

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 37TH ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the 37th annual Humanitarian Awards. These men and women have fought hard to ensure improved lives for others. They have each shown a tremendous dedication to reducing bigotry and injustice in the Memphis community. This year's award winners are: Rabbi Harry Danziger of Temple Israel; Retired Criminal Court Judge H.T. Lockard; Bishop J. Terry Steib of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis; and Dr. Jane Walters, state education commissioner.

These awards, as presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews (Memphis Region), recognize the leaders in our community who have gone beyond their call to ensure a better, more equitable future for all of us.

Rabbi Danziger is a lifetime board member of NCCI as well as a member of the boards of the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and the Memphis Jewish Federation. Danziger is a long time leader in Memphis' Jewish Community.

Judge Lockhardt served for 19 years on the bench before retiring in 1994. As an attorney, he was involved in numerous cases that helped end the bitter segregation in education, and in public facilities. Judge Lockhardt will always be remembered as the first African-American elected to old Shelby County (TN) Court.

In addition to his important work with the Catholic Diocese in Memphis, Bishop Steib is a board member of the National Civil Rights Museum and the African-American Bishops' Committee. Bishop Steib, through his service to these organizations, has worked tirelessly to bring together people from all backgrounds, classes and races.

Another deserving winner of the NCIC Humanitarian Award is Dr. Jane Walters. As an educator, Dr. Walters has devoted her career to improving the lives of others. She has touched the lives of countless young Tennesseans, first as teacher, as Principal of Craigmont High School in Memphis and now as Governor Sundquist's Commissioner of Education in the State of Tennessee.

Under her leadership as Principal of Craigmont, the school was designated by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. Today, as Commissioner of Education, Tennessee is well ahead of the nation in connecting all of the state's schools to the Internet. The Horatio Alger Association named her National Educator of the Year in 1991. We are all grateful to Dr. Walters for her contributions in the field of education.

These men and women can not be praised enough for their contributions. With a tremendous amount of hard work and foresight, these individuals are determined to eliminate bias, bigotry and racism in our community. Honoring these heroes is a perfect way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NCCJ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 37th annual Humanitarian Award Winners.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today was to be the day that the House of Representatives finally debated campaign finance reform. After over a year of lobbying by a majority of the members of the House to consider some form of campaign finance reform legislation, the leadership had finally relented and were to allow this day to be dedicated to this very important issue.

Unfortunately the leadership of this House designed a bill that was destined to fail, and the majority of the House rejected that approach. So here we stand, with no bill to debate and no assurances of when we will finally have our chance.

The solution is simple: allow an open rule on campaign finance reform. It is time we end the political games and give members an opportunity to clearly state, on the record, where they stand on cleaning up our campaign finance system. We have waited too long. It is time to stop the delay and allow a vote on campaign finance reform. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

THE MEDICARE SOCIAL WORK EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce The Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 includes a provision that will discourage nursing homes from utilizing social workers. This unintended consequence occurs because the legislation requires social workers' services to be included in the consolidated billing of the nursing home while psychologist and psychiatrist services remain outside of the consolidated billing.

Under this construction, if a nursing home utilizes social workers' services, those dollars come out of the nursing home payment. Psy-

chologist and psychiatrist payments do not. The effect of such a policy will be to encourage nursing homes to avoid social workers and instead rely on the more expensive services of psychologists and psychiatrists.

Several firms that provide mental health services to nursing homes across the country have already informed me that they will cease hiring social workers and replace them with psychiatrists and psychologists beginning July 1, 1998.

Clinical social workers are the primary providers of mental health services to residents of nursing homes, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. Without correcting legislation, mental health services to nursing home residents will be reduced and Medicare costs for these services will most likely increase.

I do not believe that Congress intentionally created this problem. The Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998 seeks to address these concerns by excluding clinical social workers from the consolidated billing provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and treating them identically to other mental health providers.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Association of Social Workers, the Clinical Social Work Federation, the American Health Care Association and the National Citizens' Coalition for nursing Home Reform. Several firms that provide mental health services to nursing homes across the country have also pledged their support. I am attaching a letter I received from one such firm, MHM/Bay Colony Counseling Services.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join with me in passing this crucial piece of legislation. Together, we can ensure that social workers continue to provide essential mental health services to nursing home residents.

MHM/BAY COLONY
COUNSELING SERVICES,

Cambridge, MA, March 10, 1998.

