job training programs.

The legislation requires States to send 85 percent of available funds to a variety of local service providers to be used for adult education programs, English as a second language programs and family literacy programs. All set asides and caps have been removed, allowing States to use the funds to meet the unique literacy needs of their citizens. The bill contains continued authorization for the National Institute for Literacy and for national activities conducted by the Department of Education.

In the area of vocational rehabilitation, the bill amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by extending its authorization through 2000. It also makes some minor substantive changes to the law that promote consumer choice and promote State agency accountability. The amendments would create a limited written plan at the option of the person with a disability. This alternative to the statutorily required individualized written rehabilitation plan, would allow individuals with disabilities who know what they are seeking from the vocational rehabilitation system to obtain it without wasting unnecessary paperwork and time. Other changes include a shift of current State plan requirements to standard and indicators, allowing agencies to focus on definable indicators instead of malleable process monitoring; and a deletion of a number of out-of-date and unnecessary State plan obligations. Finally, the amendments also repeal 25 programs authorized by the act for which Congress has never appropriated funds.

The skills of this Nation's work force are more important today than ever before—both to American workers and to U.S. competitiveness. However our current patchwork of Federal programs is not the answer. The Employment, Training and Literacy Enhancement Act is a first, important step in addressing our long-term work force preparation needs by helping States and local communities to make sense out of our current confusing array of training programs. I thank our distinguished chairman for his insight and leadership on this vital issue, and I thank the ranking Democrat Member of our Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, for his valuable input in development of this legislation. I invite all of my colleagues to join with us in this dramatic effort to overhaul our current employment, training, and literacy programs.

VETERANS COLD WEATHER INJURY COMPENSATION ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will assist disabled veterans who were exposed to extremely cold weather conditions for prolonged periods of time while defending our nation during World War II and the Korean war, and more recently while serving in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. In fact, Mr. Speaker, veterans of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea are recognized as having suffered especially high rates of severe cold injuries.

In many instances, service members did not seek or were unable to obtain medical care after cold injuries because of battlefield conditions, which impeded the ability of veterans to acquire supporting documentation, such as buddy letters, which are often used to support claims to the Veterans Administration. For too long, our Government has failed to recognize the severity of the injuries suffered by these veterans, and this legislation will help to right that wrong.

Mr. Speaker, my bill instructs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to create and maintain a registry of veterans exposed to extremely cold weather for a great length of time. It will use that information to analyze all clinical data obtained by the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with exams and treatment given to veterans that may help in determining what kind of association there is between the disability and the cold weather. In addition, if a veteran suffers from a cold weather injury after serving in a war or battle that was fought in prolonged, extreme weather circumstances, it would be presumed—for the purpose of disability benefits—that the injury was caused by the severe weather.

Veterans from all over New Jersey, and the Nation, have been requesting that we provide a simplified process of recognizing and identifying this service-connected affliction, which has been ignored for far too long. We have the moral obligation and duty to ensure that our veterans are cared for when injuries and disabilities result from war and service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Larry St. Laurent, director, and John Dorrity, assistant director, of the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau, for their hard work and assistance in writing the Veterans Cold Weather Injury Compensation Act.

I would urge all of my colleagues to please consider supporting this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVER ACT

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague DONALD PAYNE, the ranking Democrat on the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee, as well as 25 other Democrats and Republicans from across the political spectrum, in introducing bipartisan legislation addressing a critical national problem: the lack of individual retirement savings.

America faces a ticking demographic time bomb that requires increased retirement savings. Today we introduce the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act of 1997, the SAVER Act, as a first step in defusing the retirement time bomb. The SAVER Act initiates projects to educate American workers about retirement savings and convenes a National Summit on Retirement Savings.

Through this bill, we hope to facilitate a public-private partnership to educate the public on

this serious and underreported national problem. Workers need to know the importance of saving for the future, and of saving as soon as possible. As a survey released this year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute [EBRI] reveals, there is much work to do. Less than a third of Americans have even tried to calculate how much they need to have saved by retirement. Furthermore, less than 20 percent are very confident they will have enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement. Far too few Americans—particularly the young—have either the knowledge or the resources necessary to take advantage of the extensive benefits offered by our retirement savings system.

We know the old adage that you feed someone for life by teaching them to fish. We need to apply this principle to retirement savings. The same EBRI survey found that while only a quarter of workers expressed confidence in their ability to map out a retirement savings strategy, an encouraging 50 percent said they would stick to a plan if they had one. We must find ways to get the information and skills out to workers to harness this latent energy.

The SAVER Act directs the Department of Labor [DOL] to maintain an ongoing program of education and outreach to the public through public service announcements, public meetings, creation of educational materials, and establishment of a site on the Internet. The information to be disseminated will include a means for individuals to calculate their estimated retirement savings needs, a thorough description of the types of retirement savings arrangements currently available to both individuals and employers, and an explanation for employers, in simple terms, of how to establish different retirement savings arrangements for their workers.

The SAVER Act also convenes a National Summit on Retirement Savings at the White House, cohosted by the executive and legislative branches, to be held by April 15, 1998, and again every 4 years thereafter. The National Summit would advance the public's knowledge and understanding of retirement savings and facilitate the development of a broad-based, public education program; identify the barriers which hinder workers from setting aside adequate savings for retirement and impede employers, especially small employers, from assisting workers in accumulating retirement savings; and develop specific recommendations for legislative, executive, and private sector actions to promote retirement savings among American workers.

The national summit would bring together experts in the fields of employee benefits and retirement savings, key leaders of government, and interested parties from the private sector and general public. The delegates would be selected equally by the majority and minority leaders of the two Houses of Congress and would represent the diversity of thought in the field without regard to their political affiliation. The national summit would be largely funded through the existing educational appropriations for the DOL and by contributions from the private sector.

The lack of adequate retirement savings will only become a more pressing problem as the baby boomers begin to retire. It does not take a mathematician to recognize that in the future

retiring Americans will have to rely less on Social Security and more on pensions and other personal savings. But make no mistake, we have known of this problem for a long time. Sixteen years ago President Carter's Commission on Pension Policy reported that a serious crisis existed in our retirement income programs, and that baby boomers will place severe strains on an already overburdened system. It's 16 years later and the problems have only gotten bigger as they have come closer. The American people can afford to wait no longer.

I hope that the SAVER Act can be a first step in a truly bipartisan effort to reverse the long course of neglect of this vital issue, and help American workers better prepare for a comfortable and secure retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
AND SACRIFICES BY THE MEN
AND WOMEN OF THE U.S. SPECIAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I ask all Members of the House to join me in honoring the limitless contributions, valorous acts, and tremendous sacrifices demonstrated daily by the men and women of the U.S. Special Operations Command [USSOCOM]. As we observe the 10th anniversary of the creation of USSOCOM, we should make note of the unique military capability provided to our National Command Authority.

The immeasurable achievement of USSOCOM since its birth—a scant 10 years ago—is testament to the vision, forethought, and dedication of those who have come before us in service of our Nation. We should also recognize the work of our former colleagues Sam Nunn, Bill Cohen, and the late Dan Daniel, effort essential for the existence of this command. Their efforts led to passage of the Nunn-Cohen amendment to what is known as the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act.

The special operators of USSOCOM—"the quiet professionals"—are truly dedicated men and women. They provide a unique, unmatched, and necessary capability to our Nation in the areas of contingency response, counterterrorism, and unconventional warfare. Whether conflict erupts in Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia, Liberia, Haiti, Bosnia, or some other unnamed site around the globe, we should gain comfort knowing they stand ready to serve our national security objectives. I hope my colleagues can join in recognizing their tradition. God bless them all.

LEGISLATION TO CLOSE A
CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLE

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, several recent news reports describe corporate acquisition

transactions in which one corporation distributes the stock of one—or more—of its subsidiaries to its shareholders in a so-called spinoff and, pursuant to a prearranged plan, either the distributed subsidiary or the old parent corporation is acquired by another, unrelated corporation. Often, the corporation that is to be acquired borrows or assumes a large amount of debt incurred prior to the spinoff, while the proceeds of such indebtedness are retained by the other corporation.

For Federal income tax purposes, taxpayers take the position, and the IRS apparently rules, that the initial distribution is tax-free pursuant to section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code and the subsequent acquisition is tax-free pursuant to one of the various reorganization provisions described in section 368. Such positions are consistent with the holding in the case of *Commissioner v. Mary Archer W. Morris Trust*, 367 F.2d 794 (4th Cir. 1966) and published IRS rulings.

