

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## MINIMUM WAGE

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article the Wall Street Journal which was written by a woman who owns a small business in the Sixth district of Georgia. Although the President may have good intentions when he suggests that raising the minimum wage would help working Americans, I believe that Ms. Cane points out that another minimum wage increase would actually hurt the people it is trying to help which include teenagers, working mothers, and single parents.

[From the Wall Street Journal, March 13, 1998]

## MINIMUM WAGE: WHO PAYS?

(By Harriet F. Cane)

President Clinton and his allies in Congress are calling for another increase in the minimum wage. But they should consider the experience of small-business owners like me, who struggled through the last increase. I own and manage a small cafe. I have had as many as 16 employees; I now have nine. Most of them are teenagers; the rest, working mothers.

Before the last increase I wrote letters to the president and my congressmen. I explained that the mandated wage increase was only the tip of the iceberg. To maintain the wage increment for senior employees, I would have to raise their wages above the new minimum. My monthly payroll would increase by \$570—and that didn't include the payroll taxes for Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance and workman's compensation. For my efforts I received nicely worded form letters about the benefits of the wage increase.

When the increase passed, I had to reduce staffing hours. Result: I am working harder to earn my money. I already worked six days a week, every week. The staffing cutbacks increased my workload by 15 hours a week. I also cut back on outside services, so I am now mopping my own floors two weeks each month and doing all my own accounting, the weekly laundry and as many of the repairs as I can.

When Mr. Clinton signed the wage increase into law, he had by his side a minimum-wage worker who stated that now she did not have to choose between paying her electric bill or her gas bill. The same evening, our local news interviewed a woman who said she would now be able to buy her daughter a compact disk player for graduation. I do not begrudge either of these women their good fortune. But business owners work hard too, and we also have to make tough choices. I suffer from several chronic illnesses, and the wage increase has forced me to cut back on medical care.

Money for minimum wage increases has to come from somewhere, Mr. Clinton's pro-

posed increase would raise my annual payroll by \$7,200, forcing me to close my doors. To the politicians I say this: You have the power to destroy the American Dream for thousands of small business owners. If you pass another increase in the minimum wage, you can tell the teenagers and working mothers I employ why they no longer have jobs. Then try asking for their votes.

## IN HONOR OF SHAUN HUGHES ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Shaun Hughes of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored April 4, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving, first aid; citizenship in the community, citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world, personal management of time and money, family life, environmental science, and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Shaun for his achievement.

## QUAKER SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office can't help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. The main reason for this is the fact that I learned firsthand the true value of Fire Companies. While serving as Queensbury

Town Supervisor, and a New York State Legislator, I had the privilege of being an active member of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company. It was this experience that gave me a tremendous respect for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a largely rural area like the 22nd District of New York, fire protection is often solely in the hands of volunteer companies. In New York State, as elsewhere, they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like the fire fighters in the Quaker Springs Fire Department is so very critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Saratoga is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities are the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors and their strong civic pride. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make places like the Quaker Springs Fire District great places to live. This concept of community service and pride is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for its neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is all too rare that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harm's way for the sake of another. For the members of the Quaker Springs Fire Department, however, this is a day to day occurrence. Our young people would do well to emulate the selfless service of these noble individuals. On April 19, 1998 the fire company will be holding a ceremony to commemorate this milestone. This will provide the ideal opportunity for the residents of the area to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. By that measure, the members of the Quaker Springs Fire Department are truly great Americans. I am extremely proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Quaker Springs Fire Department on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the truly momentous occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of Totowa in Passaic County, New Jersey.

The incorporation of Totowa in 1898 as a municipality in Passaic County, New Jersey, defined the boundaries that included the 3.7 square miles of mountain, meadows, rivers, and glens that are known today as Totowa Borough.

The original inhabitants of Totowa were the Minsi tribe of the Lenni-Lenape people. "Minsi" means "people of the story country." The Lenni-Lenape word "Totauwei," from which we get the name Totowa, has been translated to mean "heavy falling weights of water" or "where the water dives and reappears." Many historians believe this was in reference to the Great Falls of the Passaic River in Paterson.

Settled by the Dutch around 1620, Totowa soon became part of the thriving, larger Dutch colony in the New York-New Jersey area. The colony changed to British rule in 1664 until the War for Independence began in 1776 and set the stage for a new nation.

Totowa's shining moment in our nation's history came during the summer and fall of 1780 when General Washington and his Continental Army positioned themselves along the Totowa ridges, protected by the high ground and overlooking the river barrier to the East. During this time, some of our greatest patriots trod on Totowa's soil. Among this group were Generals Washington, Wayne, Knox, Stirling, Huntington, Glover, Saint Claire, Howe, and Greene. Additionally, the famous Marquis de Lafayette, Baron von Steuben, and the young Colonel Alexander Hamilton were also Totowa's honored guests.

During Washington's encampment, the Army's most valued possession was their artillery, gathered at great risk and cost. General Washington and his Artillery Officer, General Henry Knox, chose to place their cannons close to Totowa Road where they could be used to support the army, but were to be quickly withdrawn Westward in the event of a British breakthrough. Indeed some of the street names such as Artillery Park Road, Knox Terrace, Battle Ridge Trail, and Lookout Point Trail reflect this proud period in our history.

The Borough of Totowa was part of Essex County and then Bergen County before the County of Passaic was formed in 1837. Until the incorporation in 1898, Totowa was part of Manchester Township. The first election in the new municipality showed 85 registered voters with 75 voting on April 12, 1898.

From humble beginnings, Totowa has enjoyed steady growth until the end of World War II, which brought an influx of young families into the Borough thus doubling the population in the following decade. Today, through

the efforts of citizens past and present, Totowa has become a balanced community with a blend of commerce, industry, and residential areas designed to provide affordable suburban living for its residents. In return, Totowa citizens have developed a tradition of volunteer service to their community, giving freely of their time and energy to benefit their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Totowa's Mayor, Council, and residents in celebrating the truly momentous occasion of the Borough of Totowa's 100th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH M. CONDON ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph M. Condon of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored March 29, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Joseph for his achievement.

HAROLD JORDAN: AMERICAN HERO

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That is why I travel home to my congressional district nearly every weekend, to spend time in the picturesque towns with the remarkable people of the 22nd district of New York.

Harold Jordan, of Greenwich, New York, epitomizes what I love most about my constituents: the undeniable selflessness and ca-

maraderie which exists among neighbors who always look out for one another and the needs of the community. Harold has been a member of the Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department for forty-seven years, and still maintains active status, having responded personally to 90% of the calls in 1997. He has constantly put himself in harm's way for his fellow citizens, saving countless lives and dollars in property damage over his long and storied term of service. Harold has spent the majority of his life protecting his community in this way, and as a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand and appreciate the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

Just as important as the lives and property which Harold has helped save is the example he's set for others around him, especially for young people. In our fast-paced modern society, the joy and responsibility of volunteering too often fall by the wayside in the quest for wealth and status. I am proud to say that people like Harold Jordan prove that in the 22nd district of New York, the spirit of voluntarism which made America great is still alive and well!

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge individuals in large part by the amount of time and care they give back to their community. By that measure, Harold Jordan is truly a great American. We should all strive to emulate the service of this small-town hero, taking time out of each of our days to further the health and well-being of our communities. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in paying tribute to Harold Jordan in honor of his extraordinary forty-seven years of service as a volunteer fireman.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT JOHN REAGAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a dedicated police officer who has spent 36 years protecting the lives and property of his fellow citizens, Lieutenant John T. Reagan of the Chicago Police Department.

Since 1962, Lieutenant Reagan has served the city of Chicago and his community, including many people from my district, as a member of the Chicago Police Department. Most recently he has worked in the Violent Crimes Office One Detective Division.

On March 5, 1998, however, Lieutenant John Reagan retired from the police force. His presence will certainly be missed, both by his fellow officers and by the members of his community who he has served diligently for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Lieutenant John T. Reagan on his 36 years of service as a police officer. I would like to extend my very best wishes for continued success and happiness on his retirement and in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER PATRICIA  
CODEY

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Sister Patricia Codey who is being honored this evening at the 55th Annual Dinner Dance of the Friends of Brian Boru.

Sister Patricia is being honored this evening with the organization's "Irish Religious of the Year Award." This award is given in recognition of her selfless and dedicated service, efforts and contributions that have served to improve the quality of life for the residents of the State of New Jersey.

Sister Patricia's remarkable record of leadership includes teaching at Saint Paul's in Clifton, law intern at the Essex County Prosecutor's office, and Assistant Federal Defender in the Federal Public Defender's office in Newark.

Additionally, Sister Patricia serves her fellow citizens as Representative in the Sisters of Charity Southern Provincial Assembly, the Red Mass Committee, the Seton Hall Law School, the Archdiocese of Newark Response Team, and the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee in Essex County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues and, Sister Patricia's family and friends in recognition of Sister Patricia Codey's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to the community.

IN HONOR OF ZACHARY J. BROWN  
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Zachary J. Brown of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored March 29, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

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only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Zachary for his achievement.

TOWN OF WINDHAM CELEBRATES  
200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That is why I travel home to my congressional district every weekend, to spend time in the picturesque towns with the remarkable people of the 22nd district of New York. I truly believe that the people and places around my home are among the most beautiful and welcoming in the world.

Nestled in the scenic Catskill Mountains in upstate New York, the town of Windham typifies what I love most about my district. Much is said about the loss of traditional values in many parts of our nation. In Windham, however, like many of the towns and villages of the 22nd district, the spirit of community is still going strong. The citizens of Windham know their neighbors, and, in a tradition dating back to the founding of our nation, they know that if they are ever in need, their fellow citizens will be there for them without question. This spirit is the foundation on which America was built, and I am proud to say that in my district, in Windham, New York, the people still put their community first.

Mr. Speaker, on March 27, 1998, Windham celebrates its 200th anniversary. After two centuries, Windham is still thriving and setting an example of small-town values, from which I believe many other cities and towns could learn a great deal about creating a wonderful environment to live and raise a family. In that spirit, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in paying tribute to Windham, New York on the occasion of its bicentennial celebration. May the next two hundred years be even better than the first.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AT ITS  
FINEST—CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from my district, Christopher Jackson. Christopher, a senior at Marist High School, has proven himself time and time again to be an intelligent, energetic and multi-talented individual.

I have been acquainted with Christopher for several years now. For the past 28 years I have sponsored an "All American Boy, All American Girl" which annually recognizes outstanding seventh and eighth grade students in my district on their accomplishments both aca-

demically and service within the community. Christopher is the first and only participant of the "All American Boy" competition to have won twice.

Christopher Jackson possesses strong qualities as a leader amongst his peers and as a role model for others. He is a caring person who is always willing to lend a helping hand in the community. Christopher remains active both academically and athletically in school and performs various community service duties throughout the community, has excelled remarkably in his scholastic and athletic areas.

In the fall of 1997, Christopher was honored as a finalist of the Wendy's High School Heisman award. Out of a pool of 10,020 chosen for the competition, 12 national finalists were invited to New York City for the awards program and banquet. Students are nominated for this award based on their individual academic achievements, athletic accomplishments, and community service. Mr. Jackson has demonstrated all of the above with great performance and is a truly well developed individual.

I would like to extend my best wishes as Christopher graduates from Marist High School in May 1998 and with all his future endeavors. Christopher is an energetic and intelligent individual who will have a bright future with all he chooses to accomplish. I would also like to extend my warmest wishes to his family as Christopher is headed toward success.

TRIBUTE TO VERONICA "RONNIE"  
SOMMER

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Ms. Veronica "Ronnie" Sommer who is being honored this evening at the 55th Annual Dinner Dance of the Friends of Brian Boru.

Ronnie is being honored this evening with the organization's "Irishwoman of the Year Award." This prestigious award is given in recognition of her selfless and dedicated efforts, and contributions that have served to improve the quality of life for the residents of Essex County and the surrounding community.

Ronnie's remarkable record of leadership includes 20 distinguished years of service on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, of which in 1996 she served as the Parade's Deputy Grand Marshall.

Additionally, Ronnie has served her fellow citizens as an active member of the "Women of Irish Heritage," where she has served as President from 1987 through 1989, and is currently the President for a second term; the New Jersey Irish Festival for 16 years; Independent Irish for 12 years; and many other numerous Irish organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues and, Ronnie's family and friends in recognition of Veronica "Ronnie" Sommer's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to the community.

IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK'S  
PARISH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the sesquicentennial of St. Patrick's Parish, one of Cleveland's foremost Catholic congregations. During its tenure, St. Patrick's has served as a beacon for the religious community of West Park in Cleveland and, recently, has taken numerous steps to service the people of the community.

St. Patrick's Parish was founded on March 17, 1848 in the home of Morgan Waters, a humble beginning for the church. In the first years of its existence, St. Patrick's was a parish without a home, but the generosity of many in its congregation served its spacial needs. In 1851, Patrick Lahiff donated a half-acre of land and after three years of construction, a wood frame church was built. The parish school was founded a few years later and several groups of Cleveland-area sisters such as the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Ursulan Sisters were brought in to educate the students.

After years of service to the parish community, the old wood church was torn down in favor of a large, impressive, spacious stone church. The new building was dedicated in 1898 and has continued to serve as a sanctuary for the community until this day. The parish received its first resident pastor in 1910 and has continued to grow in its population ever since.

