

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ARCWORK OF
FRESNO, FRESNO, CA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to ArcWork of Fresno. In partnership with the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, ArcWork employs people with developmental disabilities at jobs which enhance the business environment and the community.

The ArcWork project was the vision of Larry Willey, vice president of marketing for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Willey was aware that one of the priorities of Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson was to keep Fresno Clean and Green. In response, it was proposed that individual businesses and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce could sponsor various areas and pay ArcWork employees to keep them clean.

Since then, the concept of community and corporate involvement to take care of the cities beautification has expanded greatly. Parks were recently added to the list for the beautification process, and various city agencies and groups have become involved in the program. The collaboration of resources has been so effective, the city of Fresno has been able to redirect its workers to more demanding projects. The result: ArcWork crews are now capable of picking up an increasing number of general city tasks.

The advent of the ArcWork program has been a win-win for everyone involved. Businesses have found the services to be cost effective, helping to create a cleaner environment throughout Fresno. ArcWork also has allowed business to gain recognition for the positive contributions made to the program. Municipalities have benefited by the increased partnerships that have been forged between the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the business community, helping to create employment opportunities for the developmentally disabled. Most importantly, though, are the benefits that the ArcWork program has given to those with developmental disabilities who want to work and increase their self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I admire the success of the ArcWork program. Working together, the city of Fresno, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, private organizations, and local businesses have found a beneficial way to solve some of the challenges facing our city in a positive and effective manner. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to ArcWork, a program that serves as a model of local grassroots involvement throughout the Nation.

IN HONOR OF DR. AARON E.
HENRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Aaron E. Henry, a fellow Mississippian, and civil rights pioneer died Monday morning, May 19, 1997, of complications resulting from a stroke, following a 5-month illness. Dr. Henry was a mentor, a humanitarian, a scholar, and a great human being. I would like to share with you the following information about the life of a man who helped to forge the shape of society in this country for all African-Americans.

Dr. Henry was born in Clarksdale, MS, July 2, 1921, to the late Joseph and Elizabeth Henry Jackson. He was the youngest of five children. His natural parents died when he was very young and his formative years were spent under the nurturing support of his maternal uncle and aunt, Edd Henry and Mattie Logan Henry. He was an active member of Haven United Methodist Church, serving as lay leader, and a member of the United Methodist Men.

He attended public schools on Coahoma County, graduating from Coahoma Agricultural High School. He entered the U.S. Army as a private in 1943 and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946. Following his discharge, Dr. Henry attended Xavier University in New Orleans. After receiving a degree in pharmacy in 1950, he returned to Clarksdale and opened the Fourth Street Drug Store. His career as a civil rights activist began soon thereafter.

On June 11, 1950, he married the lovely Noelle Celestine Michael of Jackson. To this union one daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth, was born.

In 1953, Dr. Henry organized the Coahoma County Branch of the NAACP and served as the State NAACP president from 1960 until 1993. He worked with all five of the field directors of the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP, including the late Medger Evers. In an effort to assure equal representation for all Mississippians, he chaired the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that successfully challenged the established State Democratic Party during the 1968 Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. This effort led to the creation of the integrated Democratic Party in Mississippi. Dr. Henry participated in the Freedom Rider Movement and in the Mississippi Freedom Summer's nonviolent campaigns of public protest which led to the eventual passage of the Public Accommodations sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On the national level, Dr. Henry was instrumental in securing congressional support for passage of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act. Several programs, including Head Start

and Job Corps, grew out of this act to provide services to improve the quality of life for all citizens. Dr. Henry's quest for equality and fair treatment was evident in his commitment to securing Job Corps and Head Start Programs for Mississippians. He believed in the need for Job Corps' existence and in the young people it would serve. He worked with former Gov. Cliff Finch to bring the first Job Corps Center in Mississippi located in Crystal Springs, MS. Dr. Henry recognized that the benefits of the program would mean job opportunities for the State's poor and underserved young people. He not only was a pioneer in the State for Job Corps and Head Start, but for many programs that impacted the quality of life for all Mississippians.

In a fitting tribute to his years as a civil rights leader, Dr. Henry was elected by the citizens of District 26 in Coahoma County to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1979 and reelected in 1983 and 1987. He was an active member of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus.

Dr. Henry has served on the board of director of a number of organizations including the national NAACP where he served as vice president and as a member of its executive committee; chairman of the National Caucus for the Black Aged since 1972; member of the Federal Council on Aging since 1977; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the Southern Regional Council and the Mississippi Council on Human Relations. Dr. Henry was chairman of the board and primary stockholder in Civic Communications Corp., the holding company for WLBT-TV-3, Inc., the minority-owned NBC affiliate in Jackson, MS; KLTV in Tyler, TX; KTRE in Lufkin, TX; and WLBM in Meridian, MS. He was chairman of the board of directors for MINACT, Inc., a management and training firm in Jackson operating Job Corps centers throughout the Nation.

His commitment to community, educational and civic issues propelled him into the forefront of the American Legion, Elks, Masons, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was recognized for his outstanding academic achievements through honorary degrees from Tougaloo College, Rust College, Mary Holmes College, Prentiss Institute, Queens College, and Boston University. Professionally, he was recognized by the American Pharmaceutical Association with the Hubert H. Humphrey Award.

Dr. Henry lived an active and committed life. He leaves to cherish memory a daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth of Clarksdale; grandsons, Aaron and Demon of Clarksdale; a sister, Thelma Henry Johnson of St. Louis, MO, and many supporters of justice and equality throughout this Nation.

● 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.

May 21, 1997

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1681

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, together with the ranking minority member, Representative LEE HAMILTON, I am introducing, by request, the administration's bill, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Amendments Act of 1997 H.R. 1681, extending the authority of OPIC through the year 2000.

Since it began operations in 1971, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC], has mobilized private sector resources to assist developing countries and emerging democracies in the transition from nonmarket to market economies. In an era of declining budgetary resources, OPIC has consistently demonstrated an ability to operate on a self-sustaining basis to support United States companies in emerging economies in Africa, the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OPIC has also played an important role in reinforcing U.S. foreign policy goals and in strengthening our economy by creating jobs and promoting exports. OPIC programs have served to rectify market failures, including limited market information in developing countries and underdeveloped capital markets, by insuring U.S. firms against economic and market uncertainties.

Over the past 25 years, projects supported by OPIC have generated more than \$52 billion in U.S. exports and created more than 225,000 jobs. OPIC has been run on a sound financial basis with reserves totaling approximately \$2.7 billion and with earnings reaching a record \$209 million in 1996. In the process, it has maintained a claims recovery rate of 98 percent, settling close to 260 insurance claims for \$519 million and recovering all but \$11 million.

All the 26 members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] have agencies similar to OPIC: the United States needs to compete with these and other countries that subsidize their exporters.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this small but efficient agency.

H.R. 1681

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Overseas Private Investment Corporation Amendments Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. ISSUING AUTHORITY.

(a) MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.—Section 235(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(1) INSURANCE AND FINANCING.—(A) The maximum contingent liability outstanding at any one time pursuant to insurance issued

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

under section 234(a), and the amount of financial issued under sections 234(b) and (c), shall not exceed in the aggregate \$32,000,000,000."

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Paragraph (3) of section 235(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating such paragraph as paragraph (2); and

(2) by striking "1997" and inserting "2000".

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE BRIDGES RECONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress will take up the reauthorization of the ISTEA law to ensure that the critical infrastructure needs of our Nation are met as we strive toward a more efficient safe, and productive transportation network. To that effect, I am introducing legislation that will expand the bridge discretionary program and I would allow States and local communities to receive sufficient funds for high cost bridges that are in dire need of replacement.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in 1995, 25 percent of the Nation's interstate bridges were classified as deficient. Twenty eight (28) percent of the 130,000 bridges on all other arterial systems in the nation were deficient as well.

In fiscal year 1994-96 States requested \$1.28 billion in discretionary funds for 65 different bridges. Currently, ISTEA funds the bridge discretionary program at \$69 million a year and there is tremendous need for a greatly expanded program. My legislation would authorize \$800 million to be used out of our transportation funds in the new highway bill for these bridges.

In the 1970's and 1980's, the Federal highway program has a large discretionary component that met the needs of replacing aging bridges and reconstructing early segments of the interstate system. However, in the last two surface transportation acts, these programs were severely cut back. Prior to ISTEA, the bridge discretionary program was funded at the \$200 to \$225 million level annually. ISTEA dramatically scaled back the funding, and the state of the nation's bridges has continued to deteriorate.

An expanded bridge discretionary program would allow your State to compete for bridge funds each year. It would permit these projects to move ahead faster and receive more money rather than relying on a State's regular apportionment or scarce demonstration project funds. Once these bridge projects receive their initial funding, they go to the top of the list to receive funds in the future years, if needed.

The Nation benefits from a strong Federal transportation system. We must allow the Federal Government to have the flexibility to fund a State's extraordinary bridge needs in any given year. This legislation would provide the

9297

funding and flexibility to meet this pressing need to help rebuild our high-traffic bridges that are in very poor condition nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO RANKIN FIELD, TULARE, CA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to pay tribute to the planners and participants from Sequoia and Rankin Fields. These two airfields will be celebrating their first reunion on Saturday, May 31, 1997.

Over 50 years ago, Tulare County opened its doors to train USAAF pilots. This reunion event is designed to honor those pilots who did not make it home from World War II, and to pay tribute to two distinguished soldiers, Maj. Richard Bong and Maj. Daniel Lindsay. Both gentlemen received their flight training at Rankin Field more than 50 years ago. Later, the two went on to fight for victory during World War II. They each received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their distinguish military service.

Rankin Field was founded by flight instructor "Tex" Rankin, a native of the State of Texas. Rankin opened his field during World War II. At the time, the Government contracted out private airfields, making them responsible for training soldiers entering military service during World War II. More than 40 years after Rankin's death, the contributions that he made to the growth of the Tulare and Visalia communities are still felt today.

The celebration at Rankin Field is a culmination of work done by former cadets and instructors, Sequoia Field, the Tulare County Historical Society, and the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Former cadets from all over the State of California joined forces with the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association, an organization that recently purchased a portion of the original Rankin Field site. The association commenced work on the headquarters and recreation facility that would be named "Rankin Field, home of Tulare County Deputy Sheriffs Association." The association plans to create an exhibit devoted to the World War II USAAF pilot training program at Rankin Field.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have constituents in my district who have taken the initiative to restore Rankin Field in its full glory. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing those organizers of the reunion best wishes for a successful and enjoyable celebration.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ALBERT C. HARVEY, USMCR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great patriot and fearless soldier, Maj. Gen. Albert C. Harvey, USMCR. General Harvey, a Tennessean, retired from the Marine

Corps on May 10, 1997, after a 40-year career that spanned the height of the cold war in 1962 to the new national security challenges of the 1990's. By having his retirement ceremony at historic Chalmette National Battlefield, he honored an important historic connection to another great Tennessean, Gen. Andrew Jackson. At the Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette, General Jackson brought together a courageous group of fighting men from three different States as well as a detachment of U.S. Marines and U.S. Army dragoons. This forerunner of the Total Force resulted in victory for the United States at the Battle of New Orleans. Today, the Total Force concept is the cornerstone of the Marine Corps.

General Harvey reached a pinnacle of his military career as commander of the 4th Marine Division—the ground combat arm of the Marine Corps. As commander of the 4th Marine Division, General Harvey led over 18,000 Marines in 38 States. In July 1995, General Harvey was the first General Officer in the Marine Corps Reserve to be nominated and selected for a position on a Joint Staff. He served as the Vice Director of Operations Directorate (J-3), U.S. Atlantic Command, Norfolk, VA. He was activated for Operation Joint Endeavor—Bosnia—in the summer and fall of 1996 and served as director of the European Theater Command Center, which included Operation Desert Strike—Northern Iraq.

Prior to this, General Harvey rose through the ranks of the Marine Corps, commanding units at every level of the military organization during both peacetime and war. He began active duty in 1961, served on the USS Ranger (CVA-61) in the western Pacific, including Vietnam. He rejoined his reserve unit, the 6th Engineer Company, after earning a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law. He commanded the 3d Battalion, 23d Marines in New Orleans and served as Chief of Staff of the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade. In 1988, after returning yet again to active duty, General Harvey assumed command of the 25th Marine Regiment, a significant assignment because it was the first time in approximately 20 years that a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Force was selected to command a regiment.

In addition to his military service, General Harvey is a committed family man and participant in civic and community affairs. He has served in leadership positions with the Kiwanis Club, Phoenix Club, Goodwill Boys Club, the YMCA, and many other community organizations.

General Harvey has distinguished himself as a civil and criminal litigator as a partner with the Memphis law firm Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, Johnson & Mitchell. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, the Memphis Bar Association, and the Tennessee Bar Association.

General Harvey exemplifies the ideal of citizen-soldier. He has made great sacrifices and contributions by defending the Nation. And let us not forget the contribution and sacrifices made by General Harvey's family, his wife Nancy, and his two daughters Anne and Elizabeth. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent and friend, a brave soldier and an accomplished attorney, Maj. Gen.

Albert C. Harvey for his service to our great Nation.

THE SCHOOL-BASED CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the School-based Children's Health Insurance Act of 1997.

Health insurance equals access to health care. Access to health care equals better health and a better quality of life. It is that simple, and it should be that simple for all kids.

I have sponsored several bills this Congress that address the need for health insurance for uninsured children in low-income families. This bill is modeled, in part, after the nationally recognized, award winning Florida school-based Healthy Kids Program. The bill combines this effective school-based approach with a sliding scale tax credit so that all parents of children can buy affordable health insurance through their own school system.

This bill provides up to a 90-percent tax credit for low-income families plus an effective distribution system for actually getting private market health insurance products to the 10 million children that are not currently covered.

Each Member of Congress was elected to make laws that make sense. This bill makes sense. It realistically reaches all of the 10 million uninsured kids in America * * * quickly and efficiently. The school-based approach provides low cost but comprehensive health insurance for millions of children without new bureaucracies or hassles. Schools are the natural grouping mechanism to lower the cost of insurance for children, similar to the role large employers play in providing group coverage to their employees. It is more affordable and more portable than coverage through an employer.

Are uninsured kids a problem in every community? Yes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, fully 30 percent of all children are uninsured for at least a month during the year. In addition, 10 million kids under the age of 18—or one in seven children—are uninsured year round, without a single day's health coverage.