Congress did not intend that section 355 apply to insulate these transactions from tax. Section 355 was intended to permit tax-free restructurings of several businesses among existing shareholders, with limitations to prevent the bail-out of corporate earnings and profits to the shareholders as capital gains. The recent transactions that raise concerns have very little to do with individual shareholder tax planning. Rather, they are prearranged structures designed to avoid corporate-level gain recognition. In essence, these transactions resemble sales. If such transactions were treated as sales for tax purposes, the remaining corporation would recognize gain with respect to the stock of the acquired corporation.

Today's introduced legislation is intended to treat transactions occurring after April 16, 1997, the general effective date of the bill, as sales at the corporate level.

A technical explanation of the legislation is provided below. This legislation affects complex transactions and additional or alternative legislative changes also may be appropriate. For example, it may be appropriate to amend or repeal present-law section 355(d) and to treat certain asset acquisitions as stock acquisitions. Written comments on the issues raised by this bill are welcome.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL—ACQUISITIONS OF DISTRIBUTING OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS PURSUANT TO PLAN

The proposal would adopt additional restrictions under section 355. Under the proposal, if pursuant to a plan or arrangement in existence on the date of distribution, either the controlled or distributing corporation is acquired, gain would be recognized by the other corporation as of the date of the distribution.

Whether a corporation is acquired would be determined under rules similar to those of present-law section 355(d), except that acquisitions would not be restricted to purchase transactions. Thus, an acquisition would occur if a person—or persons acting in concert—acquired more than 50 percent of the vote or value of the stock of the controlled or distributing corporation pursuant to a plan or arrangement. For example, assume a corporation, P distributes the stock of its wholly owned subsidiary S to its shareholders. If, pursuant to a plan or arrangement, either P or S

is acquired, the proposal would apply to require gain recognition by the corporation not acquired. It is anticipated that certain asset acquisitions would be treated as stock acquisitions.

Acquisitions occurring within the 4-year period beginning 2 years before the date of distribution would be presumed to have occurred pursuant to a plan or arrangement. Taxpayers could avoid gain recognition by showing that an acquisition occurring during this 4-year period was unrelated to the distribution.

In the case of an acquisition of the controlled corporation, the amount of gain recognized by the distributing corporation would be the amount of gain that the distributing corporation would have recognized had stock of the controlled corporation been sold for fair market value on the date of distribution. In the case of an acquisition of the distributing corporation, the amount of gain recognized by the controlled corporation would be the amount of net gain that the distributing corporation would have recognized had it sold its assets for fair market value immediately after the distribution. This gain would be treated as long-term capital gain. No adjustment to the basis of the stock or assets of either corporation would be allowed by reason of the recognition of the gain.

The proposal would not apply to a distribution pursuant to a title 11 or similar case.

The Treasury Department would be authorized to prescribe regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of the proposal, including regulations to provide for the application of the proposal in the case of multiple distributions.

TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS WITHIN AFFILIATED GROUPS

Except as provided in Treasury regulations, section 355 would not apply to a distribution of stock of one member of an affiliated group of corporations filing a consolidated return to another member. In the case of a distribution of stock within an affiliated group, the Secretary of the Treasury would be instructed to provide appropriate rules for the treatment of the distribution, including rules governing adjustments to the adjusted basis of the stock and the earnings and profits of the members of the group.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The proposal would be effective for distributions after April 16, 1997, unless the distribution is: First, made pursuant to a written agreement with an acquirer which was—subject to customary conditions—binding on or before such date and at all times thereafter; second, described in a ruling request that identifies the acquirer and is submitted to the IRS on or before such date; third, described in a Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] filing made on or before such date, to the extent such filing was required to be made on account of the distribution and identifies the acquirer; or fourth, described in a public announcement that identifies the acquirer on or before such date. The exceptions for written agreements, IRS ruling requests, SEC filings, and public announcements would not apply to distributions of stock within a consolidated group of corporations.

INVESTIGATING FOR FAIRNESS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Jay Brandow, an outstanding individual from my hometown of Bay City. For the past 12 years Jay has been an investigative reporter for WNEM-TV 5. Jay is not only an exceptional reporter but also a true asset to the community. His superb reporting has provided information that has enlightened and greatly impacted our community, our State, and our Nation.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jay for many years. I first knew him when I was a Michigan State Senator. The stories Jay investigated and reported have uncovered several critical issues in our community. Although many of his stories were significant, his Bancroft-Eddy story truly stands out. This news story revealed the terrible and unsafe public housing that was existing in our own community.

Jay's investigative reporting helped bring attention to the low-income public housing that was being subsidized by the Department of Federal Housing and Urban Development. The apartment buildings were unsafe, unclean, and hazardous to its tenants. The condition of the complex was alarming. His relentless investigation and reporting, resulted in a critical investigation into the housing condition of the Bancroft-Eddy complex. This official investigation by both the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development resulted in effective efforts to improve this public housing. Jay's determination brought him to Washington DC to meet with HUD officials as well as myself, in my capacity as the fifth district Congressman. He was willing to go that extra mile to thoroughly investigate and demand improvement. Mr. Brandow's superior investigation and reporting skills forced the State and Federal Government to improve the Bancroft-Eddy housing complex in Saginaw, MI.

Mr. Brandow should be proud of his efforts. Our community now has safe, clean, and livable low-income housing for those individuals and families who are truly in need of help. Jay's investigation and reporting proved that he is not only an outstanding reporter, but that he cares for the less fortunate in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Jay Brandow as he is presented an award from the Tri-County Fair Housing Commission. We wish him the best for the new challenges ahead.

COMMENDING AMERICANS WHO
SERVED IN THE COLD WAR**HON. RICK LAZIO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a concurrent resolution commending

those Americans who serviced during the cold war.

Fifty years ago this July, George Kennan, in his article "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," defined the challenge facing America with the onset of the cold war. After describing the expansionist and totalitarian nature of the Soviet state, Kennan called for "a policy of firm containment, designed to confront the Russians with unalterable counterforce at every point where they show signs of encroaching upon the interests of a peaceful and stable world." Kennan was convinced that the Soviet dictatorship would eventually be undermined by its own internal weaknesses. But until that happened, he exhorted Americans to face "this implacable challenge" by drawing upon the strength of our national character. In Kennan's memorable words: "To avoid destruction the United States need only measure up to its won best traditions and prove itself worthy of preservation as a great nation." He concluded that the American people, in standing up to totalitarian aggression, were shouldering the "Responsibilities of moral and political leadership that history plainly intended them to bear.

We look back today at this stirring call to action and see how history has confirmed Kennan's words. The Soviet regime, a regime which accepted no moral or legal restraints, which aggressively sought to recast the rest of the world in its image, which subordinated all its natural and human resources to building a vast military machine, has collapsed. America, in contrast, stands strong in the durability of its democracy, the dynamism of its economy, and the vitality of its citizens. Clearly, we have met and surpassed the implacable challenge described by George Kennan as he surveyed events in those dark early days of the cold war.

It is now time to recognize all of those Americans who served during the cold war. The men and women of our Armed Forces, our intelligence community, our foreign service, and many other areas of our government met the challenge of the cold war with skill and dedication. Americans served in every corner of the globe, often isolated from family and friends, sometimes under the most arduous conditions. Some laid down their lives when the cold war turned hot in places like Korea and Vietnam. Others accepted discomfort, loneliness, and risk while maintaining our military readiness against a foe capable of launching a devastating attack with little notice. All of them lived up to America's best traditions and ensured America's preservation as a great nation.

Through their efforts, almost 500 million people have been freed from Communist tyranny. Nations once submerged by Soviet imperialism can now claim their rightful place in the international community. Fears of a nuclear holocaust now seem a distant memory.

For Americans, the cold war ended with no parades, no fanfare, no speeches. After a conflict where so much was a stake, not enough has been done to acknowledge our country's victory and our debt to those who made it possible.

During the 104th Congress, my resolution honoring Americans who served during the cold war passed the House of Representatives by a unanimous vote. Unfortunately, the reso-

lution did not come up for a vote in the Senate.

It is now time to recognize all Americans who served during the long, demanding years of the cold war. We are worthy of preservation as a great nation because so many of our most talented and dedicated citizens did their part for so long in a conflict that seemed endless.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR
CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman FRANK PALLONE, for sponsoring this special order this evening. I am pleased to join FRANK and others as we discuss an issue of great importance to the Congress and this Nation. The issue under discussion is that of children's health.