Representative FORTNEY "PETE" STARK,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: I am contacting you to extend my enthusiastic support for your efforts in pursuing the Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998 which excludes social workers from the new consolidated billing requirement in skilled nursing facilities.

I am the Clinical Director at MHM/Bay Colony Extended Care Service. We provide comprehensive mental health services to the residents of about 125 nursing home facilities in the state of Massachusetts, and we employ about 100 professional clinicians, 60% of which are licensed social workers.

The social workers we employ are trained, and exceptionally skilled psychotherapists who have made a purposeful professional career choice to provide psychotherapeutic services to the medically and psychiatrically frail and compromised older population. In doing so, they also provide consultation and

● 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.

support to the nursing home staff who are extremely challenged in providing front line care to this needy population.

If this consolidated billing requirement for skilled nursing facilities by Medicare includes social workers, the impact will have an enormously destructive effect on systems and services; i.e.:

Our services to these residents will be decimated in terms of available and acceptable trained professionals.

60% of our case load of frail aging nursing home residents, most in their last years of life will lose services. (This is the population who are most intensely affected by severe emotional distress, or progressive dementia and in need of management consultation intervention).

60 to 70 social workers will be unemployed from our program. (I speculate about 200 to 400 additionally from other services in Massachusetts).

The assumption for this Medicare consolidated billing requirement, I believe, is that it is a cost saving device. In all actuality, in terms of mental health services, the costs will ultimately increase for Medicare. Programs, like ours, will be forced to employ only doctorate level psychologists who are exempt from this consolidated billing. Medicare reimburses psychologists at a higher rate than social workers for the same billing code.

In closing, I need to emphasize that our services are essential for the fundamental well-being of this population and that our social workers are the foundation of our services.

My staff and I thank you for your leadership in expending this so rapidly. I am available for contact if further efforts are needed.

Sincerely,

MURIEL ELLMAN,

Clinical Director, Extended Care Service.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues tonight to pay special recognition to this anniversary of the independence of Greece. This year, we join together again to honor the hard won independence of a land that will forever hold a special place in American culture. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank Representatives BILIRAKIS and MALONEY for their efforts to organize the House's celebration of this event tonight.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2,500 years ago the people of Greece began to formulate the ideas that now serve as the foundation for our system of government, science, philosophy, law, literature, and art. The gift of Greek culture to the world, and the special debt this nation owes to Greece, is priceless. The Greek tradition that began in the mists of time with Homer led to the Golden Age and later to the intellectual and aesthetic enrichment of the Roman Republic and Empire, the European Renaissance, and our own nation's founding principles.

We also share with Greece the triumphant experience of fighting for and winning inde-

pendence. In 1821, after nearly 2,000 years of foreign rule, the people of Greece rose up and declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. After nearly a decade of struggle, the Greek people won their freedom. Their cause was celebrated throughout the democratic world at the time, and continues to inspire us today.

Greece has contributed to this nation in other ways. It is difficult to find areas of this country where Greek-Americans have not contributed to the betterment of their communities. In my own area of Southern California, the vibrant Greek-American community has enriched all our lives. Recently, I was honored to take part in the annual celebration of the Hellenic-American Council of Southern California. Through this and many other excellent organizations, the Greek-American community has made important contributions to the United States.

In the Second World War, Greeks fought with Americans to turn back Nazi and Fascist aggression. After that war, Greece remained on the side of freedom and democracy, serving as an early bulwark against the spread of communist totalitarianism. The assistance provided to Greece beginning under the Truman Doctrine and later continued within the NATO alliance continued the strong link between our nations. This cooperation continues today, as both nations face the instability in the Balkans and other threats to peace in the region.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere good wishes to the people of Greece and those of Greek heritage on this happy occasion.

COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2589) to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2589, the "Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997" and of the Sensenbrenner amendment.

H.R. 2589 will extend existing U.S. copyrights for another 20 years. It will also align U.S. copyright laws with those in many European nations and in so doing prevent American creations from falling into the public domain while the works of authors in other countries are still being protected.

H.R. 2589 will benefit our nation's authors, songwriters, and other copyright holders who would enjoy 20 or more years of ownership rights and profits from their works. It is important that we recognize the contributions of our artistic community in this way. Artists who are talented or fortunate enough to see their work released to the public are entitled to retain control over that work, or at the very least continue to share in the financial benefits associated with it. This basic principle of copy-

right law becomes no less valid because a time limit set decades ago expires.