The main focus of St. Patrick's in this century has been service to the community. During the Great Depression, the parish operated a school and tried to feed the hungry and cold of the area. St. Patrick's Hunger Center was installed many years later as a way to continue service to the less fortunate of the community. Also, a parish council was established to better service the congregation of St. Patrick's.

St. Patrick's has clearly been a beacon for the community of West Park in Cleveland during its 150 year existence. My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a gem of the West Park neighborhood, St. Patrick's Parish.

INTER-CLUB COUNCIL AWARDS

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleague, Mr. MORAN, and myself great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mrs. Martha McCash and Mrs. Thelma Gallant McDonald, two outstanding citizens of Northern Virginia for their dedicated community service. On March 25, they will be honored by the Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield ISCC as co-recipients of the Bob Westmoreland Award for Person of the Year.

Martha is currently the Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Springfield and formerly served as President. She coordinates the activities of twenty-two Kiwanis-affiliated Key Clubs in area high schools. Martha's devotion and hard work has earned her the support of the high schools' faculty advisors, the President of the Springfield Club, and the Capital Kiwanis Key Clubs Zone Administrator. Her past honors for outstanding community service include the Capital District Kiwanis Governor's Distinguished Service Award, the Kiwanis International Distinguished Club Officers Award for 1995, and 1996 and 1997, and the Capital District Kiwanis Distinguished Member Award for 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Martha's clear dedication to service makes her truly deserving of the Bob Westmoreland Award.

Thelma has persevered through the great personal loss of being twice-widowed, to devote herself to community service. For ten years, she was involved in American Legion Auxiliary Unit 176 Junior activities. As a Girl Scout Troop Leader, Thelma was active in a program to provide performing groups to local schools. She has been involved with the Host Lions Club for thirty-five years, first as a spouse, then as member in 1994. There she trained and managed Lions Club sponsored baton corps, served on the Club Board of Directors, chaired the local Nursing Home Bingo prize project, and chaired a project that collected over one hundred lap rugs for a nursing home and seniors. In addition, she is active in church programs to aid handicapped children and a local nursing home, and has logged over one thousand hours of volunteer service at Fairfax Hospital. The Bob Westmoreland Award is well bestowed on Thelma with her unwavering commitment to others.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in congratulating these two outstanding women on their service and dedication. We appreciate their true spirit of giving and helping others that makes the Northern Virginia community such a fine place to live and work.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE  
CHURCH CELEBRATES 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on its 50th Anniversary as a Church and Parish in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Fifty years ago, Our Lady Queen of Peace was little more than a mission of the St. Francis Xavier Church that at the time was said to be the largest parish in Southeast Washington. On the eve that it was formally announced as a parish, it had no building of its own and was in fairly embryonic state. It had been established as a mission in March 1943 during the turbulence of World War II by the late Monsignor Joseph V. Buckley. If there was a physical edifice to call home, it was distributed between three buildings: The City Bank Building, the Senator Theater and a

small store building, all of which were clustered along Minnesota Avenue just below Benning Road. These were indeed humble circumstances and remained so for nearly nine years. The church's early parishioners, bolstered by their first pastor, Reverend James H. Brooks, set to work helping him to build and organize the new parish. In January of 1950, construction began on the church and school at its present location, the corner of Ely Place and Ridge Road, SE. The first Mass of the Eucharistic Celebration was held on December 24, 1951, in the building while it was under construction.

Even in that long ago generation, before Queen of Peace had a home of its own, its members were founding organizations to address social concerns extending beyond the church membership. That membership was composed of many converts and non-Catholics who were regular Sunday mass worshippers. Many of these organizations are cornerstones of Our Lady Queen of Peace and have been active for almost as long as the parish has existed. Such groups as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Sodality, the Parish Credit Union, the Parish Council, the Men's Club, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and the Scouting programs fall in this category. They have done much to make Our Lady Queen of Peace the still "young, but strong and active" church that it is. These groups, and their activities, encourage brotherhood in the true sense of the word both within and outside the parish.

Since that time, mainly under the umbrella of the Social Justice and Community Outreach committees of the Pastoral Council, new organizations have emerged in response to the needs of the neighborhood-at-large as well as the parish family. One particular endeavor the Church recently worked on with the community was to put pressure on the city to remove abandoned buildings located on Ridge Road SE that had become havens for drug traffic.

There are now groups and ministries providing real support: food for the mind as well as the body. Ministries such as Visitation of the Sick and Shut-In, the Community Empowering and Outreach in Public Housing and the Reclaiming Our Youth and Mentoring Program are but a few of these organizations. There are also ministries such as SOME and SHARE that prepare and distribute food for the hungry, the Prison Ministry and the Youth Ministry. The HIV/AIDS Ministry of Hope and Love is only a few months old and works side-by-side with the venerable St. Vincent de Paul Society that has been meeting the needs of the poor in the community for its 50 years in existence at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this august body to join me in saluting a snapshot of this church, itself homeless for more than eight years of its early life, yet rooted from the start to build, love and serve families.

HONORING THE 60TH REDWOOD  
REGION LOGGING CONFERENCE  
AND DON ANDERSON

**HON. FRANK RIGGS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Redwood Region Logging Conference and its 1998 Achievement Award Winner, Don Anderson.

For over 60 years the Redwood Region Logging Conference has provided a forum for the exchange of ideas by focusing on the improvement of forest management and harvesting practices in the redwood and Douglas-fir forests of Northwestern California. The Conference provides an opportunity to showcase the men and women of the logging industry to the communities in which they work and live.

The organization was founded in 1936 by Professor Emanuel Fritz. Thirty-six men attended the first meeting at the Eureka Inn in Eureka, California. Professor Fritz thought a logging conference was a great opportunity to bring loggers together for an exchange of ideas and to become better acquainted with one another. That first meeting was an unqualified success, and the Conference has been an annual affair since 1936, with only a short lapse during World War II.

The Redwood Region Logging Conference is an industry leader because of its exemplary education program. The goals of the program are to educate the public and students on forestry and logging practices in the Redwood Region. The Conference is the major sponsor of the Redwood Forest Institute for Teachers, the Temperate Forest Teacher Tour, the northcoast section of Future Farmers of America Forestry judging contest. Additionally, the Conference funds the transportation needs for the field trips which give children a better understanding of the forestry and logging industry. Each year, over \$10,000 of academic scholarships are awarded to forestry students from accredited forestry programs throughout California. Also, approximately two thousand children attend the annual Forest Education Day which is held during the Logging Conference.

I would also like to recognize this year's Redwood Region Logging Conference Achievement Award winner, Don Anderson. Don was born in Wisconsin in 1926 and at the age of seventeen had his first taste of logging while working for Peterson Brothers Logging at a logging camp near Mercer, Wisconsin. After a stint as a Merchant Seaman from 1944 to 1946, Don landed in Fort Bragg, California where he met his future wife, Marie. Don and Marie have three children, Donna, Mike, and Joe, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The Andersons celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary last year.

In 1947, Don was reunited with the logging industry, working a myriad of jobs within the industry. In 1963, Don and Marie refinanced their home and went into the logging business as a junior partner in Eastman Logging. Don went into business on his own and Anderson Logging was born in 1977. By 1983, it became obvious to Don that his sons, Mike and Joe,

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were ready and able to run the company he had founded. Mike and Joe took over the business in 1983 and have built it into a very successful company.

There have been many hard working men and women over the past 60 years, who, just like Don and Marie, have worked in and cared for the forests of northern California. These men and women have contributed much to the communities where they have lived, worked, and raised their families. The Redwood Region Logging Conference has done the logging industry a great service by highlighting these individuals through their Annual Achievement Awards.

Once again, I salute the Redwood Region Logging Conference and its 1998 Achievement Award winner, Don Anderson.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HIGHLAND  
WOMEN'S CLUB

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of the Highland Women's Club of Highland, California. Earlier this year, the club marked its centennial as an active and vibrant part of the local community.

On January 14, 1898, ten ladies in the village of Highland met to organize the Pleasant Hour Club. From this small beginning, the first library hall was built and, with the assistance of the members of the Pleasant Hour Club, furnished and manned. Later, after this first building burned, another library hall and public library was built in what is now the Knights of Pythias Hall on West Main Street. The Pleasant Hour Club met in both of these buildings.

In 1926, the people of Highland raised money to build a facility at the corner of Palm Avenue and Main Street. A lovely large Spanish style building, it housed the public library, the Chamber of Commerce, and a very large beautiful meeting room with a stage, fireplace, and large kitchen. The building was finished in 1926 and was given to the Highland Women's Club to maintain.

Over the years, the building was used for a variety of purposes—Chamber banquets, church affairs, community service work, square dancing, and even the crowning of several Miss Highland contestants for the National Orange Show. Largely because of the expense of maintaining the building, the women of the club sold the building to the Highland Temple Baptist Church in 1975.

The outstanding work of the Highland Women's Club is well known and deeply appreciated by local citizens. It has been actively involved with the PTA, little league, scouting, 4-H and other activities relating to the youth of our community. It has also played a role in raising awareness of fire safety rules among grade school students and purchasing supplies for the first paramedic truck in Highland, as well as the Jaws of Life for the local fire station. The Women's Club also assisted the Highland Citizens Patrol with the purchase of

uniforms as well as with the purchase of radio equipment for the local sheriffs office.

The contributions made by the Highland Women's Club to education has been nothing short of remarkable. It has adopted the Highland Head Start School in recent years and has also taken part in the Pennies for Pines Program since the 1950's. All of these activities underscore one fundamental point: the Highland Women's Club has made a difference for 100 years and is well on its way to making a difference for at least another 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and our colleagues in recognizing the outstanding contributions made to our local community by this tremendous organization. The Highland Women's Club represents the very finest in civic and community affairs and it is only appropriate that the House recognize this organization during its centennial celebration.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN J. SAMMON  
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brian J. Sammon of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored March 29, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Brian for his achievement.

CELEBRATING RHODE ISLAND  
MANUFACTURING

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the second annual Rhode Island Manufacturing Week taking

place from April 27 to May 1 of this year. The conference is a celebration of the significant role manufacturing has played and will continue to play in the lives of the people of Rhode Island. But it is much more than that. The week-long seminar is an opportunity to educate the over 2,500 manufacturing companies in Rhode Island about the latest in technological business advances. It is an opportunity to stress the necessity of adapting to the constant cultural and societal changes that impact our economy. In short, it is an opportunity to ensure that Rhode Island manufacturers remain competitive in today's rapidly changing market.

This year, the Rhode Island Manufacturing Week organizing committee is honored to have Mr. Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator at NASA, as its keynote speaker. Mr. Goldin will discuss the most modern NASA technology, and how that technology can be commercially applied to improve the changing face of business. As we all know, an essential element in the growth of our nation is the sustained success of our manufacturing infrastructure. This industry is a part of our historical job base, and is a key to our economic future.

Today in Rhode Island, there are over 80,000 high skill/high wage manufacturing jobs. Successful public/private partnerships there are proving that the government and private corporations can work together to not just succeed, but rather flourish. Simply put, Rhode Island is taking the lead in what should be a nationwide fight to reinvigorate American manufacturing. The Manufacturing Week Conference is a giant step in this direction.

As the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, Rhode Island long ago recognized the significance of manufacturing. In 1790, innovations by Rhode Islander Samuel Slater helped spur along industrial changes that dramatically impacted both our nation and the world. Since that time, technological improvements have continued to alter the landscape of the business industry. In order to stay competitive in this environment, leadership is necessary to educate and sustain our businesses. The Rhode Island Manufacturing Week Conference is attempting to provide that leadership, to provide that education, to provide that sustenance, so that our economy, and in turn our nation, can continue to grow as it should.

IN HONOR OF RABBI ALLEN &  
ALISA SCHWARTZ

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to commend members of my community for their outstanding service, Rabbi Allen and his wife, Alisa Schwartz. This will mark the 125th anniversary of Congregation Ohab Zedek along with the 10th anniversary of the arrival of Rabbi and Mrs. Schwartz to the fold.

Since Rabbi Schwartz joined Congregation Ohab Zedek, things have not been the same. In ten years, membership has increased 600 percent. Under his direction, the Congregation

has instituted countless charitable programs such as food delivery for the homebound, hospital visits and clothing, food and toy drives. His presence and service have helped to guide the 125 year old congregation into becoming a vibrant part of the upper West Side community.

Mrs. Schwartz has been equally successful in her activities at the Congregation. She has been very active in her efforts to develop a children's program at Ohab Zedek as well as a Shiurim for women of the congregation. Mrs. Schwartz has worked diligently side by side Rabbi Schwartz to create a true sense of community among the congregants.