Who are these kids that have no health insurance? Studies indicate that there are 10 million children that currently do not have health insurance for at least 1 year. That's about 14 percent of all children. One-third of these uninsured children have families below the poverty line, and another one-third have families between 100 and 200 percent of the poverty level. Almost 15 percent are from families above 300 percent of the poverty line, and most parents of uninsured children are also uninsured, 85 percent. However, 60 percent of uninsured children have at least one parent working full time. In addition, almost 50 percent of these family heads work for small firms with fewer than 25 employees.

A month or a year without health insurance is long enough to suffer serious harm for a child. According to the 1987 National Medical

Expenditure Survey, the most recent comprehensive national survey of health care expenditures, and use, uninsured children are almost twice as likely not to be seen for health problems that expert physicians say should "always or virtually always come to medical attention." For example, according to this survey, more than half of uninsured children with asthma never saw the doctor during the year of the survey. One in three uninsured children with recurring ear infections likewise will never see the doctor. Many of these asthmatic children are hospitalized with problems that could have been prevented. Many children with untreated, recurring ear infections suffer permanent hearing loss.

With the recent attack on welfare, the number of uninsured children may get disastrously worse . . . fast. Adding fuel to this fire, a recent report published by the American Hospital Association indicates that the number of individuals without health insurance will increase to nearly 46 million by the year 2002. This projected growth is attributed to a decline in the level of employer-provided health insurance.

Can the school-based concept work to insure more children? Yes. This bill is modeled after the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, a school enrollment-based insurance program that currently provides broad coverage to thousands of previously uninsured children. It was recently named a winner of the 1996 Innovations in American Government Award by both the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In presenting the award, considered to be among the Nation's most prestigious public prizes, the president of the Ford Foundation, Susan V. Berresford, characterized Florida Healthy Kids as "one example of effective government producing extraordinary results. They are helping to restore faith in government's ability to solve tough problems."

The concept for the Florida program is simple. Most American children attend school. School systems can be used as a mechanism for creating large groups of people to cover participants the way large businesses do. Coverage is offered to families with children enrolled or residing in the school district and benefits are designed for the individual child. This is identical to employment-based insurance, except the school children become, in effect, employees qualifying themselves for coverage. A group composed of school children is large enough to provide an insurance benefit and premium package that is a good fit for families. Since premiums can still be beyond the reach of some lower income families, the coverage is subsidized on a sliding scale based on income.

In Florida, the school district plays a significant and varied role that schools, nationwide, could follow. The district serves as the center of community focus, fostering relationships between the school programs, local community leaders, and area business groups. It distributes enrollment materials and verifies student eligibility, contributing significantly to administrative efficiencies. School staff, especially school nurses and teachers, help identify and put the program in touch with potential participants. Mailing labels have been provided by schools to assist with marketing efforts.

Schools have also allowed the use of dial-up systems which automatically call a student's family with a prerecorded health care message.

Is quality health care for children too expensive? No. When the Florida program evaluated the predicted frequency with which children utilize the offered benefits, they found that those services which typically drive up the cost of employer-based plans were not frequently used by school-age children. By including these benefits, the program has enabled families to gain a greater peace of mind with little effect on the program costs. Other state programs have attempted to control claims costs by reducing coverage for pre-existing conditions, inpatient, mental health, and transplant services or by raising copayments or deductibles. The Florida program has found that these additional health benefits can be included with little impact on the premium when a thoughtful package with reasonable, affordable copayments is crafted. In fact, with 5 years of use pattern supporting data, the Florida program has been able to negotiate three premium reductions.

Florida has found that children with insurance are more likely to have a health care home and therefore receive care before an illness becomes serious, reducing overall health care costs by one fourth. Preventive care is crucial to the overall well-being and development of a child. Recent studies have shown that for every \$1 spent on immunizations such as measles, mumps, and rubella, \$21 is saved in health care and related costs.

A child's health has a direct impact on their performance in school. Children who attend school while sick are not mentally or physically prepared to meet the challenges of learning. This becomes much worse for a child who cannot afford to see a doctor and suffers through a disease until it gets better on its own, or until an illness becomes too serious for home-based treatments. This results in less productivity in the classroom and more days absent from school for the child. In fact, the average school-age child misses 4 days of school a year due to illness. And uninsured children are 25 percent more likely to miss school than those who have insurance.

Independent studies of the Florida program have shown that the program is not only beneficial to the children, but to the community as well. Florida hospitals report a 30-percent drop in pediatric charity care. Emergency room visits have been shown to decline by 70 percent. Program savings like this have saved Florida \$13,125,000 in health care costs in just one year.

The first pilot project for Florida Healthy Kids was launched with the assistance of a demonstration grant authorized by Congress in 1989 and administered by the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA]. This crucial experiment may never have moved from the drawing board without Federal interest and assistance. This bill would recognize the full potential that was originally hoped for by Congress for this tremendously successful program.

It's just that simple.

I welcome cosponsors for the bill, and comments and suggestions from the public on ways to improve the bill.

The following is a summary of the bill:

SCHOOL-BASED CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE ACT OF 1997

SUMMARY

I. School-based Health Insurance Program

A qualified school-based program is operated by a local or state public school system or any public or private non profit organization operating a private school. Qualified school-based health insurance coverage is coverage that: Is offered by a qualified school-based program; is available to all children under 19 years of age; provides a comprehensive benefit package; has at least a \$1,000,000 lifetime benefit; has no cost-sharing for covered preventive care; does not impose any pre-existing condition exclusions; charges premiums that are consistent with the premium section of this bill; and does not discriminate against any individual.

A program will not be eligible as a qualified program if there is established a pattern of abuse or misrepresentation of this insurance

Medicaid-eligible children do not qualify for this insurance since they are already covered

II. Benefit Package

The benefit package is comprehensive and includes well-baby and well-child care, immunizations, physicians services, laboratory tests, inpatient and outpatient hospital costs, emergency services and transportation, prescription drugs, eye exams and eyeglasses, hearing exams and hearing aids, basic dental care, physical therapy, mental health services and pre-natal care and delivery.

If the parent objects to any of these services based on religious or moral conviction, they will not be provided. A religious organization operating a school-based program will not be required to provide any of these services if it is opposed by their religious beliefs.

III. Tax Credit

Each taxpayer who purchases a school-based health insurance policy for their dependent receives a tax credit for an amount up to 90% of the premium to buy health insurance for a qualifying dependent.

The credit is available to taxpayers based on a computation of adjusted gross income plus an additional \$5,000 amount for each child covered.

There is a full tax credit provided at the adjusted gross income of up to \$15,000 plus \$5,000 per child covered by the health insurance policy. The "\$15,000" figure represents approximately 200 percent of poverty for an individual under the age of 65.

For example, a family with adjusted gross income of \$25,000 and two qualifying children would receive a refundable tax credit of up to 90% of the family's cost for coverage of the two children.

As a family's income rises and the need for a subsidy is less critical, the credit phases out.

The credit is available only to subsidize qualified school-based coverage for children.

Establishment of premiums: the program will provide a minimum contribution of 20% to the premium before a fully subsidized child's premium is calculated. The subsidy amount phases out to 10% on a sliding scale for partially subsidized children.

IV. Other Provisions

There is coordination with other tax provisions subsidizing health costs to disallow the credit in instances where the taxpayer also claims a medical expense for the same premium cost or claims a deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

Grants to states for school-based health insurance outreach and information programs would be established.

An employer may not discriminate against employees eligible for this health insurance subsidy. The employer may not condition or vary employee benefit contributions because an employee is eligible for this program subsidy. An employer is still free to cease or reduce employer contributions for health insurance coverage as long as it applies to all its employees.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS ERWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WINNER OF CALIFORNIA'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to Thomas Erwin Elementary School, in La Puente, CA, which was recently recognized as one of California's Distinguished Schools.

Erwin Elementary is a school of 820 kindergarten through 8th grade students, 90 percent of whom are Latino, and is the first school in the Bassett Unified School District to receive this distinction. To achieve a Distinguished School Award it takes the dedication of an entire community of students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration. The coalescing of the Erwin community has been led by its dynamic leader, Principal Jose Reynoso, faculty and staff, along with the strong support of the members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Linda Gonzalez.

On a recent visit to Erwin, I was impressed by the school's state-of-the-art computer lab, its outstanding Gifted and Talented Education Program [GATE], which challenges students to reach their highest potential, and especially for Erwin's unique outdoor science pond, which was developed in a partnership with the Jet Propulsion Laboratories. This outdoor science pond is the envy of many schools in the community. The focal point of this ecosystem project is the pupil-made pond surrounded with flora and fauna indigenous to the area.

Another notable project is Erwin's bilingual education program, which gives over 500 limited-English-speaking students a strong academic foundation in their native language, and transitions them into an English instructional program. There is a tutorial program which utilizes "at risk" upper grade students as tutors for lower grade students, allowing both to develop an appreciation of each other, and helps foster self esteem and academic growth.

These programs, along with a strong academic emphasis, provide Erwin students with an excellent foundation for future success. A strong parent involvement program that encourages parents to visit the school and become partners in the educational process of students is in place and also ensures the student successes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Thomas Erwin Elementary School, one of California's Distinguished Schools, for its commitment to providing its students with

the highest quality educational experience possible. Erwin Elementary serves as truly a model school.

FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that recognizes a unique transportation need for many States. That need is created by a dominating presence of Federal lands, whether those lands be national parks, national forests, Indian trust lands, or other Federal holdings.

While these lands are located in our States, they serve national interests and national priorities. Despite that fact, States often are obliged to serve those lands with roads funded either through the State's Federal allocation or from State tax dollars. The fact is these lands—though important—are largely unproductive in economic terms and make it difficult to support the infrastructure.

To ensure national interests are served, there must be a mechanism in place that allows States to maintain transportation infrastructure to and across Federal lands. My bill would do this.

As my colleagues are aware, the present surface transportation program authorized under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act provides funding for roads serving Federal lands. However the funding is confined to certain roads maintained by the Federal Government. Some examples include Indian reservations roads, public lands highways, and parkways and park highways. By no means does the current program support many of the important transportation links that serve Federal lands.

The Federal Lands Transportation Improvement Act would establish a new category of funding within the existing Federal Lands Highway Program. The program, to be known as the Cooperative Federal Lands Program, would complement existing programs for investments in Federal holdings. The bill would authorize \$200 million for this program. This amount, combined with present funding levels for existing Federal lands programs, would increase the overall Federal Lands Highway Program's effort to a level roughly proportionate to the overall program increases that have been discussed in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Under this proposal, funding for the important needs in the current Federal Lands Highway Program would be maintained while making room for the previously mentioned critical need.

The criteria establishing qualification is simple. States that have at least 4.5 percent of their total land area owned or held in trust by the Federal Government would qualify for a portion of these funds. These States then would be eligible to apply to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to receive funding for specific project needs. Once appli-

cations have been filed, projects would be funded in qualifying States in proportion to the percentage of the State which is Federal lands. The approval of the Secretary would help ensure the projects serve Federal lands, and are separate and apart from the other needs the State may have.

Serving Federal lands should be a shared responsibility. As the Federal Government holds lands in the public interest, there comes the responsibility to provide the public adequate access to, across, and from those lands. States do enjoy some benefits from public areas. However, the ability of States to generate tax revenue within those areas is limited. A modest reserve of Federal lands may provide few problems and some tax-generating opportunities. However, expansive Federal lands do not provide proportional enhancement. States then suffer from the diminishing marginal utility of additional Federal lands. In other words, the presence of an inordinate amount of Federal lands creates more of a burden than it reaps in benefits.

Representing a State that has a significant Federal lands presence has its own unique challenges when it comes to transportation infrastructure. This bill would improve the responsiveness of the Federal Government to meet the transportation needs on Federal lands.

I have submitted a chart to be printed in the RECORD following my remarks that outlines which States would qualify under this legislation as well as the level of funding for which each State could qualify.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives YOUNG of Alaska, HILL of Montana, and CUBIN of Wyoming for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. I hope other Members will join them in their support of this legislation.

COOPERATIVE FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Est. Funds Provided to Secretary of Transportation To Be Utilized On Projects in States That Have Significant Federal Land Holdings Descending Order Distribution

State	Total State land owned or held in trust by Federal Government (percent)	Total distribution (sect. 206) (percent)	Estimated distribution (sect. 101(5)(B))
Nevada	92.77	7.50	\$37,500,000
Arizona	71.94	7.50	37,500,000
Utah	68.55	7.50	37,500,000
Alaska	66.55	7.50	37,500,000
Idaho	63.74	7.41	37,034,743
Oregon	61.20	7.11	35,557,673
Wyoming	52.79	6.13	30,671,114
California	47.39	5.51	27,536,041
New Mexico	43.33	5.03	25,172,713
Colorado	37.45	4.35	21,755,842
Montana	33.45	3.89	19,433,113
Washington	32.68	3.80	18,986,531
Dist. of Columbia	24.24	2.82	14,085,782
Delaware	19.09	2.22	11,090,356
Hawaii	16.76	1.95	9,738,069
South Dakota	15.93	1.85	9,255,826
Minnesota	15.75	1.83	9,153,717
New Jersey	13.26	1.54	7,703,270
New Hampshire	13.22	1.54	7,680,985
Michigan	12.97	1.51	7,538,281
Virginia	11.85	1.38	6,884,715
Wisconsin	9.54	1.11	5,540,516
Arkansas	8.73	1.01	5,071,024
Maryland	8.39	0.97	4,873,581
Florida	8.06	0.94	4,682,675
North Carolina	7.98	0.93	4,633,560
Vermont	7.28	0.85	4,231,503
West Virginia	7.09	0.82	4,118,025

COOPERATIVE FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM—Continued

Est. Funds Provided to Secretary of Transportation To Be Utilized On Projects in States That Have Significant Federal Land Holdings Descending Order Distribution

State	Total State land owned or held in trust by Federal Government (percent)	Total distribution (sect. 206) (percent)	Estimated distribution (sect. 101(5)(B))
North Dakota	6.08	0.71	3,529,762
Tennessee	5.85	0.68	3,399,695
Missouri	4.76	0.55	2,768,253
Mississippi	4.55	0.53	2,644,933
Oklahoma	4.50	0.52	2,615,275
Georgia	4.50	0.52	2,612,425
Total (34)	100.00	100.00	500,000,000

Source: GSA "Summary Report of Real Property Owned by the United States Throughout the World As of September 30, 1994" August 1996

AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MOTHER TERESA

SPEECH OF

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa is one of the great figures of our time. Her love and compassion are extended alike to rich and poor, sick and healthy, young and old. She ministers to the least fortunate who might otherwise have no home, no food, no family, and no hope. And she witnesses to the well-off around the world who grow complacent in their wealth and would sacrifice the unborn in pursuit of material gain.