I want to use the time allocated to call attention to the millions of children who are uninsured. Just recently, the Democratic caucus children's health care task force convened a hearing which focused on the problem of uninsured children in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 10 million children across the nation, or 13.8 percent of all children under the age of 18, are uninsured.

The rate for African-American children without any health insurance at all is even higher, at 15.3 percent. Statistics further indicate that 2.9 million of those children are eligible for Medicaid but are not enrolled.

Mr. Speaker, the urgency to insure these children lies in the fact that uninsured children are less likely than insured children to get much needed health and preventive care. The lack of such care can have adverse effects on these children's health for the rest of their lives. In my home State of Ohio, nearly 300,000 children are without health insurance. It is estimated that as many as a quarter of all children in Ohio may have been uninsured for at least 1 month over the last 2 years. While the overall rate for the State is 9.6 percent, slightly less than the national rate, far too many children still remain uninsured.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, I know that the problem of uninsured children is taking a toll on many families across this Nation. The Congress must make this issue a top priority. We must be willing to explore the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, and reforms of outreach and service delivery systems in order to provide access to comprehensive health care services for uninsured children.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said on many occasions that our children represent our future. It is time for the Congress to take action on behalf of our Nation's youth. I join Congressman PALLONE and members of the Democratic children's health task force in urging our colleagues to move forward to insure and protect America's greatest resource—our children.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
TO ENACT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS LAST

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to ensure that the legislative branch appropriations bill is the last appropriations bill we enact. My resolution would amend the rules of the House to postpone final action on legislative branch appropriations for any fiscal year until all other regular appropriations for that fiscal year have been enacted. By doing so, we would both avert another shutdown and restore responsibility to the appropriations process.

This resolution adds new points of order under House rules governing appropriations to prohibit final action on the regular legislative branch appropriations bill unless all other regular appropriations bills for the fiscal year are enacted. Similarly, a continuing resolution could not contain legislative branch appropriations unless it also included continuing appropriations for the same period for all other regular appropriations bills not already signed into law.

Unless all other appropriations bills were signed into law, this means that there could not be final action on the conference report for legislative branch appropriations. It would not preclude the Appropriations Committee or the House from considering the legislative branch appropriations bill before other bills; the House simply could not vote on final passage of a conference report, a motion on a Senate amendment or a continuing resolution, if we have not first, or concurrently, provided appropriations for the other twelve bills.

This resolution would demonstrate our commitment to govern responsibly and to put the American people before ourselves. By enacting our own funding bill last, we may be more likely to find common ground on the other bills and to avert another Government shutdown. We must never again shut down the Federal Government; it devastated our constituents who depend on Government services, our Federal employees, contractors and their families, and our communities. By linking our own funding to the enactment of all appropriations bills, we would ensure that we would take our responsibility seriously and work to find common ground.

During the November 1995 shutdown, Congress made the mistake of passing the fiscal year 1996 legislative branch appropriations bill before taking care of all of the other bills. The President vetoed it—not because of its content, but because of its timing. When it was enacted later that year, legislators lost that extra motivation to negotiate the remaining bills during the prolonged Government shutdown—after all, their salaries and their staffs were secured.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representative TOM DAVIS and me in putting the American people first. Please help me to ensure that before we pay ourselves, we meet our obligations to take care of Government agencies and the public that we are here to serve.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO VANDERGRIFT FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department of Westmoreland County. The fire department was founded on November 29, 1897 and is celebrating its centennial with several festivities throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to join the citizens of Vandergrift in congratulating the volunteers, both past and present, for 100 years of outstanding public service to their community.

The Vandergrift Fire Department is made up of dedicated individuals who risk and sacrifice their personal safety every day as volunteers in their community. They have careers independent of their volunteer service. They have families and daily responsibilities. However, when the emergency call sounds, the members of the Vandergrift Fire Department put their own lives on hold to provide safety and emergency services to the citizens of Vandergrift. They have proven that by joining together they provide an invaluable service to the entire community.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I would like to wish the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department another 100 years of successful public service. They have protected the lives of their families, their property, and the spirit of their community with dignity. Their service represents a local heroism which has guided a community for a century—with honor, courage, and self-sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES A. HAYES

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM L. CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our former colleague and my dear friend, Charles Hayes—a leader, a visionary and a man of the people. Charlie passed away on April 8, 1997, in Chicago, IL.

Charles Hayes was a crusader for justice, fairness, and decency. He began his quest to make the world a better place before most Members of this body were born.

Emerging from the fiery furnace of the Great Depression as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, he learned the importance of work and fairness early on.

At the young age of 20, Charlie stood up against racism and discrimination in the workplace. He organized a group of black carpenters in a flooring plant and formed a local union to secure fairer wages and better working conditions for the employees. He was elected president of that local and began his climb to become one of the most important labor leaders in America.

In 1954, as district one director of the United Packinghouse Workers of America,

April 17, 1997

Charlie forced the union to acknowledge and address the employment concerns of women in the workplace.

For more than three decades, this working man from Cairo, IL used his union office to fight for the rights of ordinary people.

Charlie was an advocate for full national health care for every American before anyone ever heard of Medicare. He voiced strong support for protecting American jobs from foreign competition long before the international trade imbalance became a major national concern.

Everywhere you looked, you saw Charlie Hayes standing up for the little guy. From strikes to marches. From jobs and civil rights issues to health care and housing concerns. You could always count on Charlie Hayes to be there when the going got tough.

In 1983, the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois sent Charles Hayes to Congress to fight for them—and fight he did.

I had the privilege of serving with him on both the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. He brought with him decades of hard work and experience on the front lines that helped him to make important contributions to both committees. He never forgot the struggle. He crafted every bill with a sincere commitment to securing justice and equality for working men and women.

He introduced full employment legislation and denounced unemployment as morally unacceptable. While a number of politicians were arguing about how best to cut taxes on the rich, Charlie Hayes was arguing about how best to help those in our society who could not help themselves.

When Charlie left Congress, he went back to Chicago to fight once again on the front lines with men and women who had served on the various task forces he formed while in Congress. Each day he fought the good fight.

Though his struggle is over, Charlie's legacy will live on. We will always remember his strength of character, his love for life and his fighting spirit.

I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring his wonderful life by continuing to champion the cause of American workers.

I salute my dear friend Charlie Hayes and I bid him farewell.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR EMORY
FOLMAR'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF MONTGOMERY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, this month the city of Montgomery, AL marks an important milestone; two decades of courageous, visionary leadership embodied by a remarkable public servant, Mayor Emory Folmar.

To those of us native to South Alabama, the words Emory Folmar speak for themselves. They evoke images of strong, effective leadership; courageous political stands; and, an undaunted spirit of patriotism and loyalty to home and country.

Mayor Emory Folmar, bolstered by a uniquely charming and indispensable political

partner, his wife Anita, has forged a legendary record of service to his community and his beloved State that any high public official would envy. Under his two-decade-old watch, Montgomery has become a bustling and beautiful capital city for which all of Alabama can be proud.

He has tackled crime and city service problems head-on and in-person, earning the respect of city workers and citizens alike. His embrace of Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base has ensured that the military not only maintains a high profile presence in central Alabama, but that the Air force retains one of the very best educational, training, and software support facilities in the country.

In reviewing his record of public office, it is fitting to note that Emory Folmar began his career as mayor by defeating no less than 44 candidates without a run-off. That was on April 12, 1977, and that same indomitable character lives on today, even more determined than ever to put Montgomery, AL first.

As a personal friend, I have no doubt that Emory Folmar will pay little attention to this anniversary and will instead continue being the man of the people he truly is. As long as Montgomery's best days lie ahead—and they will because of his vigilance—Emory Folmar will be at his best, serving the public.

I congratulate Emory and Anita Folmar and I look forward to 20 more years of their brand of successful leadership for Alabama. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

UNITED STATES RESUMES AID TO TURKEY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, April 16, 1997, President Clinton notified Congress that he will be invoking the national security waiver clause in the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, therefore resuming United States aid to Turkey despite that country's immoral blockade of humanitarian assistance to Armenia. This course marks a continued failure by the administration to grasp the deep distress Armenia and its people are suffering as a result of Turkey's cruel 4-year blockade. There is neither grounds for Turkey's blockade of Armenia, nor any overriding policy objective cited by the administration which legitimizes this injustice.