In addition to being senior rabbi at Ohab Zedek, Rabbi Schwartz finds time to teach Bible at Yeshiva University, where he was also ordained. He is currently working on his doctoral thesis on the Methodology of Rashi and has published numerous themes on Bible, Rabbinics, Halakha and Jewish thought. He also manages to find time to write Bible curriculum for Jewish Day Schools and lectures on behalf of the Board of Jewish Education in New York.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend both Rabbi and Mrs. Schwartz for their limitless generosity to the congregants of Ohab Zedek. Their devotion to the community and effort to promote Jewish education is admirable. I wish them the best on this ten year anniversary with Ohab Zedek and to the congregation, many more great years of fellowship.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH  
AMES AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Elizabeth Ames, of Stewartville, New Jersey, on being named "Woman of the Year" by the Warren County Commission for Women. Mrs. Ames has had a distinguished career as a volunteer in many areas of community life but has been especially dedicated to the cause of public education. She has served on local school boards for nearly three decades, been active in the Warren County School Boards Association and has been on the New Jersey School Boards Association's board of directors for 20 years. She has been called upon by the state Department of Education many times for her expertise in a variety of subjects. In all of this work, Mrs. Ames' goal has been to improve the quality of education for the children of our community. As a former teacher and school board member myself—and the mother of children who attended public schools—I can attest to the importance of this work. This high honor is well deserved.

Mrs. Ames holds a degree in bacteriology from the University of Pennsylvania, where she met her husband, veterinarian Sherman Ames II. She worked several years as a research chemist at General Aniline and Film Corp. before becoming business manager of her husband's practice. She was also a research fellow at the Hospital of the University

of Pennsylvania, where she conducted government-sponsored research on hepatitis.

Mrs. Ames has been a member of the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education since 1969, serving twice as president, currently as vice president and chairing a variety of committees over the years. She has been a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education since 1974, serving three times as president, chairing several committees and serving on the Community Council. She is a former president of the Warren County School Boards Association and served on the board of directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association from 1975–1996.

The state Department of Education called on Mrs. Ames to serve on its High School Graduation Requirements Committee in 1977 and to participate in its retreat to study reorganization of the department in 1991. She worked with the department's Northwest Educational Improvement Center from 1973–1979, serving one year as chairwoman. In 1985, she participated in the Executive Academy for School Board Members.

Mrs. Ames is a former chairwoman of the Warren County Economic Commission and has been involved in career education coordination, family life planning and the student foreign exchange program. She is a trustee of the Charles Smith Foundation.

A former ballet dancer, Mrs. Ames is also an avid swimmer. She and Dr. Ames live in Stewartville. They have five children and nine grandchildren.

I would like to take this occasion to bring attention to the achievements and service of this outstanding woman and add the recognition of my colleagues in this House for all she has done for Warren County. She deserves this honor for her many years of hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL J. GARNEK  
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel J. Garnek of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored March 29, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Daniel for his achievement.

TRIBUTE TO CARL STEPHENS—  
ALABAMA BROADCAST LEGEND

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that one of Alabama broadcasting's best loved personalities will soon retire after 40 years behind the microphone and television camera.

A native Alabamian, Carl Stephens was practically born into his profession. A radio sportscaster at the age of ten in his native Gadsden and student manager of the college radio station while at the University of Alabama, Carl Stephens began his television career at the Alabama Educational Television Network before settling in as one of the states' best-known on-camera personalities at WSFA TV in Montgomery.

At WSFA, Carl Stephens forged a 38-year career witnessing and reporting some of Alabama's and the nation's most historic events during the 1960s. Despite his contribution to news reporting in Alabama, it is noteworthy that Carl is best known by many Alabamians for his other roles. As host of a popular children's cartoon show in the late 1950's and co-anchor of the Auburn Football Review for many years, Carl's genteel charm and warm personality best shown through the television screen, earning him wide respect and many loyal fans.

Carl will begin his well-deserved retirement effective this Thursday, but his voice will continue to be heard, as it has been for many years, over the public address system of Auburn University football and basketball games.

I join with all Alabama in wishing Carl, his wife Mary, and all his family the very best in the years ahead.

AMBASSADOR ROBERT E. HUNTER  
ON NATO ENLARGEMENT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate began the debate on the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Alliance. One of the key players in the process of admitting these three newly democratic states of Central Europe to NATO was Robert E. Hunter, who served for most of the past five years as the United States Ambassador to NATO in Brussels. Ambassador Hunter was a highly articulate and extremely effective representative of our government in this critical post at that critical time,

and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his constructive and productive efforts.

As the Senate debate began last week, Mr. Speaker, two opinion pieces which were published in *The Washington Post*—one by David Broder and the other by Jim Hoagland—questioned the extent to which the enlargement of NATO has been thoroughly discussed and evaluated prior to the Senate vote on this critical issue. I strongly disagree with the point of view that these two experienced journalists have expressed on this matter. While I could express the reasons for my disagreement with their positions at some length, Ambassador Hunter has done a much more effective and concise job than I could do in responding to the issues raised in the two *Post* articles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ambassador Hunter's excellent response, published in *The Washington Post* on Monday, March 23, be placed in the *RECORD*. I urge my colleagues to read his thoughtful article.

[From the *Washington Post*, Mar. 23, 1998]

THIS WAY TO A SAFER EUROPE.

(By Robert E. Hunter)

David Broder and Jim Hoagland [op-ed, March 18 and 19] see a rush to judgment in the impending U.S. Senate vote to admit Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to NATO. They are right that full debate is critical to create the political underpinning for the most important U.S. commitment abroad in a generation. They are wrong that the Senate is acting "in haste" (Hoagland) or "outside the hearing of the American people" (Broder). Rarely has any major foreign policy have been developed over such a long period, displayed so fully before the public and considered so comprehensively with so many members of Congress.

The commitment to enlarge NATO was made by all 16 allies at the January 1994 NATO summit in Brussels, fully 50 months before today's Senate deliberations on whether to ratify the accession of the first new members. In the intervening period, every aspect of the issue has been ventilated in the media and with our elected leaders. As ambassador to NATO, I welcomed to its Brussels headquarters a stream of congressional visitors and immersed them in discussion with the allies, the Central Europeans and the Russians. During the past several months, Congress has held a score of hearings and been bombarded by arguments by all sides. Doubts may remain about NATO enlargement, but adequate information and debate are not the problem.

Hoagland argues that the administration is engaging in "strategic promiscuity and impulse" and "has not taken seriously its responsibility to think through the consequences of its NATO initiative." Not so. During the past 50 months, the United States—indeed, all the allies—carefully and thoughtfully has sought to take advantage of the first opportunity in European history to craft a security system in which all countries can gain and, potentially, none will lose. After a century of three wars, hundreds of millions killed and a nuclear confrontation, no other test can suffice.

Thus the 16 allies understand that security cannot just be based on accepting Russia's viewpoint, which includes leaving Central Europe in limbo (the practical result of the views Broder reports); nor can it be based on rushing all of Central Europe, unprepared, into a Western alliance which freezing Russia out and thus eroding allied strength and

cohesion. Hard as it is to achieve, the perspectives of both Russia and the Central Europeans must be accounted for. They and the current allies must all end up more secure, and the alliance must be as strong and robust in the future as it is now.

This is an agenda of unprecedented scope, but one NATO allies set out to achieve four years ago. This is why enlargement is only one part of the "new NATO" and the overall, root-and-branch reform of European security to meet the realities of the 21st century. The integrated grand strategy devised by the alliance includes renovating the NATO command structure, creating new combined joint task forces (and validating the principles in Bosnia) and making it possible for the Europeans to take more responsibility through a Western European union able for the first time to take military action.

This strategy also explains why NATO created the Partnership for Peace, which is both a program for NATO aspirants to meet the military demands of membership—a valid matter for Senate scrutiny—and a means for those who do not join to have practical engagement with the alliance instead of feeling considered to a security gray area. It is why NATO created a special partnership with Ukraine, whose independence is a critical test of any European security arrangements. It is why the alliance undertook responsibility for preserving peace in Bosnia, and why the United States has pressed the European Union to expand its membership.

And this grand strategy is why the allies negotiated the NATO-Russia Founding Act. No one coerced President Boris Yeltsin into signing it, nor dragooned the Russians into the practical cooperation now taking place at NATO headquarters, nor drafted the 1,500 Russian soldiers who serve with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia, within an American division under NATO command. And remarkably, while NATO's actions in Central Europe can resolve Russia's historic preoccupation with stability on its western frontier, the alliance's effort to forge a strategic partnership with Moscow has elicited not one charge of a "new Yalta" from Central Europe.

Thus, despite Hoagland's assertion, NATO allies do have a clear sense of "strategic mission." If the NATO plan can secure the full backing of the Senate and thus of American power and purpose, it offers hope for a lasting security that Europe and its peoples have never known.

STATEMENTS BY SECRETARIES  
ALBRIGHT AND COHEN, AND BY  
CHAIRMAN SHELTON OF THE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ON U.S.  
POLICY IN BOSNIA

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, in connection with last week's debate on House Concurrent Resolution 227, Secretary of State Albright and Secretary of Defense Cohen sent a letter in opposition to that resolution. I believe that their letter, and the letter I received from General Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, detail the importance of the NATO mission in Bosnia, and detail the very harmful consequences for the United States and for

peace in Bosnia if U.S. troops were to be pulled out at this time.

The text of their letters follow:

HONORABLE RICHARD GEPHARDT,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. GEPHARDT: We are informing you of our strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 227, as amended, directing the withdrawal of United States forces in Bosnia. The House will consider this matter on March 18.

We oppose this concurrent resolution for both policy and legal reasons. As a policy matter, this resolution would fundamentally undermine our efforts in Bosnia. It would encourage those who oppose Dayton and would send the wrong signal to Serbia about U.S. resolve at exactly the time that concerns about destabilization in Kosovo are mounting. It would totally undercut our ability to implement the Dayton Accords and thereby dramatically lessen regional stability.

The President's decision that the United States should participate in a NATO-led multinational force in Bosnia after SFOR's current mandate expires has already begun to affect the calculations of even the most hardened Bosnian opponents of the peace accords. If we disengage militarily from Bosnia now, the momentum we have built will stop. The result could be a return to war.

As a legal matter, the resolution is based on a part of the War Powers Resolution—section 5(c)—that is unconstitutional. We recognize that there have long been differences of opinion about the constitutionality and wisdom of the 60-day withdrawal provisions of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution. But there has been widespread agreement that section 5(c) is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's 1983 decision in *Chadha v. INS*. Under *Chadha*, Congress cannot create a legal requirement binding on the Executive branch through a concurrent resolution, but may only act through a resolution passed by both Houses and submitted to the President for signature or veto.

We also note that, even if section 5(c) were constitutional, it would not apply here because by its own terms it applies only to situations where U.S. forces are "engaged in hostilities". In fact, U.S. forces in Bosnia are performing peacekeeping functions and are not engaged in hostilities. The Dayton Peace Accords, which ended the previous armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia, were initiated on November 21, 1995—before the deployment of IFOR or SFOR. From that point to the present, there have been only sporadic criminal acts against U.S. forces which do not constitute "hostilities" for the purpose of the War Powers Resolution, and there have been no U.S. fatalities from these acts. Our presence in Bosnia is with the consent of the relevant parties under the Dayton Accords.

Finally, one stated purpose of the proposed resolution is to provide a basis for a federal court suit to address the constitutionality of various aspects of the War Powers Resolution. In the past, federal district courts have declined to accept such suits on a variety of legal grounds, including standing, ripeness, political question, and equitable discretion. Whatever the district court's response might be in this case, such a proceeding—and the appeals that might follow—would create a prolonged period of considerable uncertainty about U.S. intentions with respect to Bosnia that would have a serious harmful effect on the stability of the situation in that country during a critical time.

For all these reasons we urge you and other Members of Congress to oppose this concurrent resolution and thereby avoid put-

ting in jeopardy the important work of stabilizing the troubled Balkan region.

Sincerely,

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,  
Secretary of State  
WILLIAM S. COHEN,  
Secretary of Defense.

CHAIRMAN OF THE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,  
Washington, DC, March 18, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,  
Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of 18 March and the opportunity to express my thoughts on the importance of our mission in Bosnia.

Pulling US forces out of Bosnia would cripple the mission at a critical time when we are achieving success in that troubled country. A US withdrawal would send the wrong signals to our NATO allies and the wrong signals to those who wish our efforts ill. Beyond that, US leadership within the Alliance would suffer a severe blow.

Europe's stability and America's security are joined. There is no more volatile region in Europe than the Balkans. Failure to see our mission in Bosnia through to full implementation of the Dayton Accords would send a harmful message to states throughout the Balkans—a message that the United States lacks resolve.

Our troops know they have made a difference in Bosnia. Their presence, together with that of our NATO allies and other partners in this effort, stopped the killing and ethnic cleansing. They see the signs of progress in Bosnia every day.

We have a strategy for success in Bosnia. A US military presence coupled with US leadership are essential to the achievement of a self-sustaining peace in that country.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. SHELTON,  
Chairman,  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL G. SAJNER  
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel Sajner of Strongsville, Ohio, who will be honored on March 22, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving, first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy,

loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Daniel for his achievement.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times continues to clearly spell out the problem facing those of us who support campaign finance reform. In an editorial in yesterday's paper the Times described the campaign finance reform bill which will be considered this week as "... sham legislation dressed up to look like reform, with no chance for members to vote on the real thing."

Mr. Speaker, the hard work of many members of this House is being destroyed by the highly partisan legislation being offered by the majority. The bill being considered contains poison pills designed to insure the failure of campaign reform. There are better alternatives. If the majority would allow an open rule on the floor these alternatives could be considered. Failure to allow a free, open debate on campaign finance reform would be a terrible disservice to the public and to our democratic process.