Our rapidly developing society means that information—and in fact the artistic properties we deal with in this matter—are readily accessible and exploited once in the public domain. This bill adequately strikes a balance between the interests of the creators and of the consumers of artistic works.

I support any effort here to ensure better compensation of those artists who do not currently benefit from the collective bargaining agreement struck in the early 1960's. Of course we must respect that agreement and its limitations, but we must also provide for fair compensation of those artists whose work brings great profits to the copyright holders.

I also urge support for the Sensenbrenner amendment which will protect small businesses from the "double dipping" that would occur if small businesses had to pay fees already paid by radio and television stations. The amendment will not exempt small businesses from fees for playing compact discs or other recorded music. This amendment will protect our small—and often minority—businesses from the crushing burden of payment of these fees.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY O. RAINER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, April 3, 1998 marks the conclusion of a remarkable term of service to Kentucky and our Nation. After a 34-year career, Jerry O. Rainer will retire from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management of the Nashville District.

During his tenure and under his leadership, this country has witnessed the construction of some of its largest public works, all bearing Jerry's combination of engineering skill, a drive to accomplish complex projects, a dedication to serving the customer, and an admirable public reserve.

The constituents of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District will remain in debt to Jerry for his stewardship of the massive flood control works now nearly complete along the Upper Cumberland River. Thousands of citizens now live and work without fear of being washed out of their homes and businesses, owing their newfound security to these projects and the people who prosecuted them under Jerry's day to day leadership.

Kentucky's most revered statesman, Henry Clay, is remembered among other things for emerging early in his U.S. Senate career as a spokesman for a system of federally funded improvements to our Nation's infrastructure. Clay's American System was an ambitious program of roads and canals needed to nurture our young union into an economically self-reliant nation.

The work that Clay championed is not unlike that which Jerry has been critical in implementing during his career with the Corps of Engineers: the massive Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, the rehabilitation of Wilson Lock, the Piney Grove Recreation Area,

the Upper Cumberland River Flood Prevention Project, and the new lock at Kentucky Dam. These and many other works are proof positive of the dedication and experience which Jerry has applied to the benefit of thousands of citizens living within communities served by the Nashville Corps District.

In recognition of his performance, Jerry is the recipient of no less than 21 service awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for outstanding leadership and management skills. And though a native of Mississippi and a life long Tennessean, we in Kentucky are proud to claim Jerry as one of our own.

The citizens of Kentucky and the House of Representatives thank and congratulate Jerry O. Rainer on his outstanding contributions to the Nashville District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Nation.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CAPTAIN JOSEPH D. SILVA AND HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MILPITAS, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and congratulate Captain Joseph D. Silva, a dedicated member of the Milpitas Police Department. After thirty-five years of outstanding service, Captain Silva will be retiring from the force.

Joseph Silva joined the Milpitas Police Department on February 4, 1963. Since then he has served in several capacities, making many lasting contributions to the force and community along the way. Joseph was promoted to Sergeant in 1966, Lieutenant in 1973, and again to Captain shortly thereafter.

Captain Silva played a major role in guiding the evolution of the department as Milpitas grew from a small farming town to a large urban community. He started the department's first inventory procedures for equipment and the first suspect identification system.

For eight years Captain Silva was a K-9 officer, wearing out five dogs in that time. He has served as a supervisor in patrol, traffic, and investigations, and was the first of many Milpitas Police Supervisors to attend the FBI Academy.

Captain Silva was pivotal in planning and establishing the modern police administration building and the new police car design. They will stand as tributes to his leadership and dedication.

Over his many years of service, Joseph Silva has been commended numerous times by the citizens of Milpitas and the law enforcement community. On March 1, 1998 the city will thank him again upon his retirement. I would like to join them by expressing my appreciation for his efforts. His leadership and commitment are an example and an inspiration for all of us. I wish him much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 1997 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1997 Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce Valor Award winners. The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery and ingenuity in the performance of duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal, the Silver Medal, the Bronze Medal, the Certificate of Valor, and the Lifesaving Award.

The Silver Medal Award Winners are Lieutenant Steve Barr, Technician I Richard Scott, and Technician I Channing Furr.

Lieutenant Barr, Technician I Scott, and Technician I Furr showed outstanding judgement and initiative after a car crashed into the rear of a restaurant. Beneath the car, a natural gas line severed by the crash created an explosion hazard, with the driver, suffering from severe traumatic injuries, trapped inside. Acting quickly and effectively, the team members were able to mitigate the gas leak and attend to the patient, by demonstrating outstanding initiative and judgement.