Recently, I was honored to visit Armenia. I know first-hand of the courageous efforts of Armenia's leaders to move forward with market reforms and policies designed to foster political and economic integration with Western institutions and economies. I am committed to encouraging this process, and I believe it is disgraceful that the administration turns a blind-eye to policies that suffocate a land so rich in potential. The Clinton administration has correctly articulated the U.S. foreign policy objectives in the Caucasus region are stability, peace, democracy and economic prosperity. Unfortunately, with yesterday's waiver, the administration demonstrated its inability to recognize the means for achieving these ends. By

assisting in the enforcement of this blockade, President Clinton has sentenced Armenia and her people to another painful year.

TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTING OREGON

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26–28, 1997, more than 1,200 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia will be in Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizens and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lincoln High School from Portland will represent Oregon and the First Congressional District. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Oregon are: Joseph Bartels, Alexandra Boule-Buckley, Eric Fitzgerald, Joel Fowles, Jason Franklin, Nina Handelman, Morgan Harvey, Calder Hughes, Leah Hyman, Marguerite Ingalsbe, Katherine Johansen, Conor Jones, Katherine Kennedy, Ruben Litwer-Mos, Christopher Lorenz, Emma McCandlish, Andrew Moore, Pernilla Nathan, Michael Nguyen, Jacob Oken-Berg, Nels Overgard-Cook, Elizabeth Schaub, Ashley Schmidt, Adam Smith, Thomas Steinberger, Joseph Streckert, Lakesha Thomas, Kimvi To, Zachary Vanderkooy.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Mr. Hal Hart, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Mr. Daniel James, and the State coordinator, Ms. Marilyn Cover, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People . . . The Citizens and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program, now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 75,000 teachers, and 24 million students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People . . . program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I wish these students the best of luck in the national finals and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues may not be aware, but this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Special Operations Command, based at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

The 47,000 soldiers who make up the special operations command are the most elite forces that the U.S. military has to offer. This command coordinates special forces members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corp who currently operate in 140 countries worldwide. Despite their numbers, range of deployment and unique talents, the Special Operations Command makes up only 1 percent of DOD's budget and 1 percent of the U.S. military. Deployed to some of the most hostile environments in the world, these bold warriors are a constant presence for the United States.

Special forces have been an indispensable asset to the United States in armed conflicts since the American Revolutionary War. Today, the modern special forces operator is prepared to meet both humanitarian and military challenges wherever they are deployed. Teamwork and cooperation are essential for the survival of each member of the unconventional warfare community. In 1987, the special operations command was borne out this need to coordinate the complicated and dangerous missions assigned to special forces members.

In recognition of the anniversary of the Special Operations Command, Orval Jackson of the Tampa Tribune has written a very comprehensive history of the command which I commend to my colleagues attention.

Mr. Speaker I know I speak for all my colleagues in admiration of the sacrifices and service of the men and women who serve and have served in the special forces—many in virtual anonymity.

[From the Tampa Tribune, Apr. 14, 1997]

10 YEARS BOLD

(By Orval Jackson)

TAMPA.—It stands to reason Special Operations forces are on duty in many of the world's trouble spots, such as Bosnia and the Persian Gulf.

More surprising, however, is that Special Operations forces also are deployed to more than 140 nations, providing governments with a variety of military and humanitarian skills.

Most Americans don't know about these missions, because the command, based at MacDill Air Force Base, doesn't publicize them. And that's the whole point: They're special operations.

"Special Operations forces offer a unique, versatile and global joint service force, which continuously operates worldwide," said Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, commander in chief of the unified command.

The successes and wide-ranging tasks of the special forces will be recognized this week as the Special Operations Command commemorates its 10th anniversary.

Many of the deployments, Shelton said, are in areas plagued by disease, starvation, poverty and civil strife—incubators for future

insurgencies, humanitarian crises and ethnic conflict.

"U.S. Special Operations forces have become extremely skillful in practicing the art of peace, while still remaining prepared for and preserving the option of force," Shelton said.

Case in point: Somalia. A humanitarian program there in 1992 evolved into a military one the next year. In it, two Special Operations soldiers became the first Americans since Vietnam to receive the Medal of Honor.

In October 1993, Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall D. Shughart disregarded their own safety while trying to rescue crewmen from two downed helicopters. Gordon and Shughart held heavily armed crowds at bay until they ran out of ammunition and were killed. The lone survivor of the crash, who was wounded, was taken prisoner and later was released.

Gordon and Shughart were part of about 47,000 active, reserve and national guard forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force that make up the Special Operations Command. Despite its worldwide involvement, it represents only 1 percent of the nation's military and 1 percent of the Defense Department's budget.

Its anniversary week will be highlighted Wednesday when Secretary of Defense William Cohen is presented the Bull Simons Award, given annually to those who embody the spirit, values and skills of a legendary special operator.

Cohen, who was a Republican senator from Maine, and Sam Nunn, a Senate Democrat from Georgia at the time, wrote the legislation that created the Special Operations Command in 1987. Nunn, who is unable to attend the MacDill events, received his Bull Simon Award recently in Atlanta.

Nearing the end of his 34-year career, Simons led a Special Forces raid on the Son Tay prisoner-of-war camp in North Vietnam in 1970. The prisoners had been moved before the forces arrived, but the raid was credited with forcing the North Vietnamese to improve the care of POWs.

Another bold, but ultimately unsuccessful, mission spurred the creation of the Special Operations Command. In 1980, an attempt to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran led to the death of eight military personnel when two rescue aircraft collided in the Iranian desert.

As efforts were under way in the Department of Defense to reform the special forces operations, the process was spurred on by the 1983 terrorist bombing attack that killed 237 marines in Lebanon and the invasion of Grenada, which was successful despite operational problems within the military units.

Then-President Reagan approved establishment of the new command April 13, 1987, and three days later it was activated by the Department of Defense under the command of Army Gen. James Lindsay. It took over the facilities of the U.S. Readiness Command at MacDill, whose missions were transferred to other commands.

During its 10 years, the command has participated in five other major operations in addition to Somalia, including its first big test in December 1989, when more than 4,400 special operations forces participated in operation Just Cause in Panama. It led to the capture of dictator Manuel Noriega.

In 1990-91, more than 9,400 personnel were deployed to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Last April, Special Operations helicopters flew through some of the worst conditions to reach a mountainside above Dubrovnik, Cro-

atia, where Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and 34 others were killed when their plane crashed.

In addition to well-publicized military operations, Special Operations forces have a number of lesser-known missions.

They include combating terrorism; seizing or destroying weapons of mass destruction; assisting host countries in civil affairs; conducting rescue missions and antidrug activities; and providing humanitarian assistance.

"I think as you look at the situation we are facing today and in the foreseeable future, there are challenges Special Operations forces should be handling and I see a greater need for them than ever," said retired Army Gen. Carl W. Stiner, who followed Lindsay as commander in chief.

"One significant thing I think we did was keep the focus on readiness and modernization of our forces," Stiner said. "Another was to work with the regional CINCs [commanders in chief], educating them on the utility of Special Operations forces and their capability of assisting in achieving reasonable objectives."

"VISION OF THE FUTURE"—15-YEAR-OLD LEVI TILLEMANN-DICK DISCUSSES THE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY IN TWO GENERATIONS—ESSAY WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a young man who at the tender age of 15 has already established himself as a thoughtful analyst of the future. Levi Tillemann-Dick of Denver, CO, was winner of a recent essay competition, "Vision of the Future", sponsored by the Association of Computer Manufacturers [ACM] to examine how changes in computer technology will change our lives over the next 50 years.

The essay contest was held in order to highlight the Association's celebration of the next half-century of computing, and it was conducted with the assistance and cooperation of the magazine Popular Science. The purpose of the contest and the focus of the judges involved in evaluating the essays submitted was getting students to realize that whatever choices they make with computer science will have future implications for society, economy, and across all spectra of life.

The essays were judged on the basis of their creativity and sense of excitement about what future technologies will be like and how they will affect our daily lives. Levi was awarded a college scholarship of \$2,500 for his winning essay—an important incentive for a student in this age when advanced education is essential for young people to reach their full potential in this information age.

Levi Tillemann-Dick, at the age of only 15, is currently studying at Regis College in Denver. Until January of this year he was schooled at home by his mother, Annette Tillemann-Dick, the daughter of our colleague from California, TOM LANTOS.