I open over the next several days the leadership of the House will reconsider their decision and allow an open rule on campaign finance reform. We need real campaign finance reform. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

IN RECOGNITION OF MONIQUE  
WRIGHT, TRACEY A. ROBERTS  
AND THE DAYTON METROPOLITAN  
HOUSING AUTHORITY  
MARCH 19, 1998

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and honor the work of the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority (DMHA) for its successful efforts and dedication to improving the quality of life for people in the Dayton area. The programs provided by DMHA are helping people move away from dependency to self-sufficiency. The success of these programs is highlighted by the uplifting stories of two remarkable women who reside in my district.

Ms. Monique Wright has always been determined to improve her life and provide a good future for her children. As a single mother, Monique received public assistance while she attended school full-time at Central State University in Ohio. After the birth of her second

child, it became very difficult to give her children the nurture and care they needed and attend school at the same time. Moniques' priority was her children.

Because of her devotion as a mother, Monique pro-actively sought ways to provide for her two children. She worked at various jobs. But as we in Congress know all too well, jobs for the working poor often do not provide enough even for a family to eat. Monique was just making it from day to day. She wanted more for herself and more for her two precious children. That is why she enrolled in DMHA's Job Shadowing Program which provides job training, mentoring, and employment to its participants. Through her initiative, and with the assistance of DMHA, Monique received the training she needed to move her in the right direction.

Today, Monique is a full-time employee of DMHA. She is giving back to the community by helping others who are in need. By taking advantage of DMHA programs, Monique has also moved her family into a better housing situation. In addition, Monique has gone back to school to earn an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Social Work.

Ms. Tracey A. Roberts is another wonderful woman who took advantage of these opportunities. As a single mother with two children, Tracey moved to Dayton in search of better job opportunities to improve the lives of her children. Tracey participated in DMHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program. This program provides people with the tools necessary to move themselves away from dependency on the government and enables them to be self-sufficient. Case managers work with participants to develop a comprehensive plan for change.

Tracey enrolled in the program with the belief that a combination of hard-work, training, and motivation would help her take control of her own life. That is exactly what she did. Two years after enrolling in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Tracey now holds a rewarding job and has moved her family into a new home which she owns.

The programs of the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority work. They provide people with opportunities for self improvement.

Like Monique and Tracey, Americans who struggle with poverty want to lead more rewarding lives. They want to provide a brighter future for their families and they are willing to work to achieve it. With the help of organizations like the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority, many more people like Monique and Tracey will have the opportunity to improve their own lives.

It is with much pride that I recognize and commend Monique Wright and Tracey A. Roberts along with the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority for their outstanding achievements.

#### SCHOOLS NEED A HELPING HAND

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, parents throughout Arlington, Texas, which is in my congress-

sional district, received a scare earlier this month when school inspectors revealed that the floor was near collapse in the north wing of Arlington High School. The school, which was constructed in 1955, had to have classes and students rerouted because of the potential danger.

The floor damage was noticed by school inspectors who were preparing for a summer renovation of the building. Recognizing the accelerated rate however, at which the floor was deteriorating, the inspectors recommended closing the north wing and beginning emergency repairs immediately.

This incident highlighted what has become a national problem, Mr. Speaker, the deterioration of our nation's schools. Many of our nation's public elementary and secondary schools are in substandard condition and need many repairs due to leaking roofs, plumbing problems, inadequate heating systems or other structural failures.

The General Accounting Office (GAO), on behalf of several Members, recently performed a comprehensive survey of the nation's elementary and secondary school facilities, and found severe levels of disrepair in all areas of the country. The GAO contacted 10,000 of the nation's 80,000 public schools, and conducted site visits to schools around the country. According to the GAO's report, of the over 6,000 elementary and secondary schools in Texas, 76 percent of them reported a need for necessary upgrades or repairs.

Currently, more than 14 million children attend schools in need of extensive repair or replacement, and nearly one-third of our public schools were built prior to the beginning of World War II in 1939. If we want to prepare our children to succeed in an economy where technical skills are increasingly important, we need modern schools, meaning everything from updated science laboratories to computers in classrooms.

That same GAO report found that nearly 60 percent of all schools have at least one major building feature in disrepair, such as leaky roofs or crumbling walls. These schools are distributed throughout our communities, with 38 percent of urban schools, 30 percent of rural schools and 29 percent of suburban schools needing repairs.

More than half of the schools reported deteriorating environmental conditions, such as poor ventilation, hearing or lighting problems, as well as poor physical security. And 46 percent of our schools lack even the basic electrical wiring necessary to support computers, modems and other modern communications technology.

As well, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), in their 1998 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, gave America's schools an F, based on the urgent need for repairs. Schools were the only infrastructure category to receive a failing grade. ASCE has determined that it will cost about \$12 billion to repair, renovate and modernize our schools.

Of this amount, approximately \$5 billion is needed to fix or remove hazardous substances such as asbestos, lead and radon. Another \$60 billion in new construction is needed to accommodate the 3 million new students expected in the next decade. Total annual construction and renovation spending since 1991 has remained between \$10 and \$12 billion for K-12 schools.

In order to address this serious problem, the President has proposed, and I support, a bill to establish and expand tax incentives to help states and local school districts address the need for school modernization. This bill would help states and local schools districts pay for the cost of modernizing and building more than 5,000 schools by creating new School Modernization Bonds.

Under the bill, these zero-interest bonds would be available for the construction and renovation of public school facilities. The Department of the Treasury would allocate the rights to offer these special 15-year bonds to States that have submitted school construction plans to the Secretary of Education. The federal government would subsidize a total of \$9.7 billion per year of these bonds in the years 1999 and 2000. Texas would receive \$1.6 billion of this new bond authority.

The federal government would pay the interest on the School Modernization Bonds through an annual tax credit to the holder. These credits are allocated to the states, which will determine how to divide the credits. The bonds can be issued by any state or local government, but they are still required to pay the principal.

Mr. Speaker, forty-two national groups, including the National Parent Teacher Association and the National School Boards Association support this bill, and support repairing our nation's schools. The students at Arlington High School will have their school repaired this summer thanks to the community. Congress, by passing a school modernization bill, can ensure that all of our neighborhood schools are given that same helping hand.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOM PETERSEN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 1998*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade's unsung heroes, Judge Tom Petersen. His retirement on Friday, March 27, 1998 from the Dade Circuit Court will leave a deep void in that bench.

Judge Petersen represented the best of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the juvenile justice system work on behalf of our wayward youth, he was relentless in his development of many innovative programs that helped turn them around. His was a crusade that maximized understanding and compassion for many adolescents under the tutelage of the juvenile court system. His motto, "Hug a kid: that's where it starts" was one that bordered on a thorough understanding of many a youth's need to be understood and guided through their growing years.

He was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing his righteous indignation over many irrelevant programs that siphoned off funds from the public till instead of succinctly eradicating the symptoms of juvenile delinquency. At the same time, he has been

forthright and forceful in advocating the tenets of equal treatment under the law for those juveniles who have been remanded to the juvenile court system. His sensitivity toward them knew no bounds, and he was untiring in seeking the appropriate guidance and counseling strategies for them so that they could pull themselves out of the gutter of juvenile delinquency. In a 1993 Miami Herald editorial, Judge Petersen was cited for his firm belief that "... the state's approach toward juvenile delinquency is antiquated." A little TLC, he said, and they'd stop stealing hub caps and start doing their algebra homework.

In his stint on the Dade Circuit bench, Judge Petersen truly represented an exemplary public servant who abided by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted by those who have been blessed with life's great amenities. As a gadfly on the Circuit Court, he was wont to prod both elected and appointed officials in redirecting many government-funded programs to focus their resources on reducing juvenile delinquency, and thereby provide youthful offenders with the tools to create a more meaningful life.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to the at-risk youth living in public housing projects, Judge Petersen thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. He sagely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his knowledge, focusing his energies to enhance the well-being of our community he learned to love and care for so deeply.

His undaunted efforts in the juvenile court system shaped and formed the agenda of many community organizations. His word is his bond of honor to those who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many a wayward youth turn the corners around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse peoples converging together into the great experiment that is America.

For this he was awarded the much-coveted Miami Herald's Spirit of Excellence in 1988. Numerous accolades with which various organizations have honored him symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community.

Judge Tom Petersen truly exemplified a one-of-a-kind leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character. It is his compassionate and resilient spirit that genuinely dignifies the role of a public servant. For this he will sorely be missed! I truly salute him on behalf of a grateful community.

TRIBUTE TO CARL STEPHENS—  
ALABAMA BROADCAST LEGEND

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that one of Alabama broadcasting's best loved personalities will soon retire after 40 years behind the microphone and television camera.

A native Alabamian, Carl Stephens was practically born into his profession. A radio sportscaster at the age of ten in his native Gadsden and student manager of the college radio station while at the University of Alabama, Carl Stephens began his television career at the Alabama Educational Television Network before settling in as one of the states' best-known on-camera personalities at WSFA TV in Montgomery.

At WSFA, Carl Stephens forged a 38-year career witnessing and reporting some of Alabama's and the nation's most historic events during the 1960s. Despite his contribution to news reporting in Alabama, it is noteworthy that Carl is best known by many Alabamians for his other roles. As host of a popular children's cartoon show in the late 1950's and co-anchor of the Auburn Football Review for many years, Carl's charm and warm personality was best shown through the television screen, earning him wide respect and many loyal fans.

Carl will begin his well-deserved retirement effective this Thursday, but his voice will continue to be heard, as it has for many years, over the public address systems of Auburn University football and basketball games.

I join with all Alabama in wishing Carl, his wife Mary, and all his family the very best in the years ahead.

HONORING CANTOR IRVING DEAN  
FOR 38 YEARS OF SERVICE TO  
UNITED ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES  
OF HOUSTON

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cantor Irving Dean for his 38 years of continuous service to the synagogue and community. On March 29, 1998, the community will gather in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Galleria Hotel to pay well-deserved tribute to Cantor Dean.

Cantor Irving Dean's musical talent was recognized as a child. He received his first instruction in Hazzanic art while singing in choirs with renowned cantors. He began his career in New York, appearing on radio, television, and concerts. He also appeared on "The Heritage of Israel," a special NBC television program. He has recorded "Shiru B'Simcha," a popular tape of holiday and Israeli songs for children. The proceeds from the sale of this recording benefit the United Orthodox Synagogue Montessori School. He also recently recorded a CD, "Musical Memories," of favorite concert music.

Aptly named, Cantor Dean is praised as the cantorial dean of Houston. In this capacity, he is well-trained, having earned secular and music degrees at Yeshiva and Columbia Universities. Since his first Cantorial Concert in 1960, Cantor Dean has enriched the Houston Jewish community with his music.

Cantor Dean has organized and trained the choir that sings with him during the High Holiday services and he appears with them on special programs. Cantor Dean has also pre-

sented concerts throughout the Southwest, New York, and Mexico City. He has sung at military bases, interfaith events, and for many Jewish organizations. In Houston, he conducted a citywide choir at a special rally for Soviet Jewry.

Before coming to Houston, Cantor Dean; his wife, Millie; and their children, Ronnie, Sherrie, and Debbie, lived in San Antonio, where the Cantor served Congregation Rodeif Shalom. During their 10 years in the Alamo City, the Dean family reached out to Jewish members of the military bases in the area, hosting them in their home and providing them with entertainment as well. For their work with the soldiers and the Jewish community, Cantor and Millie Dean were given special recognition by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Cantor Dean has received numerous awards for his work. Among them are the ZOA Award for Distinguished Service to Southwest Jewry and the Bureau of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston award for 42 years of dedicated service to Jewish teaching and promoting Jewish learning among children and youth. He was also honored by the Jewish Theological Seminary as an Honorary Fellow of the Cantor's Institute, the highest award for musical achievement given by the Seminary.

A cantor is an emissary of the community, giving voice to those seeking connection with God and providing leadership and guidance through song. Cantor Dean, with his mellifluous voice, has led and continues to lead the congregants of United Orthodox Synagogues in prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Cantor Dean for 38 years of service to the United Orthodox Synagogues family. I wish him continued success in providing vital leadership and spiritual guidance to his congregants and the Jewish community.

PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI LEADS  
TAIWAN THROUGH FINANCIAL  
STORM

**HON. ROBERT SMITH**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, Much has been written and reported about the Asian financial crisis, the worst in decades. But Taiwan, so far, has remained relatively unscathed. Its economy has been jolted but not sunk.

Taiwan's financial stability is attributable to its careful banking practices, ceilings on foreign equity investment and high foreign reserves. With a healthy financial system, Taiwan is more immune to the monetary crisis affecting the region.

The Taiwan economic miracle has time and again demonstrated its resilience and dynamism during the past year of regional and global slowdown. Taiwan's economic growth rate in 1997 reached 6.72 percent, the highest in five years. Foreign currency reserves stand at US\$86 billion, an indication that Taiwan's traders and manufacturers have maintained their competitive edge amid growing competition from their Asian neighbors.

Taiwan's economic vitality is seen in its debt-free status. Its total foreign debt amounts to less than US\$100 million, whereas its Asian neighbors such as Korea and Indonesia are reeling from foreign debts.