Because of all Mother Teresa stands for, and not in spite of it, I cannot support the awarding of this congressional gold medal. As I stated on a similar occasion earlier in this session, the \$30,000 authorized for this medal is more than the average annual income of my constituents. I can only guess how many times more it is than the lifetime incomes of those Mother Teresa so diligently serves.

The American people may rightly wonder how their Congress can approve such extravagance on the same day it debates the first balanced budget in three decades. These same Americans can and do pay their own tributes to Mother Teresa and other humanitarians through voluntary contributions to charities of their choice.

While the awarding of this medal springs from nothing but the best of motives on the part of my colleagues, I suggest that a more appropriate tribute would be to support her daily work. For my part, I will honor her with a contribution to her organization, Missionaries of Charity.

Mr. Speaker, no words can adequately express our admiration for and appreciation of Mother Teresa and her work. The only fitting tribute lies not in a gold medal, but rather in our own hearts and deeds.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO
JERRY AND ROSA DICKSON

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alfred (Jerry) and Rosa Dickson's 50th wedding anniversary on June 7.

Jerry and Rosa met at the St. Aloysius Church carnival in Chicago in 1943. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the S.S. *Gablian* during World War II. His service in the Navy ended in 1946 and Jerry and Rosa were married on June 7, 1947.

Jerry is retired after 40 years of service in the food industry in Chicago and Rosa is a homemaker. The couple raised 7 children and have 13 grandchildren. I join with their family today in wishing them a wonderful celebration and many more happy and productive years together.

WEST GLENS FALLS, NY FIRE CO.
NO. 1 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That's why I travel home to my congressional district every weekend, to see the picturesque towns and scenery that marks the 22d district of New York. And my hometown of Queensbury and the Glens Falls community are certainly near and dear to my heart.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of my hometown, the members of West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1 continue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they have saved by doing so over the course of their 50-year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at a parade marking this momentous occasion this Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Co. No. 1 in West Glens Falls. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S AS-
SOCIATION OPPOSES LATE TERM
ABORTION BAN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, considerable press attention has been devoted to the American Medical Association's shift in position and endorsement of the late term abortion ban voted on by the Senate today.

In my view, no less attention should be devoted to the statement of the American Medical Women's Association, which has reiterated its strong opposition to any legislation intervening in medical and surgical care decisions.

My good friend, Dr. Debra Judelson, president of AMWA and a resident of California, has repeatedly pointed out that it is irresponsible for the Government to interfere legislatively with physician-patient autonomy. Physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options, particularly with respect to a woman's constitutionally protected right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend my colleagues heed the strong statement of the American Medical Women's Association.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON ABORTION LEGISLATION IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—The American Medical Women's Association, "is committed to protecting the reproductive rights of American women and has opposed any legislative intervention for medical and or surgical care decisions," says current AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD. This week, AMWA reiterated its opposition to H.R. 1122 and S. 6, which seek to ban a particular medical procedure.

It is the opinion of AMWA's Executive Committee that legislative efforts to regulate abortion have been flawed. Concerns in the following areas have prevented AMWA from taking a position on recent legislative efforts focusing on abortion in the 105th Congress.

AMWA is gravely concerned with governmental attempts to legislate medical decisionmaking through measures that do not protect a woman's physical and mental health, including future fertility, or fail to consider other pertinent issues, such as fetal abnormalities. Physicians and their patients base their decisions on the best available information at the time, often in emergency situations. AMWA strongly opposes govern-

mental efforts to interfere with physician-patient autonomy.

It is irresponsible to legislate a particular test of viability without recognition that viability cannot always be reliably determined. Length of gestation is not the sole measure of viability because fetal dating is an inexact science.

AMWA resolutely opposes the levying of civil and criminal penalties for care provided in the best interest of the patient. AMWA strongly supports the principle that medical care decisions be left to the judgment of a woman and her physician without fear of civil action or criminal prosecution.

Any forthcoming legislation will be carefully reviewed by AMWA based on the criteria outlined above, and AMWA will seek to ensure that there is no further erosion of the constitutionally protected rights guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*. Says AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD, "AMWA firmly believes that physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options. We cannot and will not support any measures that seek to undermine the ability of physicians to make medical decisions."

AMWA has long supported a woman's right to determine whether to continue or terminate her pregnancy without government restrictions placed on her physician's medical judgment and without spousal or parental interference.

Founded in 1915, the American Medical Women's Association represents more than 10,000 women physicians and medical students and is dedicated to furthering the professional and personal development of its members and promoting women's health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM
FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION
ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act. This bill, which will be introduced in an identical format in the Senate, is bipartisan and will represent, what I hope will be a fundamental departure from "business-as-usual" human rights policy.

The persecution of people of faith is the great untold human rights story of the decade. With the end of the cold war came freedom for millions living under Communism in the former Soviet Union, Central Eastern Europe. During those years, many people of all faiths worked together with the Jewish community on behalf of those suffering persecution at the hands of the Communist dictators. The Jewish community led the fight and the Christians, though sometimes late, raised their voices and demanded justice for their faithful. But, with the dawn of freedom came a feeling that the problem had been solved.

Sadly, it has not. Millions of people of all faiths live in daily fear of secret police, vigilantes, state repression, or discrimination.

Religious persecution—and especially the persecution of Christians—did not dissipate with the cold war. It has persisted and accelerated. It has gotten worse while the world and the United States have turned their efforts

elsewhere. A few groups have tried to keep the flame flickering. I am grateful for their work and efforts to document this problem. My thanks go out to the Catholic Church, Nina Shea with the Puebla Program of Freedom House; Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute; John Eigner and all those at Christian Solidarity International; Steven Snyder with International Christian Concern; John Hanford and with Senator LUGAR and his associates; Voice of the Martyrs; Open Doors; Diane Knippers with the Institute for Religious and Democracy; Paul Marshall, author of "Their Blood Cries Out"; and many, many others. In the House, individuals like CHRIS SMITH, TONY HALL, TOM LANTOS, and NANCY PELOSI and others have long been champions of religious freedom.

But generally the world has been deaf. U.S. policy does not reflect an understanding of the seriousness and intensity of this human tragedy. We have turned away while 1.5 million—Christians and Muslims—have been killed in Sudan. Millions of house church Christians in China are forced to risk their lives and their freedom to worship in secret to keep their faith independent of government control. Christians in Pakistan are having a difficult time and so are the Coptic Christians in Egypt. Tibetan Buddhists have seen their holy places destroyed and their religious leaders imprisoned, tortured, raped and beaten. Bahai's are executed in Iran. Muslims in Sudan are suffering.

We cannot be silent any longer. When we come to the defense of the "least of these," those who are persecuted for their religious beliefs, we raise the comfort level for all who are persecuted by dictators. When we speak for Christians, we also speak for Muslims. When we speak for Jews, we also speak for Bahai's. We are speaking for all of whatever belief.

This legislation tracks the resolutions and bill language passed in the 104th Congress and calling for action. The American Christian community has recognized these facts and begun calling for action on behalf of the millions of Christians who are being persecuted on account of their beliefs. It has joined forces with the Tibetan community and others to urge the United States to do more, to speak out in defense of the "least of these."

The United States must take a new approach to this growing problem—an approach that says we will no longer be silent when regimes terrorize or allow terror against its religious believers.

The bill does a number of things:

It focuses on persecution—abduction, enslavement, imprisonment, killing, forced mass resettlement, rape, or torture.

It establishes an Office in the White House to monitor religious persecution and requires the Director to report to Congress on whether a country has category 1 persecution—government involvement—or category 2 persecution—no government involvement but lack of government action to stem persecution. We ask that the Director look at persecution of Tibetans, Bahai's, and Christians—the three groups which were the focus of resolutions—but encourage the Director to examine persecution of vulnerable communities whenever it occurs.

It shuts off aid to category 1 and 2 countries and requires U.S. executive directors to vote

against multilateral development banks against loans to persecuting countries.

It improves refugee and asylum procedures to ensure those seeking refuge from persecution are not turned away from a country which has historically welcomes religious victims.

Finally, and I want to emphasize this point, the bill imposes immediate and tough sanctions on the Government of Sudan until it ceases all religious persecution. The sanctions prescribed in this bill are virtually identical to those imposed on South Africa in the anti-apartheid act of the 1980's such as ban on flights, ban on investment, and a ban on imports. Though its difficult to quantify human suffering, after having traveled to Sudan three times since 1989, I can say with some experience that the persecution occurring there is some of the worst I've ever seen. Slavery, forcible conversion, the use of food as a weapon, torture, kidnapping of children. It's time the United States singled this country out as an example of one of the most egregious violators of human rights in the world.

This bill is not intended as a panacea. The international community, the President, and the Congress must remain vigilant and speak out on individual cases.

This bill, is intended to increase the priority given to this issue in our foreign policy and put the persecutors on alert. The United States will no longer acquiesce.

Jackson-Vanik was the movement that crystallized concern in the 1980's on behalf of those suffering persecution in the Soviet Union. I am hoping that this bill will be its counterpart for the 1990's.

It's an important and vital first step. We have 25 original bipartisan cosponsors in the House and we expect this bill to pass and to result in real action.

I want to thank all those who worked to put this bill together including Anne Huiskes on my staff; Bill Morley and Gretchen Birkle on Senator SPECTER's staff; and Grover Joseph Rees and Dorothy Taft on Representative CHRIS SMITH's staff. I also want to thank those outside groups who have worked on this bill including Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute, Heidi Stirrup, Christian Coalition; Will Dodson, Southern Baptist Convention; Will Nance, Prison Fellowship; Melissa McClard, Family Research Council; Nina Shea, Puebla Program; Father Keith Roderick; Dr. Whalid Phares; Ann Buwalda, Just Law, David Adams, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and the many others who have helped us craft this bill. Their efforts and input are greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE WHITTIER HOST LIONS CLUB IN RECOGNITION OF 75 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

On Saturday, May 31, 1997, the Whittier Host Lions Club will have a special ceremony in honor of this momentous occasion.

Sponsored by the Santa Ana Lions Club, the Whittier Host Lions Club was chartered on May 27, 1922. It is part of the International Association of Lions Clubs, known throughout the world for its humanitarian service, fellowship, and organizational leadership. The primary focus of this organization is service to the local community and to those in need throughout the world. Each year, Lions Clubs provide goods and services to thousands of people around the globe.

The Lions Club International began in June 1917, founded by a Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones. He presented to a group of small business clubs his proposal of consolidating their small clubs into a strong influential club. Its goal would be to serve the community and humanity. At the first annual convention in October 1917, 23 clubs participated. Today, there are more than 40,000 Lions Clubs.

The Whittier Host Lions Club has adhered to the international motto of service with distinction. Its members have provided countless hours of service to the community. Through the efforts of its members, the Whittier Host Lions Clubs has provided eyeglasses for area schoolchildren and invaluable support to the YMCA, Camp Arbolado, and Whittier Intercommunity Blind Center. It has organized a recycling center, contributing \$20,000 annually to civic projects and, since 1962, an Arabian Horse Show, contributing \$30,000 to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and in recognition of its outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

CALLING FOR A U.S. INITIATIVE SEEKING A JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Cyprus problem has been a matter of concern to the United States Congress now in excess of 22 years. It is a situation that cries out for just redress and an end to the occupation of Cyprus by foreign troops. Although the world has dramatically changed for the better during this decade, Cyprus remains as a pressing international problem. Indeed Cyprus has almost become a codeword for intractability in the realm of diplomacy.

I have been encouraged, nevertheless, by recent statements from high level officials of the Clinton administration, including the President himself, that indicate that there may be new willingness on the part of our Government to exert its leadership in promoting a solution to the Cyprus problem. I strongly believe that our Government should invest some of our prestige in such an effort, because Americans have always supported justice, and because

we have significant interests that can be affected by instability in Cyprus.

Over the past year there have been a number of events and incidents that have increased tensions in Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean region. There is a disturbing trend of increased militarization of the island, already one of the most highly militarized parts of the globe. There are, however, also positive developments that could act to catalyze a peaceful and just solution. One of these is the pending negotiation on Cyprus' accession to the European Union that may begin by the end of the year. There has been increased diplomatic activity in Europe and in the U.N. to bring the two sides together.

The resolution I introduced last week points out the interests and developments regarding the Cyprus situation and urges the President to keep his pledge to give increased attention to Cyprus. I am pleased to be joined by a group of distinguished cosponsors including Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MALONEY, that have shared an interest in Cyprus and the concern over what may arise from a continued stalemate on the island. It is our hope that this resolution will help spur the resolve of the Clinton administration to indeed make 1997 the Year of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I request that a full text of House Concurrent Resolution 81 be inserted at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 81

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, the Congress, and United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means to resolve the situation in Cyprus, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas the House of Representatives has endorsed the objective of the total demilitarization of Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions on Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along cease fire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and

serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will "play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus"; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tensions on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the interests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond;

(2) considers lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could be best served by a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms transfers to Cyprus, and providing for alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements as negotiated by the parties;

(3) welcomes and supports the commitment by President Clinton to give increased attention to Cyprus and make the search for a solution a priority of United States foreign policy;

(4) encourages the President to launch an early substantive initiative, in close coordination with the United Nations, the European Union, and interested governments to promote a speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of international law, the provisions of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, democratic principles, including respect for human rights, and in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union;

(5) calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to such an initiative; and

(6) requests the President to report actions taken to give effect to the objectives set forth in paragraph (4) in the bimonthly report on Cyprus transmitted to the Congress.

CHILDREN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 21, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

President Clinton recently hosted the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. The purpose was to bring together parents, scientists, policy makers, child care providers and others to discuss the new research on brain development in children under age 3 and to explore how to deliver this information to more

homes. The key lesson from this research is that our ability to interact with others, communicate, and learn is largely dependent on what happens to us as newborns and toddlers.