Levi Tillemann-Dick's winning essay, "Gigatrends: Technology's Impacts Two Gen-

erations from Today", reflects the kind of thoughtful education in technology that is essential for the future of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this outstanding essay be placed in the RECORD, and I invite my colleagues to read it. It is important as we here in this body consider the effect that technology will have upon the lives of our children and grandchildren, and these are the kinds of problems on which we in this body should be focusing.

GIGATRENDS: TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACTS TWO GENERATIONS FROM TODAY

(By Levi M. Tillemann-Dick, the Yale Academy, Denver, CO)

Fifty years ago, a Naval scientist labored for hours beside a computer the size of a small bus, calculating the trajectory of a single artillery shell. Today's notebook computer can perform the same operation in a fraction of a second. IBM and Hewlett-Packard have just announced the invention of the PAN—Personal Area Network—a set of devices that use the human as a conductor to relay detailed textual information from one person to another simply by touch. While it is very difficult to predict what the hardware will be like in fifty years, it is possible to make reasonable predictions of what the technology will be and how it will affect our lives.

Computers have demonstrated themselves to be especially well adapted to two types of activities: communications transactions, and information processing and storing. In key respects, computers have operated with much the same impact on society as did the printing press and the book, but accelerated a million times. Tom Sawyer on the printed page created a virtual reality device that led us toward the media of today and the shared experiences and artificial sensations of tomorrow.

The Internet's technology is the communications gateway to the near future. It will wholly transform people's lives. The Internet will, of course, be used for commerce, personal communications, entertainment, and research. It is a relatively small conceptual step, however, from the PAN processor that relays a written message through one's body by a shake of the hand, to a microcell sensory transmission system that relays ideas and sensations directly to and from the most powerful processor in the world, one's brain. Within a few decades, developments stemming from PAN-type research will transform the Internet into the LifeNet, a comprehensive sensory environment for human habitation. Our minds will be afforded wireless direct sensory interfacing with other people and various databases. A dramatically enhanced version of what we now call "virtual reality" will become as common as air conditioning. Telephones, TVs, PCs and other media conveyors will be replaced by wireless sensory feeds from, and to, communal microcells. The LifeNet will become infinitely more important to mankind than the telephone is today. It will become as essential to our lifestyles as electricity or running water is now.

What are the implications for our society? Strong arguments can be made that the place of technological advancement will be accelerated, and human interactions forever altered. Some have suggested that today's Internet is addictive. They have hit on a key point but used the wrong terminology. It is not addiction that causes these people to return to the Internet each day, but the fact that they can craft a new identity for themselves—any identity they choose. Or they

can participate in experiences that are otherwise beyond their reach. If today's crudeness of wires and two-dimensional web sites so captivate people, consider the impact of a technology affording a lifestyle where you could go wherever you wanted to go, and be whoever you wanted to be whenever you chose. Every field of human endeavor would be affected, from business to entertainment to courtship and art. Over the course of not many years, the technology's impact upon society would be all-encompassing.

Fifty years ago, the average person in the workforce was a farmer or laborer. They were physically strong. They ate more, but weighted less. Today's office and service workers have diminished physical capabilities, but are better educated. The LifeNet will accelerate this trend. The amount of food needed to survive when spending weeks, months, or years on the Net would be drastically reduced from the amount needed to sustain a body that is undergoing today's activity. Like most changes, this is a two-edged sword. Resource depletion resulting from overpopulation will cease to be a major issue when we are subsisting on 600 calories a day in a sensory reality where we can eat all we want. Our mansions will be built in our minds, and our future Ferrari's will be driven along the roads of our collective imaginations. The physical body (over a period of time) would deteriorate to a state where the full recovery back to a state of good physical health would take months—if it was possible at all. Fifty years from now, our minds will be working and playing in ways now beyond our imagination, and paradoxically, the sensations we will feel will be just as real as those we experience today.

The time constraints relating to day and night will dissolve when we can communicate effortlessly anywhere in the world. It is likely that humans will require less sleep, since we will need only the time to file and store the information that our brains have collected and not to rest our physical bodies.

These technologies will not be expensive. On a per capita basis, participation in the LifeNet will consume far fewer resources than an automobile, and reduce our housing and other needs. This fact, along with a lack of prior investment in other infrastructures like highways and copper cabling, will prompt the rapid expansion of the LifeNet into third-world countries. The equipment required for the microcellular sensory transmission technology will be modular, redundant, and like that for the Internet, incrementally inexpensive. Countries that have problems with overcrowding and famine would quickly embrace the LifeNet. Their resources would be extended, and planners would likely program the system to minimize the population's reproductive drive.

People will still have jobs. There will be lots of work to do. People will want to consume the newest experiential sensations. Some food will need to be prepared, and equipment manufactured. Government would be divided into two categories: geographical-physical and communicative. The responsibilities of the geographic governments will be to defend landmasses and keep order in the physical world—much as they do today. However, there will likely be another type of government co-existing with today's political successors. The responsibilities of these communicative governments will be to administer, regulate, and defend cyberspace. The communicative government will also be responsible for the maintenance of the input-output microcells. The communicative governments already exist in the form of the

various online services—and their monthly fees are the taxes. As they mature, these communicative governments will develop such things as better defense systems against the threats of cyberspace terrorism.

Religion has been, is and it is safe to assume always will be, a major part of society. Televangelism's success leads us to the conclusion that the LifeNet will support religions of many sorts. It is not clear whether people will completely forego interpersonal religious contact as the LifeNet becomes pervasive.

The darker side of religion and the LifeNet may be the result of a large and potentially violent antitechnological cult movement that could arise. These cults would likely be something parallel to today's right-wing extremists and Muslim fundamentalists, but vastly more diverse and considerably more dangerous. It is frightening to contemplate the destructive "holy wars" that they could embark upon and the grave consequences for LifeNet residents.

Some people would have to remain physically active and strong, because of the nature of their labor. There will always be tools and equipment that will break down and will have to be repaired, and there will always be operations and experiments that must be carried out physically to know the outcome. Manufacturers, natural resource harvesters, and explorers of all sorts are likely to be visitors to the LifeNet, rather than residents.

The field of manufacturing would be dramatically reduced in size, considering that large cut of the world's population would no longer need much in the way of cars, clothing, physical tools and countless other physical objects. Natural resource harvesters will work in every field from farming to mining. Harvesters will be supported of new technologies and these activities would also decrease for the same reasons as manufacturing would—the virtual elimination of every physical non-necessity.

One of the few physical job categories that would likely grow is that of the explorers. An explorer is anyone from a cellular biochemist to an astronaut. This field is sure to expand in the years to come, as science expands and becomes more complex, and as space and deep-sea exploration become further reaching.

Another small category of physical beings would work for various medical and life-support companies. They would have the lives of every individual in the cyberworld in their hands. They would be paid to keep the devices that nourish and climatically maintain all the people who chose to enter into the cyberlife. They would have the solemn but necessary responsibility of—after the allotted amount of time—turning off the machines.

It is impossible to predict exactly what the technology will be in fifty years considering that when my Dad was fourteen there were no PCs, and when my Grandma was fourteen electricity was cutting-edge technology. But one thing is certain: There will be things that are wonderful, things that are beautiful, and some things that are deeply frightening that will all become realities in the next fifty years.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: DEFENDING THE POWERS THAT BE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to draw your attention to the following editorial from a major newspaper that serves the Capital District region of my home State of New York, the Times-Union. It deals with a subject with which I've been paying a great deal of attention, and that's the fundraising activities of the Democrat National Committee and the Clinton White House. It's no longer any secret that the open-ended dealings of the White House in attracting large sums of campaign cash may have led to violations of national security, breaches of classified information, changes in U.S. foreign policy, and economic espionage, not to mention the violation of a whole slew of laws related to campaign fundraising, the activities of Federal employees, the use of Federal property, and the expenditure of Federal tax dollars.

I've investigated and monitored this situation with such zeal since last October, not because of any partisan interest, but because of my genuine concern for this country's security, especially when a foreign power like China, under a Communist government I have viewed with distrust for many years based on a wide variety of policies, is being investigated for actively trying to infiltrate our political system for their own gain. In any other administration, Mr. Speaker, no matter who was in the White House, or the Justice Department for that matter, there came a point where politics were cast aside for the best interests of the country. Tragically, that line has been blurred, if not erased, as a great deal of the fundraising activities that may have compromised American business and security interests were condoned, and even orchestrated, by the Clinton administration.