Taiwan's latest financial strength has prompted the financial Times of London and the Asian Wall Street Journal to hail it as the "Switzerland of the Orient." Most economists believe that Taiwan has the full potential to become a full-fledged developed country by the turn of the century.

Taiwan's economic dynamics has been unquestionably helped by its growth of democracy. Last November, Taiwan held successful elections for county chiefs and city mayors. In fact, opposition party candidates won a majority of the seats, marking a new milestone in the development of party politics and popular political participation in Taiwan.

As the year of the Tiger on the Chinese lunar calendar begins, I wish Taiwan well in maintaining its economic prosperity, in initiating further dialogue with the Chinese mainland on the issue of reunification, in strengthening its strong ties to the United States and in gaining more and better friends internationally.

Last but not least, I wish to send my greetings to Taiwan's Foreign Minister Jason Hu, who was the former Taiwan representative in Washington. Minister Hu was a very able diplomat in Washington. My colleagues and I benefitted greatly from his insight on world affairs. Madam Jason Hu was a charming hostess. In the meantime, my colleagues and I are looking forward to working closely with Jason Hu's successor, Ambassador Stephen Chen. Ambassador Chen was a former deputy secretary-general to President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China and has been in government service all his adult life.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the great suffragist Susan B. Anthony once said, "Failure is impossible." The confidence and inspiration of her words are as powerful today as they were almost a hundred years ago. Women have played integral roles in American history, from the fledgling days of a new republic, to today's shattering of glass ceilings in corporate management. They are mothers, teachers, elected officials, athletes and entrepreneurs. Today's young girls will experience less discrimination and have fewer limits imposed on them than their grandmothers.

As we celebrate this month the many accomplishments of women in American history, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues a few women whose accomplishments and dedication offer strength and inspiration to many individuals.

Edith Nourse Rogers from Bedford, MA, was first elected to Congress in 1925 to fill the office vacated by the death of her husband. A former World War I Red Cross volunteer, Mrs. Rogers earned the title of Angel of Walter

Reed Hospital. During her 18 terms as a Member, she fought unabashedly for veterans rights, serving as an inspector of veterans' hospitals as well as a mentor to many of the young soldiers interned there. One of her first major bills appropriated \$15 million to build additional veterans hospitals. She was a leading sponsor of the GI Bill of Rights of 1944 and helped create a volunteer women's Army Corps.

Judith Sargent Stevens Murray of Gloucester closely followed the works of Abigail Adams and questioned why women were not granted the same rights and freedoms that men touted. Using the pseudonym Constantia, she began writing on the status of women, and published an essay "On the Equality of Sexes" in the Massachusetts Magazine. In her essay, Murray questioned the differences in education for boys and girls, asking "How is the one exalted and the other depressed \* \* \* the one is taught to aspire, and the other is early confined and limited." Her powerful voice helped spur the fight for equal educational opportunities for young girls.

Anne Bradstreet of Ipswich and Swampscott, was New England's first woman poet. While keeping house at the edge of the wilderness for her husband and eight children, she wrote poetry despite criticism that she was not devoting enough time to "domestic responsibilities." To that, she replied, "I am obnoxious to each carping tongue who says my hand a better needle fits."

Finally, Louise du Pont Crowninshield of Salem, was a great and knowledgeable collector of antiques and a tireless advocate of historical preservation. Crowninshield's energy and dedication to charity work and historic preservation benefitted and continues to serve the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Peabody-Essex Museum in my hometown of Salem, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, America would not have flourished were it not for the tireless work of women. They have been, and continue to be, essential to building a country where all citizens, male and female, are free to live to their fullest potential.

#### THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ALCOHOL TRAFFIC TO MINORS ACT PAAT ACT

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to help save our Nation's children: The Prohibition Against Alcohol Traffic to Minors Act. The PAAT Act curbs the problem of underage drinking by prohibiting the "direct shipment" of alcoholic beverages to persons not meeting a State's legal drinking age.

The bill amends Title 18, United States Code by inserting a new section after 1865 that prohibits shippers, their employees, common carriers or agents of common carriers or delivery companies from delivering a package containing an alcoholic beverage or compound, fit for consumption, to any person not

meeting the minimum drinking age within a state.

On Friday, December 12, 1997, a local NBC affiliate aired in which an underage youth ordered and received shipment of alcoholic beverages. The youth in question lived in New York, purchased the alcohol via the internet from a retailer in California, paid for the order with a credit card, and accepted delivery of the alcohol from a commercial air-freight carrier. This same story is also the subject of an undercover operation being conducted by the Attorney General of the State of New York. While this particular incident was documented by television cameras, there are numerous others that are not.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 80.4% percent of the nation's high school students have had at least one drink of alcohol during their lifetime; 51.6% have had at least one drink in a 30 day period; and 32.6% qualify as "episodic heavy drinkers" having had five or more drinks on at least one occasion during a 30 day period.

Sixty-nine percent of Americans polled oppose the direct shipment of alcohol to minors; 85% agree that the sale of alcoholic beverages over the Internet would give minors easier access to alcohol and could result in more abuse; and 70% of those polled don't trust delivery drivers to ensure that the recipient of alcoholic beverages via common carriers is at least 21 years of age.

Direct shippers operate outside of the licensed distribution system. The licensed beverage distribution system is an essential and legal of the alcohol control process and contributes billions in federal and state taxes each year. Direct shipments circumvent these laws and robs states of tax revenues. Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina have recently upgraded their laws to make "direct shipment" a felony. At least 26 other states have sent "cease and desist" letters to wineries or retailers urging them to stop illegal shipments.

Every state has set 21 as the minimum drinking age. The passage of "21" laws by states stopped underage drinkers from driving to another state to purchase alcohol. However, Internet and toll-free direct shipment creates a new technological way for underage drinkers to have alcohol shipped directly to the home.

With "shipments" there is no regulatory system to guard against underage access and to collect alcohol beverage taxes. What started many years ago as a cottage industry to sell rare wines and micro brewed beer to connoisseurs has burgeoned into a billion dollar a year business.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 80.4% percent of the nation's high school students have had at least one drink of alcohol during their lifetime; 51.6% have had at least one drink in a 30 day period; and 32.6% qualify as "episodic heavy drinkers" having had five or more drinks on at least one occasion during a 30 day period. This behavior is dangerous, life threatening and must be stopped. I ask that my colleagues support our nation's children and pass this important legislation.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ALCOHOL TRAFFIC TO MINORS ACT (PAAT ACT)**

The PAAT Act curbs the problem of underage drinking by prohibiting the "direct shipment" of alcohol beverages to persons not meeting a State's legal drinking age.

The bill amends Title 18, United States Code by inserting a new section (1866) after 1865 that prohibits shippers, their employees, common carriers or agents of common carriers, delivery companies, or business entities that deliver goods from delivering a package containing an alcoholic beverage or compound, fit for consumption, to any person not meeting the minimum drinking age within a state.

**THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER DOESN'T NEED NEW BUREAUCRACY**

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I commend to your attention this article written by Will Haynie for the Asheville Citizen-Times—a newspaper in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. It provides a persuasive argument against the American Heritage Rivers Initiative as proposed by President Clinton.

[From the Asheville Citizen-Times, March 22, 1998]

**OLD MAN RIVER DOESN'T NEED THE FEDS**

(By Will Haynie)

The song says that Old Man River, he just keeps rolling along. In today's political environment permeated by hype and hysteria, some say that may be easy for an old man, but a French Broad needs federal help.

After the American Heritage Rivers Initiative was announced, the result was a knee-jerk reaction to jump on the federal bandwagon to do something nice for rivers. Not for all of America's rivers, but just for the ten whose communities jump through the federal hoops required for a chance to be personally picked by the president. And with this president, how could ours lose with a name like French-Broad?

The American Heritage Rivers initiative was announced by President Clinton in his State of the Union Address in February 1997. This is an executive branch program, the details of which I viewed at the web site maintained by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (the address is <http://www.epa.gov/rivers>).

The efforts to nominate the French Broad for American Heritage River status sparked a healthy local debate over the role of the federal government and its control over our lives and property. This debate combines the best lessons from history and social studies along with some environmental science topics thrown into the mix.

With such a precious natural resource as the focal point, it's tempting for even the most conservative of us to respond by supporting what looks at face value to be a good intention.

But one thing I learned spending a lot of my youth around water is to look before you leap. Sometimes smooth surfaces hide harmful obstacles.

One obstacle in this initiative is that it comes straight from the executive branch of

the federal government and involves the allocation of the funds and assets. When our constitution was framed, the representative branch was given such powers.

One of the initiative's stated goals is to "protect the health of our communities by delivering federal resources more effectively and efficiently."

Two of the most famous lies in the world are "the check's in the mail" and "we're from the federal government and we're here to help you." Add another one to that list: "we will deliver federal resources more effectively and efficiently." Sure, like the speed of the Post Office, the thriftiness of the Pentagon, and the courtesy of the IRS.

Is this to say that paying our federal taxes and acting in a law-abiding manner are not enough reasons to get effective, efficient service from federal agencies? Do we now have to petition the feds and hope for special designations just to get what we are owed?

The third stated requirement for communities whose rivers receive the designation is "the willingness . . . to enter into new, or to continue and expand existing partnership agreements."

The EPA also states "designated rivers and their communities will also receive a commitment from federal agencies to act as 'Good Neighbors' in making decisions that affect communities." That statement raises another question: where does that leave communities who either don't seek or seek but don't achieve American Heritage status? They better not count on the feds to be their good neighbors. They didn't buy an indulgence.

Proponents of The American Heritage Rivers Initiative swear it is not a federal land and power grab. Yet the initiative lists ten contact agencies involved with the program, and the only state agency listed is the North Carolina Historical Preservation Office.

The biggest mystery in this initiative is the statement that federal agencies will support local communities "within existing laws and regulations." Really?

Then, why must we approach the federal government by pleading and petitioning and promising to play by their rules so we can get protection for our river?

Nobody wants the French Broad River to be an open sewer. But running to the executive branch so all the king's horses and all the king's men can put it back together again is not the only solution, and it certainly isn't the best solution. Our congressman is called a representative because that's what he does for us in Washington.

Rep. Charles Taylor has presented a viable plan for the French Broad that will use existing channels to make all applicable agencies do their jobs for us without having to be petitioned to do so. The river is not yet in perfect condition, but it's a lot cleaner than it was fifty or even twenty-five years ago. We're making too much progress to call in the feds, even if they are "here to help us."

**HONORING RUTH PUGH**

**HON. THOMAS J. MANTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Ruth Pugh—a modern day Florence Nightengale whose contribution to the nursing profession has spanned approximately 40 years.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Ruth was trained in Plaistow Hospital London, England, and graduated as an RN in 1961. Her interest in the study of midwifery resulted in her commencing specialized training in this field in 1962, later to be complemented by an interest and experience in the disciplines of medicine and surgery. Knowing the significance of the mind-body connection as it pertains to patient care, Ruth went on to attain a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/Sociology from Marymount College, Manhattan, New York.

A Master's degree from Long Island University soon rounded out the academic picture and manifested the striving for excellence that has always been the hallmark of her professional life. Later, a nursing administration certification in 1986 served as a preamble to her distinguished career as the Associate Director of Nursing, Department of Medicine, Jacobi Medical Center, where she was aided by her loyal associate Juanita Duncan and many friends and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, although Ruth's academic credentials are comprehensive and impressive, they fail to show the most abiding dimension of who she is as a woman and a person—her strong sense of compassion. I, personally, know that Ruth Pugh's supervision and care of a beloved family member resulted in her being affectionately called "Commander Pugh." For that is indeed who she is—a leader of people, a person who pays attention to detail, and one who inspires a sense of teamwork among the healthcare professionals with whom she serves. She can, at times, be strong and firm in ensuring that the highest quality of health care is given and then, at a moment's notice, upon seeing a distraught family member, rush to console them with prayer and kind words. This combination of qualities is unbeatable.

Mr. Speaker, those for whom she has been a steadfast source of help and support recognize this quality in her. They know that she can set a goal and, no matter how insurmountable the obstacles, achieve those goals. Such was the case when in the history of her hospital budget and financial constraints necessitated the elimination of several nursing positions. It was Ruth Pugh, who saw to it that when qualified nursing staff was so desperately needed those staff positions were reinstated. This was no small task in a time of limited resources and fiscal pressures.

Ruth Pugh is a human dynamo, a gracious human being, an accomplished professional, and a hallmark of those characteristics that define the consummate nurse—caring for others while simultaneously caring for her husband Sidney and three children. She is someone not easily forgotten, and through her care and the meaningful way she has touched people's lives, someone whose influence will endure forever.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 1998, I was unavoidably detained

and therefore missed roll call vote #62. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT  
TRUST TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Real Estate Investment Trust Tax Equity Act. This legislation is an important measure which levels the playing field among investors and businesses competing in similar real estate markets. It addresses an inequity first recognized by Congress in 1984. Unfortunately, the legislative change that occurred in the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 made important modifications that were too open-ended. As a result, certain players in the REIT market have taken advantage of a loophole which potentially shifts the markets in their favor. Specifically, paired-share REITS were provided a shotgun tax benefit in the 1984 legislation which has created a meaningful imbalance in certain industries. My legislation seeks to install equity, true to the intent of the 1984 changes.