The Bronze Medal Award Winners are Officer Bryan E. Sutton and Officer J.S. Dillon.

Officer Sutton responded to a complainant whose husband was threatening suicide. The husband appeared before the wife and Officer Sutton brandishing a knife. Officer Sutton placed the wife out of harm's way and calmly talked the husband into surrendering, thereby bringing a potentially volatile situation to a safe conclusion.

Officer Dillon responded to a burglary in progress where shots had been fired. He arrived to find that suspect had taken an occupant hostage at gunpoint. Officer Dillon negotiated with the hostage, successfully diffusing a potentially life-threatening situation with no injuries or loss of life.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners are HM3 Robert R. Robinson II and Police Administrative Specialist Donna Lisa Belcher.

Petty Officer Robinson, while on vacation, heard about a severe accident on his CB radio. He proceeded to the scene where he located and assisted victims until medical help could arrive. Petty Officer Robinson's expertise, dedication to duty, and professionalism were a tremendous asset to the arriving rescue personnel.

Police Administrative Specialist Belcher assisted in the apprehension of a suspect who had been wanted for murder for several months. Due to her persistence and ingenuity, she was able to locate an address for an out-of-state relative where the suspect was found and arrested.

The Lifesaving Award Winner is Telecommunicator Alma Boteler.

Telecommunicator Boteler received an emergency 9-1-1 call from a man whose pregnant wife of six months was giving birth to her baby in a toilet. Because of Telecommuni-

cator Boteler's ability to effectively communicate life-saving procedures under difficult circumstances, the husband was able to remove the baby from the toilet and give it mouth to mouth resuscitation, saving the baby's life.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating these fine heroes, who every day, unselfishly devote themselves to aiding those in need. I have the highest appreciation for their untiring dedication and outstanding service.

TRANE COMPANY'S APPLIED GLOBAL SYSTEMS GROUP E.P.A.'S 1998 ENERGY STAR BUILDINGS ALLY OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the La Crosse-based Trane Company's Applied Global Systems Group for being recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a recipient of the 1998 Energy Star Buildings Ally of the Year Award. This award is given to businesses that promote the use of energy-efficient products and contribute to air pollution prevention. The E.P.A.'s Energy Star Buildings Ally Program proves that business and government can not only coexist, but can actually achieve mutually beneficial goals, energy efficient cost-savings and lower emissions.

This award symbolizes a great success for Trane Company and demonstrates how far the company has come since the late 1980's and early 1990's when they faced a steadily declining sales and workforce reductions. It was feared this employer, a cornerstone of employment in the region, would leave the community.

Fortunately, a commitment was made by both management and the employees of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union Locals 21 and 1115 to cultivate a team concept and to foster a partnership for a friendly work environment that promotes pride, encourages a new level of trust and embraces new negotiation tactics in labor relations. Today, the employees and management view each other as allies rather than adversaries, and they work to achieve goals that are fair and productive to the employees and the company. That is part of the reason why the La Crosse Business Unit of Trane Co., responsible for the design, marketing and manufacture of centrifugal water chillers, absorption cold generators and scroll compressors for commercial air conditioning products, was named the 1996 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year.

Currently, Trane Company employs more than 3,000 employees in La Crosse. They offer industry leading products to an international market. The drive to succeed and dominate in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and building management industries has enabled them to successfully identify the need for energy efficient and environmentally friendly products. The confidence Trane Co.

has in their employees' ability to offer bold, new products to their customers ensures that the company will continue to dominate the market for years to come.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Trane Company and its employees on a well-deserved award and wish them continued success in what promises to be a bright and prosperous future as they enter the 21st Century.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT
CHARLES PARKER UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE MIS-
SISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents for his long and distinguished career in the Mississippi Army National Guard. First Sergeant Charles Parker of Calhoun City, Mississippi, is the full-time Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Company B, 223rd Combat Engineer Battalion in Calhoun City. He is retiring this spring after 33 years of honorable service to his state and nation.

His steady leadership and hard work earned First Sergeant Parker the respect of his peers and his subordinates throughout the Mississippi National Guard. He is credited with raising the strength level of his unit by more than 50 percent after it was reorganized. His technical, administrative, and leadership skills have been key factors in the company's consistently high performance ratings over the years. First Sergeant Parker has also led by example. In each of the last 14 Army physical fitness tests, he has scored more than 300 point maximum.