Now more than ever we know the importance of early intervention, from prenatal care to preschool, to ensure that children get off to a healthy start. Research shows that the stimulation children receive after birth counts even more than genetics to enable them to become smart and adaptable. Unfortunately, there remains a huge gap between our knowledge about children's needs and our success in meeting them. We simply must find effective ways to apply new scientific knowledge to public policy. Deprivation, abuse, and neglect of children often has long-lasting, damaging effects not only on them, but on our entire nation.

NEW DISCOVERIES

Fifteen years ago researchers thought that a baby's brain structure was virtually complete at birth, as if the brain were a computer just waiting to be turned on. Now we know that humans come into the world with a brain that is largely incomplete. Just as a sculptor shapes a lump of clay into a distinct work of art, our experiences mold our brain.

Giving children the stimulation they need to learn and grow doesn't require fancy toys or classes. Research shows instead that simple things can have the greatest positive impact. For example, talking, singing, and reading to children from birth onward helps develop the parts of their brains devoted to language. In addition, holding babies and responding to their cues enables them to feel secure, which helps them learn and grow. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. The brains of children who are abused or neglected release high levels of stress hormones, which can actually hinder the brain's growth and development.

PERSISTENT PROBLEMS

Most parents work very hard to meet their children's needs. As a nation, though, we fail our youngest citizens far too often. The U.S. has the highest rate of young children living in poverty of any western industrialized nation. The child poverty rate has hovered at around 20% ever since 1981. Other trends are even worse. In 1995, nearly one million children were victims of abuse or neglect. Fourteen percent of children lacked health insurance, 25% lacked immunizations against preventable childhood diseases. Between 1985 and 1994, the percentage of low-birth-weight babies, who often have multiple health problems, grew. And while the infant mortality rate has improved, the U.S. still ranks 18th among industrialized nations. During this same period, the number of teens dying from accidents, homicides, and suicides rose 10%. Arrests of juveniles for violent crimes increased by a staggering 70% nationwide, 125% in Indiana. And while the teen pregnancy rate has leveled off in recent years, about half a million children are born to teen mothers each year.

Although most mothers of children under 4 work outside the home, high-quality, affordable child care remains in short supply. The federal government's Head Start program is widely acclaimed, but it is available only to those age 3 and above, and serves only about a third of eligible children. A new program for younger children, Early Head Start, has only 22,000 slots for 2.9 million eligible children.

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

At the White House Conference, President Clinton announced a number of worthy initiatives. First, he directed the Department

of Defense, which runs many high-quality child care centers, to share its formula for success with state and local governments and private child care centers. Second, the President proposed a plan to extend health care coverage to an additional 5 million uninsured children. The balanced budget agreement recently announced includes funding to extend health insurance to some unserved children.

Third, the President wants to expand Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Fourth, the U.S. Department of Education is making available early childhood development activity kits to anyone who calls 1-800-USA-LEARN to request one. Fifth, the Department of Justice is establishing a "Safe Start" program to help law enforcement officers respond more sensitively to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The President also supports expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover events like parent-teacher conferences.

CONCLUSION

Parenting can be vastly rewarding, but also demands enormous amounts of time, energy, patience and skill. Children require not just caretakers, but caregivers. Even under the best circumstances, the task of parenting can be overwhelming. For parents who are very young, lack education, are struggling to rise out of poverty, or who were once abused themselves, the demands occasionally are too great. The arguments for an expansion of support for new parents and for quality child care are compelling. Communities that have reached out to at-risk families with visits by social workers and nurses and free parenting classes have had promising results.

Children are persistently the poorest group in America. I worry that recent budget-cutting efforts in Congress have focused disproportionately on the poor. We have not yet seen the full effects of welfare reform, which not only included time limits on welfare benefits but also restrictions on food stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for children.

Children have such an amazing capacity to grow and learn and thrive provided there is love and patience and commitment. We adults fall short of our responsibilities if we fail to provide these, and we also pay the price. We need to reach out to struggling parents, offering assistance and advice that can help them become the strong mothers and fathers most of them want to be. The very youngest Americans are the ones who will lead us in the 21st century. We cannot expect to prosper in the future if we do not help them prosper today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETE DARLING

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House to help me pay tribute to Dr. Arthur Perry "Pete" Darling, who today celebrates his 80th birthday. Pete Darling lives in Corning, NY. He came there in 1952. For the last 45 years he has been an essential, constant, vital part of our small town. He is a true American original, and his story is part of the bedrock upon which this Nation is built. His children have this to say about their father:

Our dad endured a childhood of poverty—the sort of poverty it's better to read about in Horatio Alger than to experience. He lost his mother while he was still a small boy, and in the midst of the depression Dad got himself through Williams College on a scholarship that didn't include money for books, so he never bought any. After graduation he spent a year working 18 hour shifts as a bellhop to earn the tuition for medical school, and though he interrupted his studies to enlist in the Army during World War II, he was eventually able to finish his surgical internship and residency at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

Do you measure a man's value by his work? Dad is a brilliant surgeon. He brought a level of talent, innovation and skill to our hometown that saved countless lives. Sometimes we went with him on his housecalls, helping to carry his black bag. We've heard countless stories about how he listened to his patients, demanded the best from the hospital and its staff, and never accepted any of the endless offers that came his way to practice in other places.

Or is a man judged by his courage? We've never found a braver man than our father. At the height of his career, Dad lost his sight. His surgical career ended overnight. At a time when most men are contemplating retirement and solitude, he built a new life for himself at the age of 61. He gave up the practice he loved without a backward glance, and went to work at Corning, Inc., building a first-rate medical department.

He raised the money to found a low-vision clinic, a clinic that today offers those with limited sight the practical advice and tools they need to make a full, independent life possible.

Dad eventually retired at the age of 70, and finally had time for the things he loves—fly fishing, scotch, golf, good food, good conversation, a good joke. More than anything on earth, though, he loves our mother, Anne, his wife of 37 years. A local mechanic, speaking with them about the loss of his own wife, said wistfully, "I'd like to think we had the same sort of marriage you two have," and with those words he spoke for everyone who knows our parents. They have talked, laughed, loved and occasionally fought their way through nearly four decades of marriage, and no invention of Hollywood could ever tell a finer story.

Together they raised five children, creating a secure haven of love and stability in the midst of turbulent times.

All five of us have grown and gone now, and have established careers of our own in education, business, finance, law, politics and religion. Each child has at least one degree, some have two, one is working on her third. We are making our mark from New York to San Francisco, and trying to set the same standards in our chosen fields as our parents did in theirs. It's a hard act we're following, but if you asked Dad what he takes the most pride in, we suspect he would point to our independence, even if it does occasionally drive him wild.

Mr. Speaker, those children, their spouses, and Pete's grandchildren will all arrive in Corning in a few days, to celebrate this special birthday and this special man. His has been a life of service, courage, and love. I am proud to call him my friend.

THE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 1997, DERYL MCKISSACK, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MCKISSACK AND MCKISSACK OF WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA] celebrates Small Business Week by honoring outstanding men and women as Small Business Persons of the Year. The winners of this award are judged based on staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-related projects. The Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 is Deryl McKissack, President and CEO of McKissack and McKissack of Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Deryl McKissack is a DC resident and graduate of Howard University who, in 1990, opened the Washington Office of McKissack and McKissack, the oldest minority-owned architectural/engineering firm in the Nation with \$1,000, exceptional skills, determination, and a dream. In 1995 the company was certified in SBA's 8(a) Program and has won two 8(a) contracts totaling \$9.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, today this business woman has over 35 full-time employees with an estimated revenue of \$7 million for the coming fiscal year. Her client list now includes the U.S. Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, the Washington Convention Center, NationsBank, Georgetown University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and Coppin State College. The firm is a leader in program management engagements and is working on three separate contracts at the historic Treasury building in downtown D.C.

Ms. McKissack has encountered closed doors and stiff competition. She overcame these obstacles with a strong commitment to excellence, a determination to outperform her competitors, emphasis on delivering outstanding work on schedule and within budget and ensuring that client's needs are met. Ms. McKissack supports a number of charitable organizations and serves the community in other ways including the DC Public Schools' Task Force on Education, Infrastructure for the 21st Century, and the Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in saluting Deryl McKissack, SBA's Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 for the Washington Metropolitan Area and celebrating the contributions of the small business community to this Nation's economic health.

LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that authorizes constructions

of the Lewis and Clark rural water system. This system, when complete, will provide much needed, safe drinking water for hundreds of communities in southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota.

I am proud of the citizens of South Dakota who have worked extremely hard on this project. They are to be commended. Nothing is more important to the health of South Dakota ranchers, farmers, and people living in towns and cities than the availability of safe drinking water. The bill I am introducing today will achieve that goal.

In this day of fiscal austerity, only projects of the greatest public benefit can be brought forward. The Lewis and Clark rural water system is the only feasible means of ensuring that future supplies of high quality water will be available well into the next century. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will provide a supplemental supply of drinking water that is expected to serve over 180,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, water development is a health issue, economic development issue, and a rural development issue. The ability of rural America to survive and grow is intrinsically related to the ability of rural and growing communities to provide adequate supplies of safe drinking water. Without a reliable supply of water, these areas cannot attract new businesses and cannot create jobs. The creation of jobs is a paramount issue to a rural State such as South Dakota. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will help assure job growth in the areas to be served.

It is extremely difficult for rural communities and residents to maintain a healthy standard of living if they do not have access to good quality drinking water. This bill authorizing the construction of the Lewis and Clark rural water system with work toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. Their support would be greatly appreciated.

DECLARING MAY 22, 1997, BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS DAY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts [BFA] on the occasion of its 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony, which will honor the outstanding artistic contributions of women, and to declare May 22, 1997, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my California's 34th Congressional District.

This year marks BFA's 24th season of bringing Latino world drama to both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences. Each year, more than 300,000 children and adults experience the richness and diversity of Latino culture through the presentation of plays in southern California schools and at BFA's Lincoln Heights Theater.

BFA's mission has been to bring communities together through the presentation of

plays from the diverse Latino cultural and theatrical tradition. Classical and contemporary plays are presented in both English and Spanish, alternating weekly. Founded by my good friend and internationally recognized Mexican-American actress and producer, Carmen Zapata, along with Cuban-born actress and director, Margarita Galban, and Argentinean designer, Estela Scarlata, BFA has grown from a small, itinerant bilingual theater to a permanent cultural institution that utilizes the arts as a tool for exploration and understanding of the Latino community.

On the evening of May 22, 1997, Chairman Jesus Rangel, joined by Cochairs Enrique "Henry" Baray, Douglas M. West, and Latin Heat's Bel Hernandez and Loyda Ramos, will join BFA's supporters in honoring the outstanding contributions of women at the 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony. Receiving the El Angel Corporate Award will be the Coca Cola Co. and Kraft General Foods, for their support of Latino arts. Muralist Judy Baca and actress/comedianne Liz Torres will receive the El Angel Artist Award, for their outstanding and innovative contributions to the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts for its unyielding commitment to promoting the arts in the Latino community, and to join me in congratulating 1997's El Angel Award recipients. I proudly, in recognition of BFA's contributions to our community for nearly a quarter of a century, declare May 22, 1997, to be Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my congressional district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight to Washington, I missed rollcall Votes Nos. 139, 140, and 141. Had I been present I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 139, 140 and 141.

"MY GOOD FRIEND, THE PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN"

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and I became an admirer of President Lee Teng-hui. He was graceful, charismatic, knowledgeable, and visionary as well. He deeply impressed me with his firm grasp of world events as he articulated his vision of a modern Taiwan that is economically prosperous, politically free, and internationally respected.

President Lee has certainly maintained Taiwan's spectacular economic growth. Politically

he has introduced many reforms, including the upcoming debate on Taiwan's constitution. In terms of achieving greater international recognition for Taiwan, I have learned that Foreign Minister John Chang is succeeding in making the world see the injustices of excluding Taiwan, a major economic power, from many important international organizations. As for Taiwan's relationship with the United States, Taiwan certainly has many friends on Capitol Hill due to the efforts of Ambassador Jason Hu and his staff.

Congratulations to my good friend, the President of Taiwan, on the occasion of his first anniversary of his first elected term of office. He will always have my support and best wishes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on the event of its 40th anniversary. This chamber has faithfully served the cities of Ballwin, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Valley Park, Wildwood, Winchester, and parts of unincorporated St. Louis County, MO.

Established on May 13, 1957, as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the chamber was founded to enrich the communities of the West St. Louis County corridor. At its first meeting held in the basement of Ballwin Elementary School, the chamber dedicated itself to improving the quality of education, highways, and sewer systems. From these humble beginnings, the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce has grown into one of the most dynamic and progressive chambers in this region. With 385 members and 601 representatives, the chamber continues to advance commercial, industrial, and civic interest, as well as enhancing the community environment within cities and unincorporated areas.

The West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce currently is involved in numerous activities including: monitoring local, State, and Federal legislative issues of specific interest to business; maintaining a proactive status to improve transportation facilities and services; publishing an annual "Buyer's Guide and Membership Directory" which is distributed to 50,000 residents; soliciting of new businesses and residents to the area; acts as a clearinghouse for information for prospective new businesses; and offers its members opportunities for networking, advertising, education, and referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the membership of the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on this occasion. I am confident that the chamber will continue to lead the West St. Louis County corridor well into the next millennium.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that on the eve of his retirement that I rise in tribute to the chairman and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities, Inc., Mr. James R. Leva.

Jim Leva is a true American success story and how he achieved that success defines what it is to be a good civic and corporate citizen—hard work, determination, commitment to community, excellence in all efforts, and loyalty and love for family.

A 1950 graduate of Boonton High School and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Leva joined Jersey Central in 1952 as a utility worker and progressed to first-class lineman in 1954. He worked for 4 years as night troubleman while attending Fairleigh Dickinson University as a full-time day student in electrical engineering. At the same time, he was beginning his life with his wife, Marie Marinaro of Morristown, and raising their five children.

Mr. Leva graduated from the university magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1960. The same year he advanced to cadet engineer in the utility's central division engineering department and was promoted to assistant engineer the following year. His rise continued—from personnel assistant in 1962, assistant manager-employee relations in 1963, manager-employee relations in 1968, vice president personnel, safety and services in 1969 and vice president consumer affairs in 1979.

In 1980, Mr. Leva obtained his juris doctorate from Seton Hall Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar the same year.

In January 1992, he was elected president and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities Corp., the forerunner of GPU, Inc., and assumed the additional position of chairman in June 1992. He is also chairman of GPU Nuclear, Inc., and chairman and chief executive officer of all other major GPU companies.