II. BACKGROUND

A. WHAT IS A REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)?

A REIT is organized as a corporation, business trust or similar association which allows many investors to pool capital in order to acquire or provide financing for real estate.

REITS were first created in 1960 in order to give small investors access to the commercial real estate investment market. Previously this market had been monopolized by large capital investors, and this new structure afforded a wider group of investors to share in the profit opportunities.

A REIT is not required to pay a corporate level of tax, but must pass 95% of its taxable income through to its investors. Additionally, 95% of a REIT's income must come from passive sources, such as lease payments or interest on mortgage debt, etc. Also, 75% of a REIT's income must come from real estate. A REIT may not receive a significant portion of income from operating its real estate.

Over the years, there have been several legislative efforts to modify the REIT structure. While REITS have been generally prohibited from self-managing properties that they hold in trust, changes to the code were made in 1986 which allowed REITS that own specific types of real estate to provide customary services to their tenants. However, under current law, REITS are still restricted from operating real estate that requires a high level of operation management services (usually associated with such entities as hotels, casinos or similar properties). REITS that operate in these markets must lease the property to a third party, usually structured as a C corporation, which is tasked with providing the operation and direct management of the restricted real estate held by the REIT.

The REIT market has seen considerable recent growth. According to the National Association of REITS, five years ago there were

142 REITS with a market value of \$16 billion. Today there are 210 REITS with a value of \$141 billion. Experts forecast that at current growth rates, within a decade REITS will reach a market value of \$1.3 trillion.

B. WHAT ARE PAIRED-SHARE REITS?

In the 1980s certain REITS began pairing their shares of the REIT with those of the management company. For each share of the REIT received by the investor, they also received one share of the management company. Pairing these shares creates significant benefits because the same shareholders derive all of the profits from operations related to the real estate owned by the REIT.

C. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Because of several concerns about the paired share structure, including the fact that it could cause an artificial reduction in tax liabilities attributable to the income associate to management of properties, Congress took action in 1984 to ensure that the two structures would be treated as one for purposes of applying the REIT gross income tests. However, in this legislation, Congress considered the impact on the companies that had already adopted the paired-share REIT structure. Consequently, these existing entities were grandfathered, with the acknowledgment that they would need additional time to "unwind" in the effort to meet the standard gross income tests.

Historical discussion language indicates Congressional intent:

"Congress did not intend to eliminate the corporate tax on the portion of an active business' income that arises from the ownership of its real estate."

"Congress believed that to permit the use of such a transparent device would have weakened the integrity of the tax system."

"Congress believed that all stapled entities should have adequate time to remove the requirement that shares trade in tandem . . ."

D. THE COMPETITIVE BENEFITS OF PAIRED-SHARE REITS

Although supporters of paired-share REITS argue they have no benefit over competitors within their industries, indications are to the contrary. Specifically, this structure provides significant benefit because it eliminates the sometimes adversarial relationship between the REIT and the management company. If both entities have the same group of shareholders, there is no friction over who should realize the benefit of profits.

Second, the shifting of income between the two entities can have a significant impact on the tax liability attributable to profits. There are a number of ways this can be accomplished whether through rent payments, or shifting other overhead expenses.

Third, the structure of paired-share REITS enables these entities to avoid the double taxation of income from real estate, a benefit not realized by non-paired-share REIT competitors in certain markets. Again, tax liabilities are minimized and profits are significantly increased for shareholders.

This unique business structure has made them particularly attractive to investors, thereby giving them more advantageous access to capital.

Rather than making movements to "unwind" or adjust their structure in anticipation of having to comply with standard REIT gross in-

come tests, since 1995, a majority of the grandfathered entities have expanded aggressively.

Again, while today's paired-share REITS argue they have no real advantage over the traditionally structured corporations against whom they compete, their behavior indicates otherwise. Not only have some of the grandfathered REITS publicly discussed their advantage in an effort to attract investors, they have also stated in the past that they originally purchased the paired-share REIT, not for the line of business that it was participating in, but because they wanted the paired-share structure which provides unique, advantageous opportunities in certain markets.

III. THE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST EQUITY ACT

Mr. Speaker, because the REIT market continues to expand aggressively, Congress must take action to ensure that the grandfathered REITS are not enjoying tax based advantages, to the detriment of other businesses competing within the same industries. The legislation I introduce today levels the playing field by further clarifying the intent of Congress expressed in the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984. My legislation simply states that paired-share REITS must comply with the standard gross income tests applicable to all REITS, contained in section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code. Federal tax policy must be consistent so that it does not favor one competitor over another within industries. This important legislation ensures equitable tax policy so that one group of investors does not have a significant benefit over their competitors.

COMMENTS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BY EDWARD RENDELL, MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, at a Town Meeting I convened in Philadelphia on March 10, the Mayor, Edward Rendell made the following remarks which I commend to my colleagues.

Mayor Rendell: Good morning, Congressman. Good morning, members of the Panel. Let me just start out by saying that there is no issue as important to the future of the City as workforce development. We are a City that has currently 66,000 families on AFDC. We are a City that will face an enormously difficult problem because as those families begin to phase off of welfare, it will be required by the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 to have jobs or lose any support whatsoever beginning in March of '99 and going through the year 2000.

We will find that with what is essentially a labor surplus market, we will not be able to accommodate, in my judgment, somewhere between 35 and 40,000 of those families. So by the year 2000, we will have in Philadelphia, a situation that hasn't occurred, in my judgment, since the Great Depression. It will not just be in Philadelphia. It will be Detroit. It will be in Newark, Baltimore, even cities like Seattle that are considered to be cities that are economically viable and not labor surplus markets.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors did a press conference and a report based on a survey in 17 cities and each city reported, in differing degrees, the same problem that I'm going to address. And it is a shocking problem that nobody is paying any attention to. I don't say nobody because you are all here, but very few people are paying any attention to it in Washington, D.C. When I had the press conference, myself and Mayor Archer had this press conference on how we viewed welfare reform and where it was going. Only CNN showed up.

About a month and-a-half later, I was in Washington at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and myself and four other mayors were chosen to speak after our visit to the White House, and I noted that the CBA Network had 33 camera crews in Washington that week all covering various aspects of the Monica Lewinsky problem. To me, one of the greatest problems we have as a nation is that we can't get our news media to concentrate on serious issues that affect the bread and butter and really not only the quality of life but the very lives and survival of people themselves.

Now, let me tell you how I get to the 35 to 40,000 range. We believe the normal evident flow for the private sector, and the normal entry an coming off welfare, will cause 10,000 of that 66,000 to come off the rolls before the year 2000 is done.

Additionally, as you know, Congressman, myself, Mayor Archer, and Mayor Rice of Seattle were an integral part of persuading both the Administration and the Congress to appropriate additional dollars for a jobs bill for welfare recipients. As you will recall, you appropriated \$3.1 billion to be administered over a two-year period. And that was certainly positive news, but one of the things that I want to recommend to you again is that you go back and tell your colleagues that that is not nearly enough money to do this job correctly, and that if we really care about welfare reform and putting former recipients of welfare on the work rolls, that we have to spend more than \$3 billion.

I would reference in 1996, the Congressional Budget Office did a study which said that the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 was \$12 billion short in the necessary funds to adequately transition people from welfare to work. Unfortunately, no one listened at that time. The President said he would try to cure those defects afterwards and in part, he did with his \$3.1 billion jobs bill, but my experience leads me to believe that the \$12 billion estimate made by the CBO in the summer of 1996 is probably 50 percent less than is needed.

I think if we are really serious about welfare reform, if we were really serious about ending welfare as we know it, we have to spend money. If you look at the individual states that have had the most success in workforce development and transitioning people from welfare to work and doing all the things that are necessary components of that, training, job skills, literacy in many cases, adequate child care, transportation, addressing all of the needs, those states spent actually more money in the first several years of their reform effort than they did in their traditional welfare systems. They spent the money up front so that down the road, they would spend less money because people would be successfully transitioned from welfare to work.

So I think we will find that the money that's been appropriated by Congress at the President's request is far too little. For example, in the next month, we will release our

plans for using that federal money. That federal money, with the state match, and the state did in fact give us the necessary match, that will make somewhere between \$51 and \$55 million available for the next two years in Philadelphia. We are going to release our plans on how we are going to spend that money but the bottom line is that if we are successful, if we reach our goals, that will give 15,000 people the type of employment necessary, either full-term employment, 40 hours a week plus, or the 20-hour a week employment that's necessary to keep them receiving benefits at the same time.

So if you take our 15, the 10 that will come from the normal evident flow, we're down somewhere in the high 30's, 35, 38 thousand families, heads of households with children, will not find jobs in Philadelphia. And I don't know what is going to happen to those individuals. You have to realize that that's not a surprising outcome because we are truly a labor surplus area.

As you know, Congressman, Philadelphia was losing jobs at a debilitating rate. For the last nine years, we averaged a loss of 10,000 jobs a year from Philadelphia. Over a course of 11 years, we lost over 100,000 jobs from our job base. It is only in the last year and three-quarters we've now had seven-quarters straight of job gain, but those job gains are modest probably cumulatively less than 4,000, less than 4,000. While it is true that there has been some job growth in our suburban corridors, there are maybe 15 job growth centers that we've identified in the suburbs. They've added another 20,000 jobs into the mix. So we've created 25,000 new jobs.

The problem is that in addition to the 38,000 families that are going to be unaccounted for that I mentioned, we have 45,000 displaced workers on the unemployment rolls here in Philadelphia. Those are the workers from the Navy yard. Those are the workers from Breyers. Those are the workers from the Meridian/CoreStates merger, soon to be the CoreStates/First Union merger. Those are workers with job skills and job experience. So our 38,000, or to be honest, our 66,000 are competing against those 45,000 who are better skilled, better trained, better experienced.

Additionally, there are some 40,000, single males that are out there looking for jobs as a result of state changes in welfare. On top of that, each and every year, we have a new class of high school graduates that come into the job place. And the numbers don't add up. They don't add up in Philadelphia. They don't add up in Detroit. They don't add up in Atlanta. And they don't even add up in Seattle because when you put all those people into the mix looking for jobs, almost all of them were better educated, better trained, and have more work experience than the AFDC heads of households. You can see the problem we have created.

I heard a little bit of your earlier panel and I know that it is easy in Washington to say that welfare reform is a success, that in the 13 or 14 months since welfare reform has been the law, we've knocked 15 percent of the people off the rolls. Well, of course as we know, a good hunk of that 15 percent are people who were smoked out who really didn't belong on the welfare rolls. Then my guess is the other half of that 15 percent were the cream of the crop, were people that were on the welfare rolls but had recent job experience who had some skills, who were totally and functionally literate.

You go deep within the mix of our 66,000 heads of households here in Philadelphia and

you will find people shockingly, and it's the reason why we all agreed that there had to be change, but shockingly who have never worked in their life, who don't have one day's worth of work experience. You will find people, when you go deep into the rolls, who are functionally illiterate. As we all know, the necessary job skills in the moderate economy simply won't accommodate those type of people.

It used to be, not very long ago, ten years ago, you could be a cashier in most retail stores if you could learn to punch one button on the cash register and make change, but now, go into any retail store, small, or large, and you virtually have to run a mini computer to be a retail clerk, to be a cashier.

The necessary job skills are changing so quickly that we are kidding ourselves to think that we can change a system that has been in existence for decades and that simply doesn't work to fit the needs of Welfare-to-Work. For example, let's take child care. We basically have a child care system that is 8:30 to 5:30 because that's been the needs of the working parents, 8:30 to 5:30. But if you look at the jobs wanted in the entry level or the type of jobs our welfare recipients can hold, many of them are for weekend and night work. And there's virtually no child care available in the evenings or weekends in Philadelphia.

Now, let's talk for a second about these suburban growth centers. There are 15 of them and only two are near public transportation, traditional public transportation where someone from Philadelphia can take the subway down to Suburban Station and get on a commuter train and go out and wind up close enough that they can walk to the job centers. Thirteen of them are far enough away that you simply can't get there from here if you don't have a car. And of course, almost none of our current AFDC welfare recipients have vehicles. So not only are we going to spend a chunk of that \$51 million creating van pools and things like that to get our people to suburban job centers, but I heard you, and I know this isn't the main thrust of this hearing, but to not re-enact ISTEA without significant funds in there for Welfare-to-Work transportation programs.

As you know, Senator Specter and Senator Santorum have combined to put an amendment to the ISTEA reorganization bill in the Senate upping those dollars from \$100 million that the Administration has put in their budget, to \$250 million, and I would urge that is an absolutely essential step. If we're serious about what we're trying to do there, and in all due respect, this is not a reflection on Congressman Fattah or any of the Congressmen who are represented here, but if we're serious about trying to get people from welfare to work, we can't do it cheap. We have to spend money for transportation. We have to spend money for child care. We have to spend money for job training. And most of all, we have to spend money to help create jobs whether they be transitional jobs in the public sector whether they'll be subsidizing job growth in the private sector. Whatever it is, we have to touch every element of that, and we better do it fast.

In sum, if we do all of our jobs well, we're going to fail to be able to place well over 50 percent of our current caseload of welfare recipients and that is a pattern that you are going to find is going to happen all over the country. It is a freight train coming down the tracks going to hit us right smack in the forehead.