His commanding officer said there is no better soldier anywhere in the Mississippi National Guard, citing his positive attitude and willingness to go beyond the call of duty in support of his fellow Guardsmen and their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in saluting First Sergeant Charles Parker for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. DONNA M.
LOONEY FOR HER APPOINTMENT
TO THE COMMAND OF THE U.S.S.
PLATT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to CDR Donna Looney for her appointment to the command of the U.S.S. *Platt* by the United States Navy tomorrow evening.

CDR Looney, originally from Simsbury, Connecticut, recently graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, in Newport, RI, and is being honored with the command of a U.S.

Navy fleet oiler, the U.S.S. *Platt*. As one of the few female pioneers to command a Naval ship, CDR Looney has set herself apart as a fine role model for young women as well as fellow Naval officers. For her leadership and tremendous achievements in the United States Navy, CDR Looney deserves our praise and recognition.

Today, I congratulate CDR Donna Looney for her appointment as commander of the U.S.S. *Platt* and I commend her for the hard work and sacrifices which were instrumental in attaining this meritorious position in the United States Navy.

IN HONOR OF SUNIL AGHI, AN AD-
VOCATE FOR THE INDO-AMER-
ICAN COMMUNITY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of the Indo-American community, Mr. Sunil Aghi. Mr. Aghi is founder and President of the Indo-American Political Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing Indo-Americans into the mainstream political process. Through this Foundation, Mr. Aghi hopes to bring full equality and participation of minorities and other ethnic groups into the political process. Mr. Aghi has also worked hard to ensure that Indo-Americans are fully represented in political and elected offices. He understands that Indo-Americans should have their own voices in all levels of government to ensure that the needs of the Indo-American community are met by our elected officials.

Mr. Aghi looks forward to joining forces with other organizations which represent diverse ethnic groups to form coalitions that will give an even stronger voice to new citizens who are eager to learn more and become involved in American politics.

But the most important work that Mr. Aghi does, in his work as founder of Thank You America. Thank You America is an organization dedicated to providing food and clothing to the homeless of Orange County on Thanksgiving Day. Each year this group assists over 500 homeless individuals and families with warm meals and clothing during the holidays. Mr. Aghi is planning to expand Thank You America's services to help needy families year round.

Mr. Aghi truly understands the meaning of thanks. His tireless efforts are a model for all to follow. Mr. Aghi gives thanks everyday to America through his unselfish work, and I thank Mr. Aghi for his vital role in our communities.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN OF GREAT
ESTEEM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Women of Great Esteem, an

organization that supports the advancement of women in a multi-cultural environment. This worthy group assists the homeless, works to combat violence in the community, provides educational training, and conducts AIDS outreach. Each year, Women of Great Esteem honors women who embody these goals of service to others. This week, seven women who have dedicated their lives to the community will be honored at the Second Annual Women of Great Esteem Awards.

The Honorable Una S. Clarke, Dr. Rosalind Jeffries, Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown, Rev. Barbara Pennant, Ms. Waveny Joseph, Ms. Alourdes C. Lovinski and Ms. Ivonne Mercado-Ford each deserve our sincerest thanks for their commitment to bettering the lives of women everywhere. They have challenged the community to recognize the appreciate diversity and affirm the gifts, talents and dignity of all women.

It is a great pleasure to congratulate these women for their achievement, and I too express my gratitude to Women of Great Esteem for their valuable service.

COMMENDING DR. PANAYOTIS
IATRIDIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Dr. Panayotis Iatridis, a decorated physician who has devoted his life to the scholarly pursuit of medical education, on his 23rd anniversary as Assistant Dean and Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education at the Indiana University School of Medicine. In honor of his 23 years of outstanding service, the Advisory Council for the Northwest Center for Medical Education will host a recognition dinner on the evening of Saturday, March 28, 1998, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana.

On July 1, 1975, Dr. Iatridis was named Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education, where he had served as Associate Professor and Director of the Physiology Course for medical students since 1972. During his 25 years with the Northwest Center, he has been integrally involved in every aspect of its operation, including the curriculum, administration, and service to students. As a member of the faculty, Dr. Iatridis organized and implemented a variety of courses, seminars, educational programs, and conferences for medical students, graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, faculty, and physicians in Northwest Indiana. Perhaps Dr. Iatridis' most noteworthy contribution to the Northwest Center's curriculum came in 1990, with his development and implementation of the "Regional Center Alternative Pathway", which is the educational program for first- and second-year medical students. Dr. Iatridis is also responsible for all administrative and academic affairs of the Northwest Center, and he has devoted much of his time to assisting medical students through different aspects of counseling and advising, including pre-medical student counseling and research project advising.