But, I know and have known all along, that in order to prevent the entire controversy from being lost and consumed in the shadows and barbs of partisan politics, and independent prosecutor was necessary. Mr. Speaker, there are a few moments in history where a particular person in power or in public service will make a decision that will be judged over time as either a monumental stand for what is right and just, or as cow-towing to the powers that be. I fear Attorney General Reno has had her moment and the powers that be are smiling.

[From the Times-Union, Apr. 16, 1997]

JANET RENO, WRONG AGAIN

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was wrong to resist previous calls to appoint a special prosecutor to look into widening allegations surrounding President Clinton's campaign last year. She was wrong again on Monday, when she rejected, for a fourth time, a similar entreaty.

Ms. Reno's explanation for sticking to her position grows weaker by the day. She continues to insist that there is still no credible evidence of possible criminal wrongdoing by any of the high government officials who are covered under the special prosecutor statute. She argues the Justice Department is capable of handling the inquiry.

There are at least two reasons why a special prosecutor is warranted now. One is the accumulation of charges that point to possible criminal wrongdoing at the White House level. The now infamous "coffees" may have violated federal prohibitions against fund raising on federal property. So might Vice President Gore's phone solicitations. The trail of Asian money may have influenced Clinton administration policy on China and Taiwan. Government phones and credit cards may have been improperly used.

Each day, it seems, more allegations come forth, to the point where the public is now so overwhelmed by the charges and countercharges that only a credible, outside investigation can clear the air.

The second reason for Ms. Reno to act is even more compelling: To avoid the appearance that she is reluctant to turn on Mr. Clinton after he agreed to keep her on for his second term.

It is no secret that Ms. Reno had earned Mr. Clinton's disfavor with her readiness to appoint special prosecutors during his first term. It seemed apparent that she would remain on the Clinton team only if she promised to change her ways. Could this be the reason she has once again rebuffed a call for an independent inquiry?

There is only one way for the attorney general to give a reassuring answer to that question. By doing the right thing, and calling for a special prosecutor.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES CURRENTLY IN PRACTICE AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw my colleague's attention to an article on the management policies currently in practice at Yellowstone National Park written by Montana Representative RICK HILL. RICK invites us to give some serious reflection about the role and condition of Yellowstone and its future stewardship. Recent testimony in the Parks Subcommittee indicates that the park is badly overgrazed. The impact of this mismanagement goes way beyond the overpopulation of bison to impact the entire Yellowstone system. My friends our colleague has sounded the alarm, and I would ask you to take a few moments to read this article to gain a better appreciation of the current state of Yellowstone and the substantial problem we must address. I submit the article for the RECORD.

OPINION BY CONGRESSMAN RICK HILL
(February 28, 1997)

This week Congress received more bad news about our beloved Yellowstone Park: It's being ravaged by misguided environmental policies. In testimony before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Dr. Charles Kay, discussed his research that indicates many of the native plants and animals in the park are being wiped out.

How can this happen you ask in an area as carefully monitored and managed as a national park? According to Kay, it is those very management practices that have led to the near disappearance of willow, beavers, berry shrubs, and mule deer. Most alarming

of all, is that even grizzly habitat, which we are spending millions of dollars to expand in other areas of Montana, is being allowed to dwindle within the park. According to one study, there is now 100 times more stream bank erosion on Yellowstone's denuded streams than on the same willow-lined streams outside the park.

It would seem only logical that the park service would reassess the natural management program it has used over the last 30 years, especially given the disastrous results of the "let-it-burn" policy. However, we now are seeing the "let-em-starve" version of that same misguided thinking applied to the animal population of the park.

In questioning Park Director Roger Kennedy, during the House hearing, the committee was told that this policy dates back 30 years and that no one has made a conscious decision how the bison will be managed. It is clear from the park director's testimony and meetings with Secretary Babbitt that the Department of the Interior and the Park Service do not consider their current management policy as a failure. Nor do they have any immediate plans to change the policy despite testimony that called it foolish and misguided.

While Secretary Babbitt continues to engage in finger pointing, he is overseeing the systematic destruction of our nation's oldest national park. In a letter to Governor Racicot, Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman suggest three steps to reach a solution. The first of these is an expansion of the range for the bison. However, all parties agree that this is not much more than a temporary band-aid. What do we do when the bison have overgrazed the new range? Perhaps the secretary sees all of Montana as the eventual range of the bison? Their second proposal is that we control the size of the herd. We all agree the size needs to be controlled, but again there is no willingness on the part of the Department of the Interior to take the actions necessary to control herd size. In a meeting with Montana's delegation Babbitt refused to commit to any action that would result in a reduced herd size. Their third step is to eliminate Brucellosis. Once again there is total agreement on the need to eliminate this most serious disease. However, Babbitt flatly refuses to discuss even testing for the disease or a systematic vaccination program. It is hard to see how Brucellosis can be eliminated without either testing or vaccination.

No one is advocating the wholesale slaughter of bison. However, we cannot ignore the fact that over population which leads to overgrazing is killing Yellowstone Park. For the Department of the Interior to insist that nothing can be done to control the size of the herd is irresponsible. Bison herds at Moiese, Montana, have been successfully managed for years, as was the herd we are discussing in Yellowstone Park up until the change to hands-off management.

What every Montanan knows and now many Americans also realize from sensationalized news reports, is that Bison are dying. Overlooked by most of these reports is the cause of this "slaughter." Until we turn the discussion to the underlying cause of this problem, we will repeat this same tragedy every few years. Our goal must be a complete reassessment of management policy for Yellowstone Park. Montanans and Congress need to prevail upon the National Park service and the Secretary of the Interior to take action immediately in order to stop this from happening again.

DEFENSE WORKERS HEALTH BENEFITS LEGISLATION

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am today again introducing legislation to provide health insurance benefits to former employees at defense nuclear facilities such as the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

This bill, the Defense Nuclear Workers' Health Insurance Act of 1997, is essentially identical to a bill I introduced in the last Congress, and is based on provisions of a Defense nuclear workers' bill of rights that I introduced in 1991. Other provisions of that larger bill were enacted as part of the 1993 defense authorization bill.

The bill I am introducing today would establish a health insurance program to help with the costs of serious illnesses resulting from workplace exposure to radiation or toxic materials. This would be funded through the Department of Energy and would cover treatment costs exceeding \$25,000 for the covered illnesses or injuries.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear weapons plant workers were on America's front lines in the cold war. They helped our national defense mission, working with dangerous materials often under conditions that would not be acceptable by today's standards. Now, as the work force at these sites is reduced, we need to act to assure prospective future employers that company health insurance rates will not be adversely affected if they hire these former defense workers. We also need to act to give these workers assurance that they'll have insurance coverage for work-related illnesses.

This is the right thing to do. America has already rightly recognized a special obligation to veterans and to those exposed to dangerous levels of radiation during the cold war—uranium miners, people who were downwind from nuclear tests, and "atomic veterans." Nuclear weapons workers deserve similar consideration, and this bill would provide that.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARMER ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Farmer Estate Tax Relief Act of 1997. This bill is designed to make it easier for America's farming families to keep farming.

In discussions and visits with farmers throughout my district, I have learned that there is serious concern about the ability to pass farms on to future generations. The \$600,000 exclusion from estate taxes is not enough to preserve these small businesses that are so dependent upon large capital and land investments.

In Maryland, I understand that there are about 1,000 farms valued at more than \$1 million. A typical farm has anywhere from \$20,000 to \$200,000 worth of equipment.

It is a shame to hear stories of sons and daughters that must sell off part of their parents' farm simply to pay off the estate tax. While retaining the \$750,000 "special use" valuation, my legislation would raise the exclusion by \$1.4 million, allowing these heirs to exclude a total of \$2 million of farm assets.

To encourage these heirs to stay in one of America's most crucial professions, my bill offers the total higher exclusion only to heirs that continue farming for at least 10 years.

Maryland farmers have raised a second issue with me that is addressed by my bill. These independent business people, who often do tough, physical labor into their 70's and 80's, must sometimes sell farm assets to pay high medical bills.

The legislation I am introducing today would allow a one-time exclusion from capital gains taxation for up to \$500,000 of medical expenses. Taxpayers could apply this exclusion to the sale of farm or farm assets in the year of, before, or after the medical expenses occurred.