I would make two long-term recommendations, and I make them with the full knowledge that these may be difficult for you,

Congressman, or the Congressmen represented here, may be difficult for us to get enacted, but number one, I would urge legislation to extend the deadline. I think the two-year deadline is just going to prove to be unworkable. We're not going to be ready to have job opportunities, child care, transportation to meet the needs of most of those AFDC families. So I would urge a year or two or three-year extension in the cutoff.

TRIBUTE TO THE NASHUA LIONS CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Nashua Lions Club on their 75th anniversary.

Eighty-one years ago, insurance executive Melvin Jones and his fellow Chicago businessmen formed the Lions International. The group was created to focus on humanitarian acts of service.

Several years later, after Hellen Keller challenged the Lions to become her "Knights of the Blind," William Hillman, Jr., and former Mayor Alvin Lucier established the Nashua Lions Club. Since being chartered in 1923, the Nashua Lions have not only heeded Hellen Keller's call, but have lived up to their motto "We Serve" by making Nashua a better community and improving the lives of those who live there.

After 75 years of hard work and selfless devotion, the Nashua Lions Club have raised and returned over \$750,000 to their community. But the true measure of their impact on Nashua is not in the dollars they have raised, but in the lives they have touched.

Most notably, the Nashua Lions have dedicated substantial time and resources to building projects designed to assist handicapped individuals. Under the leadership of former Mayor Mario J. Vagge, the Nashua Lions built the "Friendship Club" for the handicapped, and under the direction of past President Rich Nadeau, they constructed "Melanie's Room" for a handicapped young girl.

Responding to Hellen Keller's challenge 77 years ago, the Nashua Lions have also worked closely with the Nashua school nurses to provide free eye exams and eye glasses to needy area students. They have spent over \$30,000 in the last 25 years to buy new eye screening machines for Nashua schools.

Aside from their numerous community and charity efforts, the Nashua Lions have also provided leadership to the entire Lions International organization. During their 75-year history, the Nashua Lions proudly have produced two District 44-H Governors, Joseph J. Bielawski from 1983 to 1984, and Edward Lecius this year for their diamond jubilee.

Mr. Speaker, the Nashua Lions exemplify America's charitable spirit. Their leadership, compassion, and hard work have helped make the Gate City a wonderful place to live. I rise to express my thanks and congratulations for 75 years of caring and devoted service.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1998

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mandates Information Act of 1998. This bill is similar to H.R. 1010, the Mandates Information Act of 1997, which I introduced on March 11, 1997. The bill is introduced as a follow up to the success we have had with the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

As you are aware, the Unfunded Mandate Relief Act required the Congressional Budget Office to estimate the cost of unfunded mandates a bill would place on both local governments and the private sector. These cost estimates are required to be included in the committee's report which accompanies a bill reported to the House.

The law also established a point of order procedure for bills which contained a mandate on local governments exceeding \$50 million. The Mandates Information Act of 1998 will establish a similar point of order procedure for bills containing a unfunded mandate on the private sector in excess of \$100 million.

The changes reflected in the Mandates Information Act of 1998 have been made at the behest of the Rules Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman with the commitment to move this important piece of legislation forward. I look forward to participating in a hearing on these changes later this week followed by a full and open debate on the bill before the full House in the near future.

DE COLORES MEXICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was witness to a most dazzling and energetic dance ensemble at their inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This Washington, D.C. based dance company has received broad acclaim at major performances including the Presidential Inaugural's "American Journey" at the Smithsonian, and a near sellout concert performance commemorating Mexico's "day of the dead" at the Gunston Community Arts Center Theater.

De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company is unique in the area for its commitment to preserving and presenting the authentic, rich and varied interpretations of Mexican dance, music, and costumes. Their vision is to establish an Instituto de Danza for children and adults in the nation's capital to teach and train a future generation of artists. Performances are intended to foster greater understanding about Mexican art, history and culture. Members receive rigorous training, tutoring and performing opportunities, and are encouraged to strive for the highest standards in Mexican folkloric dance interpretation.

March 24, 1998

Company General Director, Adriana Martinez, a former Capitol Hill staff, assistant, began performing professionally at the age of 21 with the Ballet Folklorico de Stanford under the tutelage of master instructors Susan Cashion and Ramon Morones. She joined forces with the principal dancer and Co-Director Enrique Ortiz, former Director of Los Tapaties, to form De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company in 1996. Principal dancers and several of the founding members each brought with them years of experience teaching, directing, performing, and training. Other Capitol Hill staffers performed traditional dances of Mexican regions highlighting Veracruz, El Norte (Chihuahua), Tamáulipas (Huasteca), and Region Jalisco. The company is composed of beautifully attired women: Constance Chubb, Gloria Corral, Guadalupe Jaramillo, Rocio Jimenez, Irene Macias, Irma Martinez, and Alma Medina. Along with male partners: Maximo Galindo, David Garcia, John McKiernan Gonzalez, Joseph Lukowski, Geoffrey Rhodes, and A. Santiago Alvarez.

Mr. Speaker, the De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company brings to our nation's capital a rich contribution of Latinos in the arts and humanities visible through their unique art form. I ask colleagues in Congress assembled to wish them great success as they move forward with our vision to educate children about Mexican culture and heritage through traditional folklore.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 249 RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE VA SHOULD RECEIVE PROCEEDS FROM ANY TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the proposed settlement between major tobacco companies and various states will receive much attention by the Congress in the coming session. With so much money and emotion wrapped up in one issue, it is anybody's guess how Congress will finally try to resolve this highly contentious issue.

But no matter how Congress ultimately decides to address this issue, there is one group of Americans that cannot be left out of any tobacco settlement—our nation's veterans.

I share the Administration's view that we should make it a major public health priority to reduce cigarette smoking and nicotine addiction, in part through establishing significant constraints on the ability of tobacco companies to continue to engage in deceptive and deadly marketing practices. A responsible, comprehensive tobacco settlement may be the best way to achieve this goal.

But while the Administration has assumed our federal government will collect over \$65 billion in proceeds from any tobacco settlement, its Fiscal Year 1999 (FY 99) budget fails to earmark any settlement money for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal agency that spends over \$4 billion each year providing health care to veterans suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

If anybody deserves to be protected under the terms of a tobacco settlement, it is our nation's veterans, many of whom became addicted to nicotine while in service to our nation.

As the resolution I am introducing today spells out in greater detail, tobacco companies and our federal government facilitated—if not encouraged—cigarette smoking in the military. From the time of the Civil War until 1956, the Army was required by law to provide a cheap and nearly endless supply of tobacco to its enlisted men. The Air Force still has a similar law on the books. Cigarettes have been distributed free of charge to members of the Armed Forces as part of their so-called "C-rations." As many as 75 percent of our World War II veterans began smoking as young adults during the course of their military service.

Labeling requirements warning of the dangers of nicotine and tobacco usage did not become mandatory for products distributed through the military system until 1970, five years after such a requirement was made applicable to the civilian market. Tobacco products are still sold by military exchanges at substantially discounted rates, thus actively encouraging tobacco usage by military personnel and their dependents. "Smoke 'em if you got 'em" has been a watchword of the military culture for years.

Given this historical backdrop, it should hardly be surprising that many veterans developed an addiction to nicotine in large part because our government and the tobacco companies made cigarettes so accessible and easy to smoke during their military service.

But while our public servants have correctly criticized the tobacco companies for preying on millions of Americans with their highly manipulative marketing practices, the Administration's proposed budget leaves the Department of Veterans Affairs and our veterans to fend for themselves in dealing with tobacco-related illnesses that haunt a substantial portion of our nation's veteran population. And while many would agree that millions of Americans were victimized by misleading advertising and deceptive marketing practices that led them down the path to addiction, the Administration's message appears to be that our veterans should have known better.

The resolution I have introduced today attempts to send a message that the Congress is not prepared to leave our veterans behind. The Department of Veterans Affairs should receive substantial amounts from any tobacco settlement so that it will have sufficient funds to meet the needs of our veterans suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

This resolution has already received support from most major veterans service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the Fleet Reserve Association, the Blinded Veterans Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

I am also pleased that Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ), the Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has joined with me to introduce this bipartisan, common sense resolution. Congressman SMITH's leadership on this issue is indic-

ative of his long-standing commitment to our nation's veterans, and I welcome his support.

I urge all Members to join me in co-sponsoring this extremely important resolution.

#### SUPPORT GROWS FOR CREDIT UNIONS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. LATOURETTE, and I are pleased to announce that support for H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act, continues to grow. Below are the thirty-first through fortieth of the more than 100 editorials and columns from newspapers all across our nation which support giving consumers the right to choose a non-profit, cooperative, credit union for their financial services.

Surveys have consistently shown that consumers strongly support the value and services they receive from their credit unions. That is why the Consumer Federation of America endorses H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act.

A bipartisan group of more than 190 Members from all regions of our country, and all parts of the political spectrum, are now co-sponsoring the Credit Union Membership Access Act. We should pass it quickly so that credit unions can stop worrying about their future and return to serving their members.

[From the Des Moines Register, Mar. 7, 1998]  
BANKS VS. CREDIT UNIONS—BOTH SIDES HAVE EXAGGERATED THE THREAT—THERE SHOULD BE A PLACE FOR BOTH

Next week, Iowa Congressman Jim Leach has scheduled hearings on whether Congress should act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's Feb. 25 ruling regarding credit-union membership. Leach had better wear his hard hat.

The court case is part of an increasingly acrimonious debate as banks battle to prevent credit unions from eating into their market.

The banks, which pay hefty taxes, say credit unions, which don't, have an unfair advantage. That advantage might be acceptable for the classic mom-and-pop credit union, but bankers are alarmed at the growth of huge credit unions like the John Deere Community Credit Union in Waterloo with more than \$385 million in assets and a full array of financial services offered to 77,000 members.

Credit unions, in response, point out that at best they still have a slender 6 percent slice of the total market pie nationally, while banks have 77 percent. In Iowa the ratio is something like 88 to 5. As for the tax disparity, credit unions note that, unlike banks, they have no profits on which to pay taxes. Credit unions return all profits to their members, who pay taxes on their earnings. In fact, some Iowa banks are now switching to that very taxing scheme under a new state law.

Although these issues are not central to the question that prompted Leach's hearing, they are what drove the bankers to bring

suit against federally chartered credit unions. The suit challenged recent interpretations of federal law that have allowed credit unions to broaden eligibility for membership.

The Supreme Court, in its Feb. 25 ruling, came down on the side of the banks: Federal law says there must be a "common bond" between employee groups belonging to a credit union, and the National Credit Union Administration has been reading the law too liberally by allowing federally chartered credit unions to sign up any employee group that walks in the door.

Only five of the 212 credit unions in Iowa are federally chartered; the remainder are chartered under state law, which requires a common bond among employee groups. But, while this ruling may not have direct consequences here, Iowa credit unions see the bankers' Supreme Court victory as the possible leading edge for other victories by the banks.

Credit-union advocates see this as a life-or-death struggle and suspect the bankers' ultimate aim is to destroy credit unions. That's a bit of an exaggeration, though the bankers have done themselves no favors with their own exaggerations of the credit unions' potential threat.

While most credit unions hardly pose a serious threat to banks, the bankers have a good argument about the phenomenon of a few giant credit unions that have morphed into full service institutions that look an awfully lot like banks. As long as those operations continue to grow, they make an attractive target for banks and other financial institutions looking to curb credit unions.

Whatever legislation emerges from Congress should ultimately aim to assure the banks of a fair shake and to leave the credit unions intact.

Credit unions have for 80 years served a vital function for millions of Americans by offering services to their members that are not offered by banks. They still serve a vital function today.

[From the Cincinnati Post]

#### CREDIT FOR CREDIT UNIONS

Credit unions, which have been helping people with their financial needs for more than six decades, are themselves in need now. They need to win a legal fight and, failing that, they need some political help from Congress.

If they don't get it, the credit unions themselves may no longer be available for millions when they come knocking, and American consumers, especially those of modest means, will have reason to grieve.

Congress established credit unions as non-profit cooperatives in 1934 chiefly for poorer people left out of the loop by banks. It required that members have a "common bond," such as being employees of the same company.

The formula worked fine until the late 1970s, when the disappearance of large manufacturing plants and other economic changes began robbing the credit unions of members. A federal agency then said a credit union could include a multitude of groups in its membership in order to maintain a sufficiently large operational base.

The commercial banks yelped. What's more, they sued. They maintained that the federal agency, the National Credit Union Administration, had misconstrued the law, and a federal judge said the commercial banks were right. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case either late this year

or early next. If the high court concurs with lower court rulings, some 10 million people will no longer be members of credit unions.

Banks say the competition from the credit unions is unfair because they don't pay taxes. It's true that, as non-profits, the credit unions don't have profits to pay taxes on. Members do pay income taxes on any dividends.

If the credit unions lose in court, Congress could come to the rescue with just a slight change in the 1934 law's wording about "common bonds."

You would think many would support the amendment. After all, 70 million Americans belong to credit unions, and that's a lot of voters.

It's possible that another number speaks more loudly in the legislative ear: 4.4 trillion, which is the accumulation of dollars the banks have in assets, and more than 12 times the assets of credit unions.

The banks would not seem to be at much of a disadvantage economically, after all.