In addition to his dedicated work with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Iatridis has utilized his talents for the betterment of the Northwest Indiana community. Some of the organizations he has served include the City of Gary Economic Development Commission, the Gary Community School Corporation, the Lake and Porter County Medical Society Care of the Indigent Committee, and the Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation. Dr. Iatridis has also served as a board member of the Porter County Mental Health Association, Vice-Chairman of the Lake County Community Health Association, Chairman of the Lake County Medical Advisory Committee of the Community Health Association, the Program Committee of the Gary Rotary Club, and the Porter Starke Infection Control Committee.

Dr. Iatridis has received numerous prestigious awards, honors, and recognitions for his many professional and public service achievements. In recognition of his professional accomplishments, he received a Special Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education by the Asian-American Medical Society, in 1991; a commendation from the Asian-American Medical Society for Outstanding Contribution to Medical Education in Northwest Indiana, in 1997; and the Wisdom Award of Honor from the Wisdom Society for the Advancement of Knowledge, Learning, and Research in Education, earlier this year. For his service to the community, Dr. Iatridis earned the Hank Jacobsen Award from the Gary Rotary Club, in 1985; the Edgar L. Mills Community Service Award from the Post-Tribune, in 1987; and the Medal of St. Paul from the Archdiocesan of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Panayotis Iatridis on the occasion of his 23rd anniversary as Assistant Dean and Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education. His wife, Catherine, their two daughters, Yanna and Mary, and their two granddaughters, Katerina and Anastasia, should be proud of his achievements. Indeed, Dr. Iatridis' efforts have made an indelible mark on the advancement of medical education, as well as an improvement in the quality of life for everyone in Northwest Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK L. SELKIRK

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church and its congregation. This Sunday, March 29, Dr. Frank L. Selkirk III, a respected leader and friend in Kansas City, Missouri will be installed as the Senior Pastor.

The history of Rev. Selkirk and Zion Grove are very much intertwined. At the age of eight, Rev. Selkirk became a member of Zion Grove, and at the age of twelve, preached his first trial sermon there. He was fondly referred to as the "Boy Wonder" by ministers in our com-

munity. Rev. Selkirk has more than the name of his father and grandfather, he continues to follow the Selkirk tradition by becoming a third generation preacher in his family.

After graduating from the University of Kansas, he received his Master of Divinity at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard University. He has traveled extensively to sixty countries serving as a minister in several of them. Rev. Selkirk has established an outstanding reputation among his peers and is known for his down home preaching. Rev. Selkirk has served as senior pastor in California and as an area minister for the American Baptist Churches where he served ninety churches as "pastor to pastors."

Under his direction as Pastor, the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church raised one hundred thousand dollars in ninety days to pay off the Church mortgage. In celebration of this feat, I joined the entire congregation and many guests from our area in January for a mortgage Burning Service whose theme was "Burning the Past—Blazing on Toward the New."

This is an appropriate theme for Rev. Selkirk's ongoing mission to his growing congregation. His goal is to provide day care and after school services as additional resources for his congregation. As a counselor, gang prevention specialist, and revival preacher, he uses his faith as an influential tool to solve the problems which afflict our community.

I recognize Rev. Selkirk today because of his distinguished accomplishments. He continues to deliver positive messages to encourage a legacy of new beginnings. Rev. Selkirk envisions a future brimming with opportunity and charity for all people. Our community is blessed to have a leader who creates a significant difference in the lives of everyone he encounters. Those that hear his sermons or work with him on civic projects realize that he leaves his impression upon their lives. Recipients of his message walk away with a lasting feeling that motivates them to take action and use their talents to better the lives of everyone.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Rev. Frank Selkirk III, and the Zion Grove congregation. Together they have formed a union devoted to serving the needs of our community through Christian example and duty.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. HARRISON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that makes America great is that in towns and cities across our nation there are citizens who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talent and energy to make life better for their friends and neighbors. The city of Perris, California has been fortunate to have many citizens who have given so freely of themselves in their dedication to the future of the youngest members of our district. Mr. John R. Harrison is one of these outstanding individuals.