And, while all this hard work was accomplished, Jim Leva never forgot his commitment to the county and State in which he lived. Mr. Leva has been active in local public affairs for many years. He served as a member of the Morris Township Board of Education, the Morris Township Committee, and was the township's police commissioner. He also served two terms as mayor of Morris Township.

Jim Leva has had an even broader sense of community than the county in which he lives. Among his other contributions, Mr. Leva is a director of the Utilities Mutual Insurance Co., New Jersey Utilities Association, Edison Electric Institute, and New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. He was national chairman of the 1996 U.S. Savings Bond campaign, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Clares-Riverside Foundation, and chairman of the joint advisory board of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson Uni-

versity and the TriCounty Scholarship Fund and a member of the board of directors of Prosperity New Jersey, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 23, many people will gather to pay tribute to Jim Leva for his many achievements and leadership of GPU as well as his countless contributions to a better New Jersey. They will come from all walks of life—from the lineman to the government official, from business leaders to community volunteers to say thank you. We say thank you Jim for a job well done and thank you for serving as an example to us all. We are most grateful for your service and we wish you and your family many happy and well deserved years of retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BARTLEY "BART"
BENNETT**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great humanitarian and close friend, Mr. Bartley "Bart" Bennett. Bart has worked tirelessly for the housing industry and constantly volunteered his time throughout our community. For that, I would like to honor him today.

Bart and I have known each other for years. Since founding Christmas CanTree with Frank Riser in 1977, Bart has worked with numerous organizations providing for the less fortunate. He simultaneously served on the Salvation Army Modesto Corps Advisory Board and the Community Housing and Shelter Services Board for almost two decades. This unrelenting dedication has affected many lives over the years.

In addition to these services, Bart has served as chairman of the Big Five Fundraiser for 10 years. This organization benefits the Community Housing and Shelter Services. It is a pleasure to recognize Bart today for these selfless acts of good will.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WRITE
YOUR CONGRESSMAN**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased during the last few years to see that so many Americans take the opportunity to become involved in our Government. This involvement is reflected in the high volume of letters from my constituents regarding issues and events that affect their lives. I encourage and welcome this type of participation.

Today, I would like to recognize an organization that helps the people of this country send their thoughts and concerns to their Representatives in Washington, DC. National Write Your Congressman, founded in 1958, is a unique organization. It is different because it is not a lobbying organization and does not show partiality toward a particular issue. Na-

tional Write Your Congressman researches legislation, presents both sides of national issues, and allows its members to develop their own opinions.

Once a month, this organization sends its members an opinion ballot outlining both sides of a controversial issue. They also conduct frequent national polls among their members and advise Representatives of the results. Finally, National Write Your Congressman keeps its members aware of their Representatives' voting records on national issues.

I am proud to see this organization actively encouraging busy Americans to voice their opinions on national issues. I commend National Write Your Congressman on its efforts to keep the American people in touch with their Representatives.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 553,
SOUTH GLENS FALLS, NY, HONORED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of the American Legion myself, it is with great pride that I commemorate the Mohican Post 553 of the American Legion in South Glens Falls, NY, in my congressional district. And it is with great humility that I stand here today and try and do justice to all the tremendous service and good this post has done for veterans and their families, as well as the entire community over the past 75 years.

Just last year, I had the tremendous good fortune of addressing both the New York State and the National American Legion Convention where I was awarded with the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me that among all the things I've done in this Congress, I literally cherish above all else the time I've spent working alongside the American Legion. Together we've achieved so much on behalf of flag and country.

But Mr. Speaker, those achievements are what makes the men and women of American Legion Posts like No. 553 in South Glens Falls the true heroes. Not only have they served their country in uniform, but they have served America and their fellow veterans as members of the Legion. A group that is always in the forefront of efforts to develop and maintain adequate veterans benefits and programs.

And as if that wasn't enough, there are the tremendous programs and activities the members of Post 553 run on behalf of their community. I'm talking about things like scholarships and teams they sponsor for the youth in Glens Falls as well as community wide events.

Because of efforts like these, their promotion of pride, patriotism, and good citizenship goes unparalleled. And that's why I can't wait to pass the constitutional amendment to protect Old Glory right here on the House floor knowing I have the wholehearted support of my fellow Legionnaires from Post 553 in South Glens Falls, New York.

Mr. Speaker, protecting our flag, watching out for fellow veterans and ensuring a strong

national defense may seem like a large and daunting agenda to some. But that's not half of what Legion Posts like this one have done over the 75 year history dating back to 1922. But I know there's no limit to what they can accomplish. That's because this post is made up of patriotic Americans who have served their country and earned the right to call themselves veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and proud members of the American Legion.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me in paying tribute to all the members of South Glens Falls Legion Post 553 for their tireless and selfless devotion to America and their community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.
ROBERT L. FULLER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 1997, Mt. Hermon Baptist Church will honor a dedicated individual and servant of God. The church, which is in my congressional district, will pay special tribute to Dr. Robert Lawrence Fuller, a pastor who completed 81 years in the Gospel Ministry. I join the Mt. Hermon Church family and the Greater Cleveland community in saluting Dr. Fuller. I want to share with my colleagues and others some information regarding this distinguished individual.

Dr. Fuller was born on October 10, 1911, in Decatur, AL. At the age of 5, his call to the ministry was recognized. Although Dr. Fuller was born with a speech impediment and had never been to school, he undertook the preaching of the Gospel with an unwavering conviction. He received his license at the age of 11, and was ordained some 8 years later. At the youthful age of 22, Dr. Fuller accepted his first pastorate at the Union Hill Baptist Church of Chattanooga, TN.

Mr. Speaker, in February 1937, Dr. Fuller arrived in Cleveland, OH, and began his ministerial service at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. With the country in the Depression and the congregation on the verge of losing its place of worship, Dr. Fuller began a faith-building itinerary which would continue throughout his tenure. In 1939, the Mt. Hermon congregation began to purchase its first building. They burned the mortgage in 1942. As the membership continued to increase, a building fund was established, with a view to expansion. The ground breaking for the new place of worship took place on July 7, 1957. On August 10, 1958, the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church conducted its first worship service in the newly-completed, half-million dollar edifice on East 40th Street.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Fuller retired as pastor of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in October 1992, after a record 55 years of dedicated service. He left with an impressive list of accomplishments to his credit. Under Dr. Fuller's leadership, renovations continued to take place, including the installation of an infra-ray heating system, a state-of-the-art public chime system, and the completion of a tower and third floor addition. Further, Dr. Fuller was in-

strumental in seeing that Mt. Hermon was responsive to the needs of the Greater Cleveland community. He led the congregation in evangelistic crusades and conducting religious surveys. Dr. Fuller was also responsible for the planning and building of the Good Samaritan Foundation Home which officially opened its doors to the community in October of 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church family and many others in saluting Dr. Robert L. Fuller. His slogan that he is "God's Minute Man," exemplifies his intention to immediately respond to God's direction. I applaud Dr. Fuller for his strong commitment and dedicated service throughout the years. I recognize his achievements, and I wish him continued blessings and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was delayed on route to the Capitol following a meeting with constituents in my congressional district during the votes on H. Res. 152. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

ARLENE NUNES' GUARDIAN
ANGEL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, all of us in Congress are called upon from time to time to provide assistance to people who live in our districts and require some guidance in dealing with the complexities of one or another bureaucracy. One of the people that the excellent staff in my office have been able to help is Ms. Arlene Nunes. I was therefore especially moved when I saw Ms. Nunes recently and heard her describe the events which are chronicled in the accompanying article. The point is that Ms. Nunes having herself been in a situation where she experienced health problems and called on us to help her in dealing with a bureaucratic maze, drew strength from this and was for precisely this reason eager to help someone else who was in trouble. I was especially impressed by Ms. Nunes' assertion that precisely because she has herself asked others for assistance, she was inspired to provide literally life saving assistance to someone else at a difficult period. To go from the illness she had within a short period of time to being literally a life saver for a fellow human being is not only an extraordinary experience, but indicative of an extraordinary individual, Arlene Nunes, and I am proud to share this experience with others as an example of how adversity of a personal sort can sometimes be strengthening and bring out the best in us.

ARLENE NUNES, AS TOLD TO VERONICA
CHATER

The blue-green sea spread out before me like a blanket as I waded into the warm

water of Lydgate Lagoon on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Could a month in paradise help me heal? I wasn't sure anything could.

Only a month before, I'd been lying miserably in a hospital back home in New England, admitted for heart problems and exhausted from multiple sclerosis.

"My daughter and I are supposed to be on a plane to Kauai!" I told the doctor.

"Don't worry," my 23-year-old daughter Dorene reassured me. "We'll just postpone the trip. It's not the end of the world."

But it felt like it. At 49, with my divorce behind me, I wanted to believe I still had a lot of living to do. But instead, my heart was racing, my left side was weak—and I felt I was falling apart.

Lying in bed, 17 long days had passed while I wondered if I'd ever feel strong again. But this trip would do more for me than I could have imagined.

The sun was on my face as I fed tropical fish. I wanted to dive into the glassy blue, but my doctor's words echoed in my mind, *Take it easy.*

I'm not much of a swimmer anyway. As a young girl, I had gone swimming in a lake and gotten a cramp in my leg. Before I knew it, I was under. Please help me! I panicked, my lungs ready to burst. Finally, someone pulled me out. But ever since, I couldn't put my head underwater, I'd just paddle and float.

So I paddled and floated out, and when I could no longer feel the sandy floor, I let the water just support my body.

I watched a man swim to shore to look after his three children while his wife went in, scuba gear in hand. Then I kept floating out—about 100 feet—to the deepest part of the lagoon.

There may have been 10 other swimmers, or rather, snorkelers, their breathing straws skimming and bobbing. But my vision was drawn farther out. That's the mother of those children, I realized. It was her jerking movements that had caught my eye. Without making a sound, she threw up her arm, which twisted like a corkscrew. And she was gasping as she tried to yank off her diving mask.

Instantly, I knew I was witnessing an epileptic seizure; I had seen one years ago. And now, there was only still water where the young mom had been.

My mind went blank as my body took over. I paddled over as fast as I could, my heart pounding. And then, without thinking, I dove beneath the water.

I don't even remember pulling the woman to the surface. But suddenly, there I was, floating, holding on to her with my stronger right arm to keep her afloat. And then I found my voice and screamed. "Help!"

None of the snorkelers heard me. So I kept screaming, trying to keep the woman—convulsing and grabbing me—from pulling us both under.

On shore, I saw Dorene jump at the sound of my voice, and she started hollering too. And then the woman's husband realized. "Ellen," he cried "Ellen!" The sound of his plaintive cries made my heart break.

I can't wait for help, I thought. We have to get to shore. So with my weak left arm, I swam with all my might. Will we make it? I panicked. But then I saw a man swimming quickly toward us.

Panting, he reached us. "She's having a seizure!" I cried.

"Take her legs," he coughed, and together we towed her to shore.

When my feet finally touched bottom, I shouted to the crowd: "Get a doctor!" As it

turned out, there was one on the beach, who performed CPR and emptied her lungs of water. Within minutes, she and her family had disappeared in an ambulance.

Standing in the water, I realized for the first time what had happened, and I started to sob. My fellow rescuer came toward me. "You saved her life," he said.

"We did," I replied.

"You know," he said, "I'd postponed this vacation because I was ill. I was just wading in the water . . ."

Then I told him my own story. For a moment we just stared at each other, knowing we had shared something incredible.

Maybe it wasn't just a coincidence that we were here to save that woman, I thought. Maybe, just maybe, God wanted to give us something: the feeling of strength when we felt weak. To show us something: that we could do something wonderful for another when we weren't sure what we could do for ourselves.

We called the hospital and found that Ellen had been released. She never knew that the stranger who reached out for her that day was me.

I think about Ellen a lot. Whenever I feel tired or weak, I remember the feeling of my legs and arms moving furiously and a sensation of power taking hold. If I could pull a woman out of the ocean, I can do anything!

If you ask Ellen, she'd probably tell you that I was her guardian angel. But if you ask me I'd have to say she was mine.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN RURAL HIGHWAYS ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, Congress is in the process of developing legislation to reauthorize highway and transit programs. To ensure vital transportation links are maintained into the 21st century, we must address rural America's needs as well as America's need for a strong rural America.

The National Interest in Rural Highways Act would ensure rural States receive adequate

funding. These States need a level of funding that ensures a seamless transportation system. The Nation does and must continue to benefit from effective transportation in and across rural areas. Without good highways across the plains and mountains, people and goods cannot move efficiently between the west and the east coasts. Yet these States with large land areas and sparse populations cannot support these national interest roads without a Federal investment. The bill would help meet this goal by establishing a small pool of funds to be allocated to States that have a population density of 25 people per square mile or fewer and cover a total area of 10,000 square miles or more.

The allocation from this pool of funds would supplement the State's regular allocation. The allocation would help meet the special needs of States that depend so heavily upon highways. The States that would qualify for this program would be Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The total fund would constitute a mere 1.25 percent of the authorized appropriation of the highway trust fund (excluding the mass transit account). The distribution formula would be based upon two factors. Half of the total allocation would be distributed to each qualifying State based upon the total number of NHS miles in the State. The other half of the allocation would be based upon the number of vehicle miles traveled on the NHS within the eligible State.

The need for this legislation is clear. Without good roads in and across these States, regional and national movement is stymied.

And while these States enjoy some of the benefits of mass transit and passenger rail service, these are services that largely go unused in our area of the country. Quite frankly, the costs too often outweigh the benefits. Families, businesses, and industry depend largely upon roads and highways for their day-to-day business. As an example, South Dakotans annually pay over 30 percent more per capita in motor fuel taxes than the national average.

Highways act as the lifeline between these communities. In the State of South Dakota, agriculture and tourism are the top two industries. For agriculture, roads and bridges allow our farmers and ranchers to conduct their daily operations and help them bring their products to markets. For the small businesses—the entrepreneurs of my State—highways and roads are absolutely vital to keep our out-of-state visitors moving from border to border.

I grew up in Murdo, a small town on Interstate 90 in western South Dakota. Murdo is built upon the agriculture and tourism businesses. Growing up, I worked in both industries. Having that four-lane highway running past my town played a key role in building these businesses and keeping Murdo alive and thriving.