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Sept. 15, 1997]

#### BANKERS SHOULD QUIT BULLYING WORKERS' CREDIT UNIONS

With America's banks raking in record profits, you'd think that bankers would have little to complain about. But you'd be wrong.

At the annual convention of the Kentucky Bankers Association in Louisville last week, the president-elect of the American Bankers Association and the president of America's Community Bankers worried aloud about the growth of credit unions and a sharp rise in personal bankruptcies.

Their concern about bankruptcies is valid. Federal laws make it too easy to declare bankruptcy. If bankruptcy were more painful, fewer people would resort to it, and, instead, would struggle to pay their creditors.

(Of course, if banks and other lenders were more careful about extending credit, fewer potential deadbeats would have a chance to get deeply into debt to begin with.)

The verbal volleys against credit unions were less persuasive.

Yes, credit unions have grown rapidly, and as non-profit institutions they don't pay federal taxes. This irritates bankers.

But the reason credit unions have grown is because they serve an important function in our economy. They help a lot of workers buy cars or finance college education—including workers who might find it hard to get a bank loan for the same purposes, at least not one at an affordable interest rate.

The banks and the nation's credit unions are battling it out in the courts and in Congress:

For the moment, the bankers have the upper hand, thanks to a federal appeals court ruling that has stalled the industry's expansion.

But the Supreme Court will hear an appeal of that ruling soon, and Congress could make the legal battle moot by changing the law governing credit unions.

If the credit unions win, you'll hear more grumbling from bankers about unfair competition.

But they'll be crying all the way to the bank. Profits, we suspect, will remain robust.

[From the Evansville Courier, Mar. 5, 1998]

#### CREDIT UNIONS HAVE REMEDY TO SETBACK—LAWSUIT THREATENS NEEDED INSTITUTIONS

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a 1934 law that permitted the creation of credit

unions also prohibits any single one of them from getting its members from different companies in different industries. The decision is a setback to a consumer-friendly institution, but nothing that a 1998 law couldn't or shouldn't fix.

Congress decided to allow credit unions during the Depression so that workers who couldn't get loans from banks would have someplace to turn. Credit unions are non-profit cooperatives, and that has enabled them to skip taxes, operate cheaply and keep interest rates on loans down. But Congress also set limits on them, insisting that members have a common bond, such as the same occupation or the same workplace. Many credit unions have been ignoring that restraint since a 1982 reinterpretation of the law by a federal agency. That agency ruling was probably necessary to keep credit unions thriving. For a variety of reasons, many places of business were declining in size, meaning that some of them individually did not have enough employees to support a credit union.

The ruling rankled banks, though. They have not liked this expanding competition, especially when the competition has not been paying taxes like they have been. It was a lawsuit brought by banks that led to the Supreme Court decision. While it's true that the bankers who brought this suit say they will not move to have current members kicked out of their credit unions, it's also true that no institution that remains valuable to many millions of people ultimately could be endangered by an incapacity to grow and serve those who need it most. There's nothing intrinsically unconstitutional or unfair about exempting organizations from taxes if they have forsaken profits, and there's certainly room in this economy for this particular alternative to banks.

Locally, credit union officials have been scrambling to explain to customers the implications of the ruling. One is that it has no impact on community—(such as the Warrick Federal Credit Union) or state-chartered credit unions. John McKenzie, president of the Indiana Credit Union League, said Congress should make sure the banking industry does not get in the way of people's access to credit unions.

Obviously, a new law should not give credit unions carte blanche to operate any way they choose, but it should relieve them of some of those 1934 restrictions.

[From the Palm Beach Post, Mar. 17, 1997]

#### TELL BANKS TO BACK OFF

Credit unions fill just a tiny niche in American banking, but their members appreciate them. Why, then, are bankers attacking credit unions every way possible?

The House Banking Committee is holding hearings on whether federally chartered credit unions should be allowed to recruit members outside limited groups with a "common bond." Banks are fighting the change in Congress and in the courts. The Supreme Court will hear a bank-inspired case that could end with credit unions having to drop 20 million members.

You don't join a credit union to finance a 40-story office tower. But you can still get a \$50 loan there, as people have been doing since the 1930s. Credit unions are not-for-profit. They don't pay most taxes, so they can charge less interest than banks for loans.

Credit unions hold 6.8 percent of all banking assets nationally, 7.5 percent in Florida. The percentages are up since 1980 from 3.6

percent and 3.5 percent respectively, but they came at the expense of savings and loans. For-profit banks pulled in more assets of former S&Ls than credit unions ever did.

The typical credit union was set up by employees of a big company. As large companies shrank, unions served ex-employees and recruited outside the fold to stay afloat. The Florida Legislature loosened the "common bond" rule for state-chartered credit unions in 1982 to allow that. Now banks are acting as if they are losing \$100 bills to credit unions, not nickels.

A decade ago, the banks were hurting. Corporations found ways to handle their own money. Big depositors switched their checking to their brokers. But the banks roared back. They are doing so well that if you are not looking to finance a 40-story office tower, they give the impression that you should deal with their machines and not waste their employees' time.

Merging and expanding banks are classic cases of a business in need of discipline by market competition. The credit unions are hardly a threat. But they hang in. Smart lawmakers in Washington and Tallahassee will do nothing to make it harder for them.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Oct. 27, 1997]

#### GOLIATH VS. DAVID FOR SMALL BUCKS—BANKS WAGE A HARSH CAMPAIGN AGAINST INCREASINGLY POPULAR CREDIT UNIONS

The nation's banks should drop their mean-spirited campaign to clip the wings of 12,000 credit unions. The banks would do better to emulate some of the credit unions' people-friendly policies instead of dreaming up new ways to extract fees from their hapless customers. (We are braced for the spread of the \$3 charge for using the services of a human teller.)

Nonprofit credit unions have grown hugely popular by offering a break on limited financial services to members under terms of a 1934 federal law. They pay interest on insured deposits and earn interest on loans to members at competitive rates. The members ordinarily share some link like working for the same employer or belonging to the same church. Credit unions were created during the Depression to serve individual savers, who were of little interest to the major banks. This is still part of their function, as when a black church sponsors one in a neighborhood the big banks have deserted.

While some credit unions have substantial assets, their collective market share hovers around 2 percent—nothing for the bankers to worry about. But the banks are arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court, and in a separate lawsuit in the District of Columbia, to overturn the National Credit Union Administration on loosening "affinity" standards for credit union membership. Another fight over credit union rules proceeds in Congress. Both sides are waging public relations campaigns.

The credit unions are valuable as a tiny check on the financial power of the major banks and as a reminder to them that consumers value decent treatment in the conduct of their financial affairs, however modest. If credit union membership nationwide grows beyond the present 70 million thanks to more generous interpretations of who can join, it will be because more people cherish that alternative to the average cold-blooded bank.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, Mar. 2, 1998]

**THE CONSUMERS' CHOICE—CONGRESS SHOULD NOT RESTRICT CREDIT UNIONS**

The long-running battle between commercial banks and credit unions didn't end last week when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a Depression-era law places strict limits on the membership of credit unions.

The 1934 Federal Credit Union Act, which established credit unions because banks were perceived as ignoring the needs of low- and moderate-income Americans, limited credit union membership to "groups having a common bond of occupation or association, or groups within a well-defined neighborhood, community or rural district." But in 1982, responding to a wave of corporate reorganizations and downsizing that threatened existing credit unions, the National Credit Union Administration expanded membership beyond the single-company, single-community confines. It is this expansion that the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision in a case from North Carolina, said was in violation of the 1934 federal law.

Anticipating the Supreme Court decision, the Credit Union National Association asked Congress last year to consider legislation to allow federally chartered credit unions to maintain their expanded membership base.

Credit unions operate on a not-for-profit basis. They pay no taxes and tend to offer lower-cost loans and higher earnings for sav- ings. They also tend to charge fewer and lower fees than commercial banks. But the commercial banks say credit unions' not-for-profit status creates an unfair competitive advantage.

Bankers have reason for concern. Since the 1982 regulation took effect, credit unions have rapidly expanded their membership. Last year, 72 million Americans belonged to credit unions, double the number in 1991. California alone has 735 credit unions, of which 340 are federally chartered and will be directly affected by last week's Supreme Court ruling. Although banking industry officials say consumers who currently belong to credit unions will not be asked to give up their memberships, joining a credit union may prove more difficult in the future unless Congress changes the 1934 law.

A bill before Congress to allow credit unions to serve multiple groups deserves approval. Credit union industry observers say it takes several thousand employees to form a credit union. In California, not many employers of this size exist. In San Diego, 95 percent of the work force is employed with firms with 50 or fewer employees.

With Congress set to begin hearings this week on a bill aimed at resolving the dispute between banks and credit unions, both sides already have begun their lobbying efforts. The commercial banks, particularly the smaller community-based banks, have legitimate concerns about rapidly expanding credit unions. But in drafting new legislation, Congress must recognize the realities of America's small-business economy. Americans have shown an increasing preference for credit unions, and consumer choice must be preserved.

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

**NO REASON TO PUNISH CREDIT UNIONS**

A financial battle is brewing that warrants consumer attention. The banking industry is putting the squeeze on credit unions in hopes of limiting your opportunity to join one.

If they are successful, banks will have more business for themselves and some credit unions will be put out of business. Although credit unions handle only a small fraction of the nation's savings accounts and consumer loans, banks are jealous of that little share and worry that credit unions will continue to gain customers.

A credit union is a group of people who get together to pool their savings and lend each other cash. They began more than 60 years ago, long before the popularity of checking accounts, credit cards and ATM machines. The Federal Credit Union Act of 1934 allowed people to form a financial partnership if they shared a common bond, such as a single employer or trade group. They were, and still are, run by volunteer boards and do not make a profit, and consequently pay no income taxes.

**BANKS HAVE LONG** been suspicious of the special relationship credit unions have with their members and the government. The unions have an unfair advantage, banks complain, because they have no taxes to pay and no shareholders to please. Credit unions drew more attention to themselves when some of the larger ones began offering checking accounts, credit cards and mortgages. Because of their lower overhead, they tend to pay higher interest to savers and charge lower interest to borrowers, and banks don't like that.

As the definition of who qualified to join a credit union expanded in recent years, banks filed suit. Last year a federal judge sided with the banks and ordered federally chartered credit unions to comply with a narrow definition of the "common bond" requirement of the 1934 law.

The case is being appealed, but in the meantime Florida credit unions are expecting banks to try to clip their wings too. Florida law is less restrictive in that it does not require members to have a narrow common bond. An attempt is likely this session to make state law as tight as the outdated federal law. If this happened, it would prevent federally chartered credit unions in Florida from switching to a state charter to get around last year's unfavorable court ruling.

The Legislature should resist efforts to change the state law. Credit unions are no real threat to banks; in fact, banks are enjoying record profits. Many of the people served by credit unions would be shunned by banks anyway. How many banks would make a \$50 loan? Credit unions make small loans every day.

At the federal level, Congress should not sit idly by while the courts put credit unions into a time machine and ship them back to 1934. Times have changed since then, and so have the needs of consumers.

Congress should take a close look at what has happened under Florida's more modern law. Credit unions have saved consumers millions of dollars in fees and interest; and banks have continued to grow; offering innovative services and sound management.

Credit unions don't want to become banks, and banks certainly have no desire to become more like credit unions. Until someone can identify a problem with these member-owned institutions, they deserve to be left alone.

[From the Goshen News]

**GIVING CREDIT TO CREDIT UNIONS**

Credit unions, which have been helping people with their financial needs for more than six decades, are themselves in need now. They need to win a legal fight and, failing that, they need some political help from Congress. If they don't get it, the credit unions themselves may no longer be available for millions when they come knocking, and American consumers, especially those of modest means, will have reason to grieve.

Congress established credit unions as non-profit cooperatives in 1934 chiefly for poorer people left out of the loop by banks. It required that members have a "common bond," such as being employees of the same company. The formula worked fine until the late 1970s, when the disappearance of large manufacturing plants and other economic changes began robbing the credit unions of members. A federal agency then said a credit union could include a multitude of groups in its membership in order to maintain a sufficiently large operational base.

The commercial banks yelped. What's more, they sued. They maintained that the federal agency, The National Credit Union Administration, had misconstrued the law, and a federal judge said the commercial banks were right. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case either late this year or early next. If the high court concurs with lower court rulings, some 10 million people will no longer be members of credit unions, and millions more may never get the chance.

That would be a shame because credit unions normally pay higher rates of return on deposits and charge less interest on loans than banks. They tend to be easy and friendly to deal with, partly because the directors are likely to be the consumer's fellow workers. Banks say the competition from the credit unions is unfair because they don't pay taxes. It's true that, as non-profits, the credit unions don't have profits to pay taxes on. Their members do pay income taxes on any dividends.

If the credit unions lose in court, Congress could quickly come to the rescue with just a slight change in the 1934 law's wording about "common bonds." There is some bipartisan support for the amendment, though not exactly a ground swell yet. You would think, at first blush, that there would be more interest. After all, 70 million Americans belong to credit unions, and that's a lot of voters. It's possible, of course, that another number speaks more loudly in the legislative ear: 4.4 trillion, which is the accumulation of dollars the banks have in assets, and more than 12 times the assets of credit unions. The banks would not seem to be at much of a disadvantage economically, after all, although the credit unions may be at a disadvantage politically.