I know that there are many other Members that share my concerns on these issues. While estate taxes can also have a negative impact on other types of family businesses, I am most concerned about the impact on the men and women who put food on our tables.

As a nation, we cannot afford to push these farm families out of business and I am pleased to introduce this bill to provide them with relief. I urge prompt passage of the Farm-er Estate Tax Relief Act.

EARTH DAY

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the main reason I am an environmentalist is because of a little guy named David—my grandson. Environmentalism is all about what we leave him and his generation.

The district that I live in and represent is one of the most beautiful places on earth—the central coast of California. Living in Santa Barbara, the birthplace of the environmental movement, has taught me a vital lesson. It has taught me that wilderness, nature, and open space has a value beyond what money can measure. While nature can be measured for its trees that can be cut, its fish that can be caught, and its ore that can be mined, its value is priceless as a resource that renews the human spirit.

For this reason, the protection of our public lands is such an important concept. All Americans regardless of where they live, must have access to the natural beauty of this Nation.

The more time that we spend in cars and offices, moving too quickly to think, the more our spirits require the rejuvenation that comes from being outside in fresh air surrounded by beautiful sights. That is what I have enjoyed in my district for three decades. I want to ensure our future generations have the same opportunity.

We are all responsible for the stewardship of our resources—conservationists farmers,

ranchers, outdoorsmen, and sportsmen. We must use our resources wisely—in a manner that does not destroy the environment in which we must continue to live. While the strategies for putting that stewardship action are always an issue of vigorous debate, we must work together and remember that the only end game is ensuring a healthy environment for our posterity.

Earth Day serves the purpose of reminding us all of our common responsibilities of good stewardship. Today, we can forget all else and focus on this end—passing on these priceless resources to our grandchildren and our grandchildren's children. It is our responsibility to ensure that they too can live in and find refuge in a healthy natural world. Our children deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATIONS OFFICER FARRI

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, March 15, 1997 was a very special day in the life of my friend, U.S. Capitol Police Officer Vincent Farri. At 11:30 p.m. that night, Vincent's wife Christina gave birth to their first child, a boy named Richard Vincent. The child entered the world at the healthy weight of 8 pounds, 10.6 ounces, and a length of 21 inches.

I have known Vincent for some time now. He is an outstanding member of our Capitol police force. In addition to his fine service overall, he has been a great help to me personally as I have brought constituents through the Capitol. I thank him for it, and I want to congratulate him on the birth of his son, Richard.

Knowing Vincent as I do, I can say with great confidence that he will be a terrific father. Young Richard may be unaware of it now, but someday he will understand how lucky he is to have such a good family raising him.

It is a true pleasure for me to enter these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am privileged to have the opportunity to play a small part in this special time for the Farri family. How wonderful it must be for Vincent and Christina to enjoy firsthand the miracle of birth! To them I offer my heartfelt congratulations. To their son Richard, I offer my warmest welcome into this world as a citizen of the greatest country on Earth.

TACTILE CURRENCY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that encourages the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to consider making Federal Reserve Notes tactually identifiable by

the blind and visually impaired. This legislation enjoys considerable bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Committee on Banking as well as other Members who share the same interests in assisting visually impaired individuals exert their independence.

In March 1994, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing commissioned the National Academy of Science to executive a study entitled "Currency Features for Visually Impaired People." This study explores methods of making currency more accessible for all Americans.

The report concluded that the needs of the blind could be better served if further study on specific changes such as size, color, and tactile marks be initiated.

Currently, the Department of Treasury is engaged in efforts to redesign the Federal Reserve note to prevent counterfeiting. Indeed, the new \$100 bill already been issued nationwide. With this window of opportunity upon us, I believe Congress has the change to assist the millions of visually impaired Americans who strive to live independently by making their money more accessible to them.

My bill simply endorses the efforts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to study cost-effective tactile changes in Federal Reserve notes and encourages the incorporation of those changes in the national currency.

My bill does not cost the Federal Government any money, nor does it impose and undue, unfair mandates.

Such a minor change in currency will have a significant impact on the independence of visually impaired Americans. Further, a tactual mark can serve other purposes, such as being an additional counterfeit deterrent.

Visually impaired individuals are capable, independent people whose valuable contributions touch all of our lives. It is important that all Americans are afforded equal opportunities to perform at the best of their abilities. My bill stresses that importance. I hope all Members will join me to pass this legislation.

JONES ACT RESOLUTION

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today, I and my distinguished colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. MOAKLEY, join a bipartisan group of our colleagues in introducing a resolution that will strongly reaffirm the Congress' support for the Jones Act—section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920.

The Jones Act has its origins in the earliest days of our Nation. Its basic requirement is that any vessel used to transport cargo between ports in the United States must be built in the United States, registered under the U.S. flag, and carrying a crew made up of U.S. citizens. Relying on American ships and crewmembers, the Jones Act provides tangible benefits for our national defense. The Jones Act fleet provides the experience needed to maintain trained and loyal American-citizen merchant mariners. Our merchant marine vessels, both private sector and Government owned, rely on the abilities of these merchant

mariners to operate. Without the Jones Act, we jeopardize our national security interests and place our men and women in the Armed Forces in tremendous danger.

As important as our national security, our Jones Act fleet is also an essential part of the transportation industry in this country. The fleet contributes approximately \$15 billion a year to our economy and employs 124,000 American workers. Because of the Jones Act, the United States will always have a safe and reliable maritime system.

With these important benefits in mind, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to reaffirm in the strongest possible terms our support for the Jones Act.

This resolution spells out, loud and clear, that Congress will not allow the Jones Act to be weakened. It says that we will not allow substandard foreign-flag vessels—and their foreign crewmembers who are paid less than minimum wage—to push the U.S.-flag fleet out of its own market. It declares that if we did not have the Jones Act, these same foreign-flag vessels, free of virtually all U.S. laws and taxes, would also be able to compete unfairly against our domestic trucking, railroad, and pipeline industries. This resolution says that we will not allow that to happen.

This resolution says we are not going to hand over an entire American industry to foreign operators. More than 40 other maritime nations have laws similar to the Jones Act, and in this country we have similar laws that preserve our other transportation markets—like trucking and aviation—to American companies and American workers. With this resolution, Congress reasserts this Nation's commitment to maintaining a strong domestic maritime industry—with American ships and American workers.

This resolution promotes fairness to American businesses and American working men and women. It promotes our commitment to a strong national defense with no cost to the taxpayer. It promotes a safe and reliable national transportation system. And it promotes a vital sector of our economy. I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RHODE ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the momentous occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Rhode Island Audubon Society.

Founded as the State's first environmental organization, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island was originally established to protect birds from the feather trade. It now actively addresses a wide range of natural resources and environmental issues and is dedicated to advocacy, education, natural area protection, and land management. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island independently protects over 8,000 acres of coastal property and woodlands of diverse natural habitats. Each year, over 15,000 students and teachers statewide

participate in environmental education programs ranging from classroom sessions, natural history field trips, summer camps, and teacher workshops and trainings.

Serving the second most densely populated State in the Nation, one with limited natural resources and an industrial economy, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island actively fulfills its environmental stewardship through preservation and protection of Rhode Island's treasured natural heritage.

With 3,500 members, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is a very respected voice in local ecological issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the members of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and the State of Rhode Island, in recognizing the momentous occasion of the founding of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and expressing our warmest appreciation and thanks for a century of dedication to improving the quality of environment for wildlife and for humans alike. We wish them another 100 years of success.

ON THE DEATH OF FORMER
ISRAELI PRESIDENT CHAIM
HERZOG

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we were all saddened today to learn of the passing of the former President of Israel, Chaim Herzog. Mr. Herzog's life mirrored the birth and early history of the State of Israel. During his career, he served as a distinguished soldier, author, and diplomat.

Mr. Herzog was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1918, the son of a rabbi, and immigrated to mandatory Palestine in 1935. He served as an officer in the British Army during the Second World War, and landed with Allied troops at Normandy in 1944.

Later he served with distinction in defending Israel from Arab attack during Israel's war of independence in 1948. After the June 1967 war, Mr. Herzog was appointed Israel's first military governor of the West Bank.

In the 1970's, he served at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and was later named Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. He was the author of several books, including "Israel's Finest Hour," a historical account of the 1967 war. Mr. Herzog was elected Israel's President in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, Chaim Herzog has been described by his contemporaries as "a man of war who loved peace." The American people extend to his family and to the people of Israel their deepest condolences for the passing of a man who has helped shape the history of Israel, and who was a lover of peace.