But this last winter and spring have brutalized our highways. The record cold temperatures, excessive snow fall, and subsequently flooding have turned miles of roads and bridges into crumbled pavement and asphalt. Some of these extra needs can be met through disaster relief efforts. However, rebuilding our infrastructure will take much, much more. South Dakota already has a highway maintenance backlog of over \$500 million.

This bill recognizes the need to tie together the expenses that separate people as it gives certain States the tools they need to overcome the obstacle of distance. Nationally the highways in these States—particularly the National Highway System routes—help improve transportation for the entire country.

I have submitted a chart to be printed in the RECORD following my remarks that outlines which States would qualify under this legislation as well as the level of funding for which each State would qualify.

I thank my colleagues, Representative YOUNG of Alaska, HILL of Montana, and CUBIN of Wyoming, for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. I hope other Members will join them in their support of this legislation.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN RURAL HIGHWAYS ACT

	HM-48P ¹ NHS lane miles	Percent of total NHS lane miles	NHS lane miles dis- tribution	VM-3P ¹ total NHS VMT (mil- lions)	Percent of total NHS VMT	Total NHS VMT distribu- tion	Total dis- tribution	Percent of total dis- tribution
Alaska	3,508	4.90	5,939,987	1,821	3.78	4,577,675	10,517,662	4.34
Idaho	6,303	8.81	10,672,674	4,474	9.29	11,246,853	21,919,527	9.05
Montana	10,357	14.48	17,537,186	4,237	8.79	10,651,076	28,188,262	11.64
Nebraska	7,534	10.53	12,757,088	6,393	13.27	16,070,883	28,827,971	11.90
Nevada	5,764	8.06	9,760,002	4,932	10.24	12,398,185	22,158,186	9.15
New Mexico	8,932	12.49	15,124,278	8,344	17.32	20,975,355	36,099,633	14.90
North Dakota	7,411	10.36	12,548,816	2,605	5.41	6,548,514	19,097,330	7.88
South Dakota	7,628	10.66	12,916,255	3,263	6.77	8,202,611	21,118,866	8.72
Utah	7,037	9.84	11,915,533	8,909	18.49	22,395,666	34,311,199	14.17
Wyoming	7,051	9.86	11,939,239	3,200	6.64	8,044,240	19,983,479	8.25
Total	71,525	100	121,111,058	48,178	100	121,111,058	242,222,115	100.00

¹ Revised Feb. 1995 FHWA Highway Statistics Table.

Total adjustment 242,222,115.

**SERGIO ESPINOZA AND THE
USIAA—TRUE CHAMPIONS**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of my constituents, Sergio Espinoza, the first San Diegan to win the National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions, and also to pay tribute to the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics, the organization that provided Sergio with the training that led him to his victory.

Boxing for the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics, Sergio was crowned 106-pound National Golden Gloves Champion on May 3, 1997. This tournament has a distinguished history that spans 70 years of pugilistic excellence.

Sergio is an intense young man from my congressional district, who began boxing 4 years ago. In his short career, he won a national tournament for 17 to 19-year-old boxers, and reached the quarterfinals in the World Junior Championship in Cuba. He has served notice to the world that he will be a force in the next Olympics.

I am proud to have the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics located in my own 50th Congressional District. The USIAA has succeeded in both training and educating student athletes. Under the guidance of its executive director, Mr. Robert C. Coons, and a very dedicated board of directors, the USIAA has become a permanent fixture in amateur athletics in San Diego.

The success of Sergio Espinoza and many other young people from USIAA who have represented our city, depend on a community that is willing to share its time, its talent, and its financial resources. In that sense, all of my constituents in the 50th Congressional District share in his victory.

Sergio and the USIAA serve as role models for our community—they are true champions and heroes.

The citizens of San Diego will honor the remarkable achievement of Sergio Espinoza in a homecoming celebration to be held May 29, 1997, at High Park Church in San Diego. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting this fine young man, his family, friends, and the organization that he has represented so well in competition, the USIAA.

**IN HONOR OF THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. as they celebrate the 31st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Guyana. In honor of this event, a commemorative flag-raising ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 27,

1997 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Jersey City Hall, 28 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ.

The word "Guyana" is an indigenous Indian word that means land of many waters. This land is believed to have been populated since the 1200's by the Arawak, Carib and Warrow tribes. Christopher Columbus was the first European to have sailed along its coast in 1498. Sir Walter Raleigh organized expeditions in the 1500's in search of the mystical city of El Dorado believed to be in Guyana.

In 1621 the Dutch started to colonize Guyana and in 1640 the first slaves arrived from Africa. In 1763, about 100 years before the American Emancipation, the slaves in Guyana revolted in the ill-fated effort known as the Berbice Slave Rebellion.

In 1781 the British captured the colony but were ousted within the year. From 1782 until the return of the British in 1812 the colony was administered by French and Dutch administrations.

In 1835 laborers were brought in from Portugal and 1838 marked the beginning of indentured servitude with the arrival of laborers from India. The Chinese came in 1853.

In 1953 elections were held for the first time under the system of universal adult suffrage. The People's Progressive [PPP] won this election but was removed, after 133 days in office, by the British.

The PPP was reelected in 1957 and again in 1961. During these two terms under the system of internal self rule, the colony of the then British Guiana experienced significant social and economic growth in spite of political disturbances, especially in the early 1960's.

In 1964, an unpopular government was brought to power through external influences. It remained in power until 1992 through constant rigging of national elections.

In 1966, Guyana became an independent Nation and in 1970 it obtained republican status.

On October 5, 1992 the first free and fair elections were held since 1964. This election, supervised by a team of international observers led by former U.S. President Carter brought the PPP-civic government under the Presidency of Dr. Cheddi Jagan to office.

Over 50 percent of Guyana's population consists of East Indians, whose ancestors came to Guyana from India. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their support of Hindu culture and serving the educational, cultural, and religious needs of the Hindu immigrant population that lives in New Jersey.

**NORTH HOOSICK FIRE DEPARTMENT
CELEBRATES THEIR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as in many primarily rural areas, volunteers provide most of the fire protection in the 22nd Congressional District of New York.

One of those, in fact one of the best volunteer fire companies, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. On May 1, 1947, a group of citizens gathered at the old North Hoosick Schoolhouse on the corner of routes 22 and 67 to form the department. For the next 50 years the North Hoosick Fire Department has provided the communities of North Hoosick, East Hoosick, and Walloomsac with outstanding fire protection. These volunteer companies, Mr. Speaker, save billions of dollars of property and countless lives every year in New York State alone. Volunteers are increasingly well-trained and professional. But more than that, the spirit of volunteerism that they exhibit is America at its best. Neighbor helping neighbor at the local level. That's what volunteer fire companies are all about.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all 435 congressional districts in this great country are blessed with their own volunteer firefighters who do equally fine work. Please join me in saluting the North Hoosick Fire Department, so ably led by Chief Alan J. Bornt, and all the other members, and wish them another 50 years of dedicated service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JO-ANN MAXWELL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has dedicated her life to education. I am speaking of Ms. Jo-Ann Maxwell, who will be retiring on May 22, 1997, after a lifetime of exemplary service.

Ms. Maxwell has been involved in education since her graduation from Indiana State Teachers College in 1958. She holds certificates in secondary speech and dramatics, secondary English, secondary education, as well as an elementary certificate. Currently, Ms. Maxwell is using her skills as a basic skills instructor for the upper elementary grades at Erial Elementary School. She has shown a deep commitment to passing along the skills that each student will need to be successful in the future. For her efforts, Ms. Maxwell received the prestigious honor of being selected as the 1986-87 Teacher of the Year.

All who have known Ms. Jo-Ann Maxwell, especially those who have benefited from knowledge, are honored by her service to their community. On behalf of all the citizens of New Jersey, I thank and congratulate Ms. Maxwell. We all will miss her remarkable talents.

**SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL
BUSINESS CREDIT NEEDS**

HON. JOHN J. LAFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are again being hurt by a lack of loan guarantee assistance through the Small Business Administration. This, in turn, is directly

attributable to a shortage of Federal moneys to adequately support the 7(a) loan guarantee program.

The President's budget request for fiscal year 1997 was for \$11 billion in guarantees for SBA's 7(a) loan program.

The House-passed appropriation bill only provided funding for \$7.2 billion.

The Senate-passed bill provided funding for \$8.4 billion.

And the enacted bill funded \$7.8 billion.

I want to emphasize that these are loan guarantees. The Federal Government only spends money to pay claims in the event of default in repayment of these loans which are made by private lending institutions. For the 1997 program, we appropriated \$158 million, along with usage of \$40 million which was unspent in 1996, in order to support almost \$8 billion in guarantees.

It is now clear that the \$8 billion in loan guarantees is not sufficient to meet demand, which is estimated at \$9.5 to \$10 billion.

In order to prevent the program from running out of money this summer and being forced to close, SBA took administrative action to limit the size of a loan which it would guarantee. Instead of the statutory maximum of \$750,000 in Federal exposure per borrower, a cap of \$375,000 was imposed effective May 5.

Unfortunately, the notice of SBA's decision to impose a cap, which is required by law, provided lenders with a window to rush through most of their pending bigger loans and caused what has been termed a "run on the bank."

As of yesterday, the amount of 7(a) loan guarantees available through the end of this fiscal year is less than \$1.65 billion. This meager amount must stretch over 4 months as compared to usage of \$6 billion in the first 8 months.

It appears certain at this point that even though the previously imposed loan cap will reduce demand, it will not have sufficient impact. Additional action must be taken.

At this point we cannot engage solely in an exercise in assessing blame and finger pointing.

If Congress had appropriated more money as the President requested, we would not be confronted with this problem today.

If SBA had reacted more quickly in acting to dampen demand and live within the budget enacted, less severe action would be necessary.

The most immediate need is to craft a solution to small business credit needs, on a short term basis to see us through the end of this year and into next, but also over a longer range.

There is a wealth of knowledge available to examine this problem and develop a solution. We should take full advantage of it.

Today, I have introduced a resolution calling upon the Administrator of SBA to appoint a blue ribbon commission to quickly examine small business credit needs.

This examination should encompass the entire concept of Federal programs to assist small firms in obtaining loan capital.

Over the short term, the options are probably limited to some minor changes in existing standards, terms and conditions. There simply is not time to develop new programs. But pri-

ority must be placed on developing some reasonable short term solution.

For the long term, however, there is an opportunity to expand the options being considered.

The quality of small business guaranteed loans have been greatly improved in the past few years.

Substantial user fees are now imposed upon those who participate in these programs.

In fact, SBA's major plant and equipment program, the certified development company program—which is not the one involved in the shortage of funding—now operates without any subsidy from the Federal Government. It costs us nothing.

The subsidy rate for the 7(a) program has also substantially improved.

Now is perhaps the time to consider privatizing these programs. It may be that 7(a)'s costs can be further reduced.

It probably is not possible to completely eliminate Federal support all at once. It will probably take an evolution just as in past decades SBA lending evolved from direct loans to loan guarantees.

The evolution from Federal loan guarantees to privatization may involve a concept called a government sponsored enterprise or GSE. Simply described, a GSE is a privately owned entity which is not part of the Federal budget but which may receive financial assistance in the future from the Government if the need arises and the Government agrees to do so.

GSE's have been used to assist housing. They have been used to assist students. They have been used to assist agriculture.

This may also be a useful model to help small business. Or perhaps a GSE should be used to help at least some small businesses which need a small amount of credit enhancement—that is, a small percentage of the loan needs to be guaranteed—as compared to other firms which need an 80- or 90-percent guarantee.

I advanced the privatization concept 20 years ago. I refined it over the years and specifically directed it toward small business in the late 1980's. It did not receive the necessary support. But small business loans were very different then than now, and we did not confront the budget constraints we now do.

A GSE is not a panacea. Establishment does involve some potential problems. It is, however, worthy of consideration as one of a variety of alternatives, and my resolution simply calls for its consideration.

PENSIONS TO FORMER NAZIS WHILE SURVIVORS GET NOTHING

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of my colleagues a painful reminder of WWII and the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. Several months ago, it came to light that the German Government was paying military pensions to former Nazi Waffen S.S. soldiers living in the United States and elsewhere, while scores of Jewish

survivors in Eastern Europe and even some in the United States have never received any compensation for the horrors that they endured. I have spoken out on this subject numerous times, but I wanted to commend my colleagues to an ad placed by the American Jewish Committee in the New York Times on May 7, 1997, which clearly outlines this horrible and tragically ironic state of affairs.

At the beginning of the ad, two pictures are displayed: One is of an elderly Jewish man who was a survivor of a Nazi ghetto in Eastern Europe, the other is of a man with arm raised in a Hitler salute, who was a soldier of the Waffen S.S. from Latvia. The headline asks: "Guess Which One Receives a War Victims Pension from the German Government?"

The text of the ad follows:

If you guessed the survivor, you're wrong, sad to say. While Holocaust survivors in other parts of the world are eligible to receive German pensions, Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have never received a pension of any kind from Bonn. Inexplicably, the German government has simply drawn the line at providing such direct assistance to this group of survivors. Not so, however, for many of the survivors' former tormentors. Believe it or not, the German government provides generous monthly pensions to Nazi war veterans whose injuries or even mild, chronic ailments qualify them for "war victims pensions." In the U.S. alone, there are 3,377 pensions sent each month to veterans of the armies of the Third Reich or their dependents! After the fall of communism, many Waffen S.S. veterans in the Baltic states and elsewhere in Eastern Europe discovered they, too, were eligible and are now receiving such pensions from Germany, while their victims are not. Today, an estimated 15,000-20,000 Jewish survivors of ghettos and concentration camps live in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. They are old, many are in poor health and financially destitute. Surely, they deserve some help and comfort in the last years of their lives. Join our call to the German government to correct this grievous wrong. Bring justice to the real victims of the Holocaust.

RECORD LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, in April the national unemployment rate reached a 24-year low of 4.9 percent. Ohio's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent for April, according to Ohio Bureau of Employment Services statistics released last Friday. Unemployment fell in every one of the counties of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District. Clearly, the Ohio economy is very strong, with a robust labor market.

For the national unemployment rate to crack the 5 percent floor for the first time since the Nixon administration signals a fundamental change in the labor market. The accepted economic thinking has been that even a full-employment economy had a natural unemployment rate of 5 percent or so. That is, that even during times of prosperity and growth you would have structural and short-term unemployment due to the normal function of the

labor market, and that the figure was between 5 and 6 percent.