[From the Washington Post]

FORMER ISRAELI PRESIDENT HERZOG DIES

(By Dafna Linzer)

JERUSALEM (AP)—Chaim Herzog, Israel's longest-serving president as well as a distinguished soldier, author and diplomat, died today. He was 78.

Herzog suffered heart failure after contracting pneumonia during a recent visit to

the United States, said Rachel Sofer, spokeswoman of Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv.

When Herzog became Israel's sixth president in 1983, the country was divided by the war in Lebanon and facing international isolation. During his 10 years in the largely ceremonial post, Herzog made 45 visits abroad and was credited with helping to shape Israel's image internationally.

He got mixed reviews, however, when he set free Shin Bet secret service agents in 1986 who were accused of murdering two Palestinian militants. Four years later, he pardoned members of the Jewish underground convicted of attacking Palestinians.

Speaking in 1993, Herzog said his pardons saved the morale and effectiveness of Shin Bet after the scandal known as "Bus 300." The agency had tried to frame Yitzhak Mordechai, the current defense minister but at the time an army commander, for the deaths of two Palestinian bus hijackers. It was later learned that Shin Bet ordered the killings.

Born Vivian Herzog in Belfast on Sept. 17, 1918, Herzog was Ireland's bantamweight boxing champion before immigrating to pre-state Palestine in 1935. His father, Isaac Herzog, became the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi when Israel gained independence in 1948.

During World War II, he was an officer in the British army, landing with the allied troops in Normandy. He was one of the last British officers to question Nazi Gen. Heinrich Himmler before he committed suicide in prison.

President Ezer Weizman, who served in battle with Herzog in the 1948 War of Independence, described him as a "talented man and good friend."

Shimon Peres, the former premier and Labor Party leader, called Herzog "a man of war who loved peace."

"Herzog was the most statesman-like man in Israel. He was a military man, a president, son of rabbis and man of the modern age," Peres said on Israel radio.

Following the war, he was named the first military governor of the West Bank, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War. The aristocratic Herzog won plaudits for his commentaries during the war, when his balanced and soothing reports put the nation at ease.

Later, he became the first head of Israeli military intelligence, served as U.S. military attache in Washington, and in 1975, was appointed Israel's ambassador to the United Nations.

During his three-year stint as U.N. ambassador, he made a celebrated but unsuccessful defense of his country against a resolution equating Zionism with racism.

He ripped up a copy of the resolution while speaking at the podium. That year he also wrote "The War of Atonement," an account of the 1973 Yom Kippur war and its political effects.

Among his other books was a historical look at the 1967 war entitled "Israel's Finest Hour."

In 1978, Herzog returned to Israel and opened a law practice in Tel Aviv. He was voted into parliament as a Labor representative in 1981.

In March 1983, he was elected president, overcoming intense opposition from the right-wing Likud party, headed by then-premier Menachem Begin.

When he took office, Herzog vowed to be a "people's president," but he lacked the common touch for the rough-and-tumble of Israeli political culture.

"He acted like a European, with European culture, grace and dignity. He tried to be folksy, but it was hard in a three-piece suit," said Gabi Brun, who covered the presidency for the daily Yedioth Ahronot for 20 years.

Herzog adopted the traditional president's role as the watchdog of the country's morality, decrying racial intolerance and religious strife.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PARKINSON'S RESEARCH ACT OF 1997

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will provide for and coordinate greater research efforts on Parkinson's disease. I am introducing this bill for two reasons.

First, I support expanding life-affirming research on Parkinson's. Increasing resources to find a cure is not only a compassionate response to the suffering experienced by over 500,000 Americans, but it is a wise and economical use of our nation's tax dollars. In addition to the human tragedy resulting from the condition, Parkinson's patient advocates note that this terrible disease costs our society some \$25 billion a year in direct medical expenses and reduced productivity. Parkinson's is a progressive and debilitating disease that affects a large segment of our population. Therefore, the discovery of a cure or an effective treatment will pay dividends far in excess of the \$100 million in authorized funds provided in this bill.

As you already know, Parkinson's disease results from a degenerative condition in the brain whereby nerve cells lose the ability to produce the neurotransmitting chemical dopamine. Common symptoms include tremors—particularly in the extremities—rigidity, loss of balance, and bradykinesia, or very slow movements.

Parkinson's disease is an incurable condition which afflicts roughly 1 in every 100 people over the age of 60. Existing treatments, such as L-dopa, a pharmaceutical substitute for dopamine, and pallidotomy, a surgical technique which can relieve symptoms, are not long-term solutions, and their effectiveness diminishes over time.

While new drugs, medical devices, and surgical techniques which offer symptom relief are all extremely important, a real cure re-

quires the ability to halt the neurodegenerative cycle and repair damaged brain cells. This year, it is estimated that another 50,000 Americans will be diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Despite these troubling numbers, Parkinson's disease does not get the attention it deserves in our federal medical research institutes. Patient advocates correctly note that while federally funded medical research spends roughly \$1,000 per person with AIDS, and \$255 per person with cancer, Parkinson's disease receives only \$21 per person in research from NIH. This does not mean that other, more prominently discussed, diseases and conditions should receive less, but it does mean that more Parkinson's research is desperately needed, and soon.

Second, I continue to have a serious concern that under the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research bill—H.R. 1260—introduced by our colleagues from Michigan and California, NIH could expand its research using tissue from intentionally aborted babies. As someone with a deep respect for life during all of its phases, I find the exploitation of these murdered innocents simply unethical. The end, even though I agree it is very worthy, does not justify immoral means.

The Parkinson's research expansion bill being introduced today by me and 12 of our colleagues addresses this concern. It authorizes the same research funding level as the Udall bill, but bars the use of these funds for research using tissue from aborted babies. Unlike the Udall bill, this legislation will ensure that 100 percent of the funds authorized for Parkinson's research are ethically unimpeachable and noncontroversial.

Let me be clear: Parkinson's research is vitally important and should be increased. However, unborn children should not be exploited in the process. In fact, were the Udall bill to come up before the House with the pro-life safeguards included in my legislation, I would enthusiastically support it.

Unfortunately, there is a well-founded concern with respect to the issue of fetal tissue research. In January 1993, one of President Clinton's first acts was to overturn a Bush administration policy prohibiting NIH funding of research involving the transplantation of fetal tissue from intentionally aborted babies. In June 1993, a new NIH bill specifically authorized NIH funding of human fetal tissue transplantation research using tissue from any source: ectopic pregnancies, miscarriages, and induced abortions.

Since 1993, there have been four awards by NIH for research on human fetal tissue trans-

plantation, and every single one of them has been in the area of Parkinson's research. So the fetal tissue research issue is clearly relevant to a bill dealing with research to find treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Another reason pro-life people have reason to be concerned about the issue of fetal tissue research as it relates to Parkinson's is provided by an April 1996 article in *The Washingtonian*. In that article, Morton Kondracke writes that the "fight over lifting a ban on federal funding of fetal-transplant research is what got Joan Samuelson into Parkinson's activism." Joan Samuelson, as you may know, is the president of the Parkinson's Action Network, which is the principal organization lobbying Members of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 1260.

Of course, there is nothing improper about people or organizations lobbying Congress to endorse fetal tissue research. If people disagree with my view on this issue, that is their right. However, many Members of Congress have been given the impression that there is absolutely no connection whatsoever between fetal tissue research and Parkinson's disease. To the contrary, my colleagues should understand that the forces urging them to cosponsor H.R. 1260 are substantially similar to the forces that lobbied Congress during the Bush administration to endorse fetal tissue research involving intentionally aborted unborn children. Many of the same players also opposed an amendment to the NIH reauthorization bill in 1993 which would have ensured that all of the safeguards recommended by an NIH advisory panel were in place before tax dollars were used for fetal tissue transplantation research.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am offering is identical to the Udall bill both in structure and in the funding authorization provided. The only differences between my bill and the Udall bill are: First, the title, to prevent confusion; and second, the pro-life protections contained in the bill. Everything else is identical.

Therefore, there is no debate over the commitment to fighting Parkinson's disease. There is no debate over funding levels. There is no debate over the structure of the new program. Indeed, if we could simply focus Federal funding toward the overwhelming majority of Parkinson's research that is uncontroversial, there would be no debate, and the expansion of Parkinson's research could begin almost immediately.