The parameters have changed, and it is the result of actions taken by the Republican Congress. Welfare reform probably had the largest single impact. As the States implement the legislation enacted by Congress, individuals are being weaned off welfare and into paying jobs. Over 1.3 million people left the welfare rolls in 1996, more than 650,000 of them in just the last 4 months of the year. When you reform social programs that discourage work, you are bound to get more wage earners.

Then there's immigration reform. With the tightening of restrictions on illegal immigration and the termination of benefits like unemployment insurance for illegal immigrants, jobs are moving out of the underground economy and are being filled by legal residents.

In addition, efforts made by Congress to deregulate businesses, promote competition, and cut government spending are all contributing to economic growth. The telecommunications and securities reform legislation passed during the 104th Congress are two prime examples where deregulation is eliminating redtape, expanding industries, and putting capital investment to more efficient use to create jobs.

Another factor contributing to the sustained economic expansion has been the increase in international trade. Fully half of U.S. economic growth during the past 5 years has been export growth. Free trade policymaking in Washington and a global perspective in Columbus have accrued to the advantage of the Buckeye State, where Governor Voinovich has worked to make Ohio one of the top exporting States in the Nation.

International competition benefits the U.S. economy in another important way, by working to keep prices down. We truly are part of a global economy, one result of which is that tight labor markets do not necessarily mean higher prices.

What we are experiencing now is record employment without accompanying inflationary pressures. With the exception of a few sectors requiring special skills in short supply, you have full employment without worker shortages. The old notion of what constitutes natural unemployment rates needs to be rethought. The Federal Reserve Board was correct not to raise interest rates yesterday, and it should not do so until such time as there is real evidence of inflationary pressure.

Finally, because the balanced budget agreement negotiated by GOP congressional leaders calls for tax cuts for families, capital gains tax relief, and reduced government spending, we can count on lower interest rates, continued job growth, and more money in the pockets of Americans—more of whom are working than at any time in history.

THE MEN OF ESSEX—AN
EXTRAORDINARY GROUP

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an

event that will take place this evening in Newark, NJ. It is the 39th Annual Essex Award ceremony of the Men of Essex. For 39 years this group of distinguished and dedicated gentlemen, the Men of Essex, has given time, expertise and resources to recognize and enhance the lives of students who have shown outstanding achievement and potential in academic and athletic activities. This evening, four of its founders—Winfred Gideon III, Hamilton V. Bowser, James Sherman, and J. Garfield Jackson, Sr., will be honored. All of these men are excellent role models and exemplify what it means to be of service to one's community.

In 1958 a group of men having a common interest in athletics and creating a better image for the youth of the County of Essex met to discuss the possibilities of forming an organization whose prime function would be that of providing the young athletes in the community with some incentive for achieving both athletic and academic distinction. Following several informal meetings under the leadership of Winfred Gideon, with whom I had the pleasure of working with at The Prudential some years ago, it was agreed that there was a need for such service and the Men of Essex was born.

Mr. Speaker, that was 40 years ago. Just a few weeks ago there was a summit in Philadelphia that focused on volunteer efforts and working with youth. I would like to commend and thank these men for having such foresight and remaining focused on such a laudable and practical mission.

WEST GLENS FALLS, NY, FIRE
COMPANY NO. 1 CELEBRATES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That's why I travel home to my congressional district every weekend, to see the picturesque towns and scenery that marks the 22d district of New York. And my hometown of Queensbury and the Glens Falls community are certainly near and dear to my heart.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of my home town, the members of West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1 con-

tinue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they have saved by doing so over the course of their 50 year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at a parade marking this momentous occasion on Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Company No. 1 in West Glens Falls. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM DEFOE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an impressive young North Dakotan. Adam DeFoe of Devils Lake was the 1997 State winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. Mr. DeFoe's essay is based on the theme "Democracy—Above and Beyond".

I am very excited to see such worthwhile ideas coming from North Dakota's youth. It is my pleasure to submit Mr. DeFoe's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Adam DeFoe)

"Democracy, above and beyond all other forms of government. What exactly does this phrase mean? To find out, I took each letter of democracy and found a word befitting this form of government starting with that letter. It is as follows.

First of course is 'D'. I chose two words for this letter. The first is dependence. Democracy stands for dependence upon the people for an efficient government unit. Dependence upon the people is the key to democracy, for without the people's say in the government, what kind of government is it?

My next word is dauntless. Synonyms for this word include fearless and bold. A democracy is indeed dauntless because it is government by the people. If the people are in charge, of course they will be bold and fearless. This is what they fought for, went above and beyond their call of duty for, for a government that is indeed above and beyond all others.

Next, we have the letter 'E'. For this letter I chose empowerment. Again we come back to the people. The people are indeed empowered in Democracy as it is their form of government: "of the people, by the people, for the people". Without a government such as a democracy, the people would have little or no say in the government, as is the case in

lower forms of government such as a tyranny or monarchy, where the rule is just by a few and oftentimes by the least competent few.

We move on now to the letter 'M'. For this letter I settled upon majority rule. A democracy is rule by the majority, not by just the wealthy or by those who inherit their positions. The voice of the majority is heard and ruled upon. The laws of the country are governed as such. This is government in its truest form, this is democracy.

Now we have 'O'. For 'O' we have obligation. This word relates not only to the Democratic government, but also to the people. The government's first and foremost duty is to do what is right for the people, to defend and protect their rights and interests. However, these people, too, are obliged to see that the government does these things, to see that the government is run well and efficiently. Moreover, it is the people's obligation to vote, so that their voice may be heard. For without this very important part of the democratic process it is very hard for the government, or democracy as a whole, to be above and beyond all other forms of government.

This brings us now to the letter 'C'. I found the word 'change' to be appropriate for this letter. People crave changes. Democracy gives them that. True, other forms of government do give change, such as a monarchy, for example, but in a democracy it's good change, a change the people want. Also, a change that democracy needs, to have fresh ideas and thoughts in the government. It is the people's responsibility to see that this change is brought forth.

Next, we have 'R'. Resilience. It is my belief that a democratic government is resilient. Resilience to change, and to recover quickly from these changes that are imperative to Democracy. Resilience is also needed to recover quickly from misfortune. The people in a democratic nation may band together more quickly than would other nations with other forms of government for the reason that they've had to work together in the past to form and make their democratic government work and will remain banded together in times of disaster.

After that comes 'A'. For 'A' we have adapt. This word is important to democracy in that democracy has evolved over time from other forms of government such as the caste system. Democracy originated in Ancient Greece and has since then adapted and changed to the needs of modern society.

Moving on now 'C', we have culture. A democracy can represent all forms of culture in a nation. It can represent all of the people, rich or poor, educated or not. This is the essence of democracy, representing all walks of life equally. Favoring no one. Going "above and beyond all other forms of government" in this way.

Finally we come to the letter 'Y'. For this I have chosen the word 'yes'. The word 'yes' in that I say yes to democracy, a fine government in which people can express their opinions without fear of oppression. A government where people can guarantee themselves the freedoms they want. Yes, a democracy, above and beyond all forms of government. I think it's spelled out quite clearly."

A TRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL ELIZABETH WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Annual Elizabeth Waterfront Festival. This 3-day cultural celebration will take place in my district on May 24-26, 1997, along the spacious Veterans Memorial Waterfront Park in the city of Elizabeth.

This weekend's festivities celebrate the enormously positive influence of Hispanic culture on the lives of the people of Elizabeth. The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival proudly exhibits the rich cultural traditions that Hispanics have brought to the city, and to the Nation. The artwork, music, dance, and cuisine at the festival represent the cultural mosaic of Elizabeth.

The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival recognizes the role business can play in helping people achieve their true potential and highlights the diversity that exists within the Hispanic community. Its success exemplifies the beneficial influence public-private partnerships can have on a community. In cooperation with the city of Elizabeth, sponsors of the festival include major companies such as Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Bustelo Coffee, HBO en Espanol, Best Foods, and Coca-Cola. Melly Mell Productions is once again producing the festival whose local sponsors include the Elizabeth Center at 13A, Twin City Supermarkets, Mega 97.9 FM Radio, Telemundo 47, TKR Cable of Elizabeth, Union County College, and First BankAmericano.

The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival observes the cultural and economic role that the Hispanic community plays in Elizabeth and it illustrates all that the city has to offer. Locating the festival on the waterfront was an inspired choice to highlight Elizabeth's business community since the city of Elizabeth's strategic location on New Jersey's coastline makes it a preferred destination for ships carrying goods from all over the world.

It is an honor to have such an exceptional event take place in my district. The festival brings our community together, reflecting positively on the city of Elizabeth and New Jersey. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and recognize this wonderful celebration of culture, community, and diversity.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a number of organizations provide volunteer medical services without charge to those who might not otherwise have access to medical care.

I think all of these people should be commended for lending a helping hand to their fellow man.

However, many of these organizations have been hampered in their efforts because the

doctors must have a medical license in each State in which they volunteer their services. The State of Tennessee recognized this problem and addressed it by enacting legislation which will allow any licensed doctor to practice in the State as long as they are providing medical services to the poor at no cost.

Unfortunately, the State of Tennessee is the only State in the Union to have this type of law. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill, House Concurrent Resolution 69, which encourages all States to pass similar legislation.

I believe we need to reduce the rules and regulations which hinder the efforts of those who wish to help the less fortunate in our Country. House Concurrent Resolution 69 will do just that.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to House Concurrent Resolution 69 so that volunteer organizations can provide medical services to those in need.

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY FRANCIS FRAENKEL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor and congratulate Francis Fraenkel on his 60th birthday.

The name Francis Fraenkel is synonymous with success. Francis is currently president of Delta Capital Management, Inc., the investment advisory firm he founded in 1992. Prior to establishing DCM, he served as president of Salomon Brothers Asset Management Inc. and as managing director of Salomon Brothers Inc. Before joining Salomon Brothers, Francis served as chairman and chief executive officer of Lehman Management Co., and senior executive vice president and director of Lehman's parent company, Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Francis earned his undergraduate degree in business from Tulane University's School of Business Administration in 1954, and has remained involved with the school ever since. In recognition of his career accomplishments and his continued support of the business school, he was honored as Freeman Business School's Distinguished Alumnus in 1984. Three years later, he was honored again by the school with the first bachelor of Science in Management Award for Excellence in Business. For the past 17 years, Francis has served on the Freeman Business School Council, which has given him the opportunity to help shape the future of the thousands of Freeman graduates who have followed him.

While Francis' commitment to business excellence is clear, work is not the only thing that matters to him. For example, he has volunteered his time at Community Synagogue in Rye for years, and served as president from 1982-1984. Our community is a better place because of him.

Perhaps most importantly, Francis Fraenkel is a dedicated husband and father. He has been married to his wife, Cecele Ross Fraenkel for 43 years. He is the proud father of two daughters, Sally Fraenkel Zuch and

Julie Fraenkel Marnis, and the grandfather of Emily and Melanie Zuch and Max Marnis. His example sends a message to us all that we need not choose between career and family. I know his family is proud.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the friends, colleagues, and family of Francis Fraenkel, I hereby express my heartfelt congratulations on his 60th birthday and wish him many more to come.

SECURITIES LITIGATION UNIFORM STANDARDS ACT OF 1997

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1997. This bipartisan bill will finally guarantee a single set of standards for securities litigation for nationally traded securities.

This legislation, introduced with Representative RICK WHITE, is a narrowly focused bill that will address a specific problem created by a loophole in the 1995 Securities Litigation Reform Act. It does not in any way seek to limit the ability of States to enforce its laws. The bill is strictly limited to nationally traded securities traded on the American Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.

The legislation clarifies that nationally traded securities, whose regulation is a primary responsibility of the Federal Government, will be subject to Federal securities law, as amended by the 1995 Securities Litigation Reform Act. Among the major reforms instituted by that law were a safe harbor provision that protected forward looking statements, the creation of a single pleading standard that required plaintiffs present some evidence of securities fraud, and a stay of discovery when a motion to dismiss is pending. Unless these important reforms are applied across the board, they are meaningless.

The need for these reforms was clear. Without an enforceable safe harbor provision, companies would continue to fear releasing any forward looking statements that could be grounds for a meritless suit. Without a single standard for pleading, there could be a different requirement, or no requirement, for a plaintiff presenting evidence of grounds for fraud. Finally, without a stay of discovery, companies could be forced to settle out of court to avoid huge legal fees.

Unfortunately, in the last year, we have seen these reforms undermined by a shift to State courts where safe harbor, uniform pleading standards, and stay of discovery do not apply. Two studies, one done by the Securities and Exchange Commission and one by two Stanford professors, have indicated a significant move to file securities class action in State courts, and in some cases, filing parallel cases in both Federal and State courts.

Professors Joseph Grundfest and Michael Perino of the Stanford Law School did extensive research into the nature of class actions

suits filed after the 1995 securities litigation reform was implemented.

They found that prior to passage of the 1995 reforms filings in State courts of securities class actions were de minimis. In the past year 26 percent of class actions involving nationally traded securities were filed in State Courts. The shift to the State courts has undermined the safe harbor provisions to the extent that corporate heads still avoid forward looking statements according to a letter sent to me by 181 presidents and CEO's of high technology companies.

Sixty-one Democrats recognized the need to address this problem when earlier this year we sent a letter to President Clinton calling on him to support legislation to establish uniform standards.

We have constructed a narrow bill that seeks to get at the specific problem that has been raised. The bill will require class action lawsuits that involve nationally traded securities to be heard in Federal court. It does not cover public class actions or State enforcement. It affects only class actions, not all private actions. Finally, it avoids needless litigation by making removal to Federal courts the procedure by which these cases will be heard.

I thank Representative WHITE and each of the original cosponsors of this legislation for their work and support, and I look forward to the passage of this needed, balanced legislation in the 105th Congress.

PROTECT OUR VOLUNTEERS SO THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR NATION WITHOUT THE THREAT OF LAWSUITS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to support passage of H.R. 911, the Volunteer Protection Act.

A Gallup study found that nearly 20 percent of all nonprofit organizations in the United States have experienced volunteers withholding service or resigning due to fear of liability exposure.

I want to clear up some misconceptions about the bill. H.R. 911 provides only limited tort claim liability protection for nonprofit or governmental volunteers acting in good faith and within the scope of their duties.

H.R. 911 does not shield volunteers from lawsuits for harm caused by willful or criminal misconduct.

Hate crimes committed by groups or individuals are fully liable for their actions and are not exempt from prosecution under the willful or criminal misconduct provision. The committee adopted an amendment clarifying that groups engaged in activities covered under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act are not exempt.

One might wonder if it is necessary for Congress to enact legislation to protect volunteers. It is in the interest of the Federal Government to encourage the continued operation of volun-

teer service organizations and contributions of volunteers because the Federal Government lacks the capacity to carry out all of the services provided by such organizations and volunteers.

In the spirit of voluntarism, we must find the ways and means to make citizen service the common expectation and the common experience of every American.

This bill will open the door for the many Americans withholding their services due to fear of exposure to liability suits. I am pleased that the House approved H.R. 911 today.

IN MEMORY OF LT. OWEN EUGENE SWEENEY, JR.

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent and fallen hero. Lt. Owen "Gene" Sweeney, Jr., of the Baltimore City Police Department. Lieutenant Sweeney—a resident of Bel Air, MD—fell in the line of duty on May 7, 1997. Mere words cannot describe the shock and grief felt by his family, friends, and fellow police officers.

Gene Sweeney joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1968 because he wanted to make a difference. As he worked his way through the ranks, Lieutenant Sweeney was always willing to accept responsibility. He was a member of the Baltimore City Police Department Homicide Squad, and at one time commanded the Crimes Against Persons Unit.

Throughout his 28 years on the force, Gene Sweeney enjoyed great respect as an exceptional police officer and leader. He was always there when people needed him, both as a cop and as a friend. Those who knew him described him best when they said, "he was a class guy."

Gene Sweeney was a devoted husband and father. He and his wife of 25 years, Elaine, had two sons, Frank and Eugene. Like many families, they enjoyed attending Baltimore Orioles baseball games and Ravens football games. Most of Owen's happiest family moments, however, were spent boating on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. In fact, Gene Sweeney—only 819 days shy of retirement—had already purchased a boat in anticipation of his golden years.

It was dedication to duty and devotion to the officers he commanded that took Lieutenant Sweeney on his last call. Lt. Owen Eugene Sweeney, Jr., was mortally wounded while trying to help his fellow officers. Ironically, Gene Sweeney's death came only a few days before "Fallen Heroes Day," a day on which the citizens of Maryland annually commemorate those who have laid down their lives in the performance of their duties. His death was a stark reminder of the price these brave souls have paid.

I want to offer my deepest sympathy to Lieutenant Sweeney's family, his friends, and the men and women of the Baltimore City Police Department. Gene will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

THANK YOU, ROBERT PRICE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of the communities throughout our great Nation are blessed with great local governments. And the reason these governments are great is because they have been led by wonderful, dedicated people like Robert Price, the president of the village of Otisville, who is retiring after 36 productive years in office. He is being honored by the village with a retirement celebration on May 31.

Bob first served his community as a member of the board of review, appeals and planning, beginning in 1958. He then in 1961 began 8 years of service as a member of the village council. Since 1969, he has been the village president.

He will leave behind him a legacy of accomplishment. The village grew during his time of leadership, and many services had to be upgraded to provide for the increased demands. There were extensive improvements to the water system, including the construction of a new sanitary sewer system. Parks and recreational facilities were built for the community to provide the infrastructure that families need to provide wholesome recreation for their children.

Bob Price's activities on behalf of the community came in many other forms as well. He was a charter member of the Otisville Jaycees, where he promoted the Jaycee sense of encouraging new businesses for the needs of residents of the community and as a source of jobs for many residents. His involvement in other civic and church groups are very well known throughout the community, and will certainly be highlighted at his retirement celebration.

Mr. Speaker, each of us works with our local officials, and I know many of our colleagues have served in that capacity. It is the most challenging of all public service because you are accessible every moment of every day—at the office, in church, at the grocery store, or at the Little League game. I have great respect for these dedicated individuals. It is why I consider it an honor and a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to encourage you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Robert Price, an outstanding example of local officials, for all of the work that he has done, and offering our best wishes for him as he begins a well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR GIRL SCOUT
GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute four outstanding young women who are being presented with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Vermont Girl Scout Council. They are Melissa D. Jones and Tina M.

Newell of Senior Girl Scout Troop 707 in Vergennes, VT and Jennifer R. Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano of Senior Girl Scout Troop 817 in Rutland, VT. They are being honored on May 29, 1997 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14 to 17, or in grades 9 to 12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout leadership award and the Senior Girl Scout challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to meet a special need in their communities.

As members of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Melissa Jones and Tina Newell first earned badges in understanding yourself and others, child care, games, creative writing, and reading. The girls then combined their efforts in a project to combat illiteracy. They designed a series of three workshops for young children about the magic of books which they put on at their local town library. The workshops featured a magician, hired with moneys the girls raised themselves, magic tricks and crafts taught by the girls and wonderful stories featuring magic. They attracted a large number of youngsters. The girls reported "Everything we did interested and excited the children; they wanted to read more books and they now know the library and are planning to come to their future children's programs."

Jennifer Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano put their efforts into making a special place for some elderly members of their community. The girls designed and established a conversation garden to give nursing home residents and their guests access to sidewalks, shade and beauty, putting in two settees and planting bulbs and a flowering crabapple tree, all financed by the girls' sale of handmade cookbooks. To quote the nursing home administrator, "These two young people have earned the respect and appreciation of 125 nursing home residents and 160 employees of Eden Park."

These four Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and appreciation, too, and I believe all four of the girls should receive the public recognition due them for such significant services to their communities and their country.

HONORING CAPTAIN LEROY A.
FARR, A MILITARY AND AMERICAN HERO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a true military giant, an American hero—U.S. Navy Captain Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr is retiring from the Navy after 30 years of service to our country. As a test pilot, landing signal officer, operations and maintenance officer, squadron commanding

officer, air boss, program manager, and inspector general, Captain Farr has a record in naval aviation that is second to none.

In 30 years Captain Farr has racked up numerous accomplishments but one of the greatest achievements in his distinguished record is the quiet but critical role he played in helping to save a strategic military asset—the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Lakehurst, NJ.

Lakehurst, Mr. Speaker, is the heart of naval aviation. It is a unique, one-of-its-kind, world-class facility whose primary function is to ensure that aircraft safely launch and recover from the deck of a carrier or other platform, and that support equipment assist in the service of planes, parts, and ordinance at sea. The safety and success of every single naval aircraft depends on the work and skill housed at Navy Lakehurst.

Despite its military value, the Department of Defense erroneously targeted Navy Lakehurst for closure—and then for a radical realignment. As part of the realignment scenario, the critical manufacturing, design, and research that goes on at Lakehurst was to be split apart and relocated at other bases.

Knowing that we had to act quickly to respond to this disaster, I immediately called together business and community leaders to discuss a plan to defend our base. We formed the Save Lakehurst Committee and organized a massive effort to save Navy Lakehurst. But without reliable facts and figures, our effort would have been for naught.

As commanding officer of Lakehurst, Captain Farr was undoubtedly between a rock and a hard place. He knew the facts; he knew the figures. But as a Navy officer, Captain Farr could not and would not violate his chain of command. At the same time, as a Captain, a pilot, a former air boss, and the current commanding officer of Navy Lakehurst, Captain Farr knew better than anyone just how devastating the close Lakehurst scenario would be for national security and pilot safety.

It was an unusual situation where one's own military command was supporting a plan not in the best interest of the military. A predicament in which a man of less character, less courage, less fortitude and less grit might decide to look the other way—and let the chips fall where they may. But not Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr drew strength from his own personal skills and attributes enabling him to strike a balance between the plans of his Pentagon and the needs of his Nation. I remember his wife, Barbara, telling me just how much he grieved for the future of Navy Lakehurst and the future of any pilot who might fly off an aircraft carrier without the support of the skilled workers and artisans at Navy Lakehurst.

I had the good fortune of sitting in on Captain Farr's many briefings when BRAC officials would come to the base to see for themselves what went on at Navy Lakehurst. It was in these skillful presentations that Captain Farr laid the groundwork for the ultimate reversal of the close Lakehurst scenario. Captain Farr was informed, clear, concise, fair, direct, honest, sincere, and always careful to never publicly repudiate the Pentagon's plans.

Yet, on those critical points and questions when the facts simply did not fit the Pentagon's proposal, Captain Farr was sure to let the facts speak for themselves.

And the facts spoke volumes. Each fact introduced or underscored in a Captain Farr briefing became amplified by our community effort. We catapulted—to coin a phrase—the information to the BRAC Commission who in turn were persuaded not by rhetoric but by data—real hard evidence. They reversed the Pentagon proposal and secured the future of Navy Lakehurst and naval aviation and the safety of every Navy pilot.

Captain Farr's love of his country and love of his military—and his ability to withstand the heat—enabled him to educate and guide all of us who could openly and publicly challenge the Pentagon on the basis of military value and pilot safety. He did it not in a brash, self-promoting, self-serving or destructive manner but with class, dignity, firmness, integrity, valor, and resolve. And in this effort Captain Farr demonstrated that he is the personification of what our future military leaders should always strive to be: brave, decent, honorable leaders who put the safety of the Nation at the forefront of every decision.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have worked with Captain Farr and I know I speak not only for myself but for all who support Navy Lakehurst and are dedicated to a strong, capable military defense when I say that we will sincerely miss you and your brand of military leadership. Our gratitude for your dedication, contribution, and success is immeasurable.

We wish you the absolute best in your future endeavors with your wife Barbara and your children, Patty, Sherry, and Andrew—you, Captain, have earned it.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, Governor Rosselló has proposed an economic growth incentive for Puerto Rico that would encourage U.S. companies to stay and expand on the island. This program has been endorsed by the President and has received bipartisan support in Congress. Senators D'AMATO and MOYNIHAN have introduced legislation in the Senate to implement this proposal. It is a priority of most of the Hispanic Members of Congress. This has the unified support of the public and private sectors in Puerto Rico. This job creation incentive should be included in legislation being considered this year to spur economic growth for the Nation as a whole.

Puerto Rico has paid a very high price this decade to fund legislation which expanded existing economic incentives or created new ones from which it will not benefit. In the 1993 budget bill, for example, business operations in Puerto Rico saw a net tax increase of almost \$4 billion, while individuals and businesses on the mainland enjoyed \$25 billion in new or expanded tax benefits.

In 1996, Congress again increased taxes on commerce in Puerto Rico by \$11 billion while reducing taxes on mainland businesses and individuals by \$30 billion. The 1996 changes are especially harmful to economic growth in Puerto Rico. In effect, Congress eliminated altogether the Federal economic incentives that help attract companies to the island. Sections 936 and 30A of the Internal Revenue Code will continue for ten years but at a significantly reduced level and only for companies and lines of business that were already on the island on October 13, 1995.

As a result of these changes, Puerto Rico now has no Federal economic incentives to attract new business. Further, companies subject to the 10-year phase out may not, without losing all of their incentives, introduce new lines of business.

The 1996 tax bill enacted a number of special tax incentives for small businesses and tax credits for both small and large companies. The 1996 small business tax credits were intended to help companies offset an increase in the minimum wage. Ironically, while employers in Puerto Rico are subject to the minimum wage, they also saw the elimination of their Federal economic incentives.

These changes present the Government of Puerto Rico with a serious threat to its goal of expanding private sector employment while reducing the size and cost of both Government and welfare. Without any economic incentives for new job creation or investment, it will be difficult to stop employers from leaving the island for foreign locations.

Moreover, without any incentives, the Puerto Rican economy, where per capita income is less than 30 percent of the United States mainland, and where unemployment is two to three times the average in the States, cannot possibly catchup; it can only fall further behind, with implications for state and Federal balanced budget goals.

The D'Amato-Moynihan bill would modify the wage credit in section 30A to: (1) Apply to new business; (2) eliminate the "cap" limitations that were put in place last year; and (3) remain in effect until Puerto Rico increases its economic performance. These modifications would be made without reducing in any way the economic incentives that apply to existing business operations in Puerto Rico that are being phased out.

There are compelling reasons to act now.

Most importantly, we should not wait until there are visible declines in the Puerto Rican economy. These job creation incentives take time to generate results, and Puerto Rico needs results now. Deferring this program until all incentives for existing operations terminate is like playing Russian roulette with the 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico.

As time goes by the cost of providing new economic incentives for Puerto Rico will increase, especially as the negative impact of

the 1996 tax law changes are felt. It will be far less expensive to keep companies in Puerto Rico by acting now, rather than to try and get them back after they leave.

Moreover, should Congress and the President agree on a long-term budget plan this year, it is unlikely that a major budget or tax vehicle will be considered for some time to come. As a result, this may be the last best opportunity to act.

It is in the national interest to establish these economic growth incentives for Puerto Rico this year.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 3

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Communications Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Federal Communications Commission implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, focusing on efforts to implement universal telephone service reform and FCC proposals to assess new per-minute fees on Internet service providers.

SR-253

JUNE 4

9:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on the nomination of Michael J. Armstrong, of Colorado, to be an Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SD-406

Small Business

To hold hearings to examine small business perspectives on mandates, paperwork, and regulation.

SR-428A

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

JUNE 5

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine instances of contaminated strawberries in school lunches.

SR-332

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Library of Congress, General Accounting Office, and the Government Printing Office.

S-128, Capitol

JUNE 10

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings on miscellaneous water and power measures, including S. 439, H.R. 651, H.R. 652, S. 725, S. 736, S. 744, and S. 538.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the of-

ices of the Secretary of the Senate, Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Architect of the Capitol.

S-128, Capitol

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on the State-side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To resume a workshop to examine competitive change in the electric power industry, focusing on the benefits and risks of restructuring to consumers and communities.

SH-216

JUNE 16

2:00 p.m.
Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the problem of pension miscalculations, focusing on methods for educating people on the

steps they can take to protect themselves and their pension benefits.

SD-628

JULY 23

9:00 a.m.
Finance
International Trade Subcommittee
To hold hearings with the Caucus on International Narcotics Control on the threat to U.S. trade and finance from drug trafficking and international organized crime.

SD-215

JULY 30

9:00 a.m.
Finance
International Trade Subcommittee
To resume hearings with the Caucus on International Narcotics Control on the threat to U.S. trade and finance from drug trafficking and international organized crime.

SD-215

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 22

2:00 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Russian case studies on proliferation.

SD-342