Mr. Harrison has been an instrumental part of Perris Valley area business and youth programs for many years. After graduating from college, he became a partner in Dan's Feed & Seed, a business which supplies the Perris Valley and surrounding areas with animal feed, seed, veterinary supplies, hardware and plumbing items. He has since become a 100% shareholder in Dan's Feed & Seed and expanded his operation to include stores in Perris, Hemet, and Temecula. He also owns a grain handling facility in Blythe. As a result of his dedication to the business community, Mr. Harris is active in various civic groups in Perris. He is the past president and only remaining charter member of the Perris Rotary Club, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Perris Farm Bureau, and the current president of the Perris Alumni Association. In 1994, Mr. Harrison received the Howie Award from the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

In 1953, he started the Perris Panthers 4-H club and was its leader until the mid-1960's. His continued involvement in the organization has produced one of the strongest 4-H clubs in Riverside County. Mr. Harrison has also been instrumental in the original organization of Perris Little League. Mr. Harrison has been a member and past president of the Farmers Fair Board and has served as chairman of the Farmers Fair Livestock Auction for 30 years. Due to his dedication, this auction is one of the most prosperous in the fair system, successfully raising money for the 4-H club and Future Farmers of America member's college tuition.

In recognition of his many accomplishments in various business and youth organizations in Perris, I commend John Harrison for his contributions and dedicated service to his community. I encourage Mr. Harrison to continue with his involvement and wish him much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLISH FALCONS, NEST 725

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Milwaukee-based Nest 725 of the Polish Falcons of America, as they celebrate their 82nd anniversary with a banquet dedicated to the Mystical Rose, Our Lady of Czestochowa, on Sunday, April 19, 1998.

A nationwide fraternal organization, the Polish Falcons are dedicated to the physical fitness of youth. By offering classes in tumbling, dance (traditional Polish, modern, and tap), aerobics, track and field, basketball, volleyball, and soccer, the Polish Falcons provide a varied program for all skills levels and ages. The group believes in a strong mind and a strong body.

Organized in Milwaukee of December 10, 1916, Nest 725 members have participated in numerous national and district athletic competitions, gaining the National All Around Championships in 1984, 1988 and 1992. Furthermore, Nest 725 was crowned National

Gymnastics Champions in 1984 and the Adult Dance Class achieved the National Championship in both 1986 and 1994.

To the adult leaders of the Polish Falcons, Nest 725, I commend you on your fine example of providing structured athletic guidance for today's youth, while maintaining an all-important tie to our proud Polish history and traditions. And to all the members, best wishes for the future and Sto Lat!

HONORING MAJOR ROBERT A. PORTZ, NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 26, 1998, Major Robert "Bob" Portz will bid farewell to his duties with the North Miami Police Department and retire to the Texas wilderness. He has received numerous commendations during his 22 years of service and is highly regarded by his peers.

Major Portz was then the youngest member of the North Miami force when he assumed his duties at the age of 20 on December 29, 1975. Over the years, he has demonstrated his talents in the patrol division, detective bureau, traffic unit, and tactical unit. He was promoted to Major on July 7, 1992, and made a lasting impression on the department by introducing the community policing concept to North Miami.

Major Portz assumed command of the Patrol Division in October 1994, where he still oversees operations.

A graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's prestigious National Academy, Major Portz has been recognized by his peers three times as Officer of the Month for his outstanding police work.

The husband of Linda and father of Jennifer, Major Portz has been a shining example of honor and professionalism throughout his career. As he enters the next stage of his life, I congratulate him and wish him continued happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce H.R. 3558, a bill to limit the tax benefits of so-called "stapled" or "paired-share" Real Estate Investment Trusts ("stapled REITs"). Identical legislation is being introduced in the Senate by Senator ROTH.

In the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Congress eliminated the tax benefits of the stapled REIT structure out of concern that it could effectively result in one level of tax on active corporate business income that would otherwise be subject to two levels of tax. Congress also believed that allowing a corporate business to be stapled to a REIT was inconsistent

with the policy that led Congress to create REITs.

As part of the 1984 Act provision, Congress provided grandfather relief to the small number of stapled REITs that were already in existence. Since 1984, however, almost all of the grandfathered stapled REITs have been acquired by new owners. Some have entered into new lines of businesses, and most of the grandfathered REITs have used the stapled structure to engage in large scale acquisitions of assets. Such unlimited relief from a general tax provision by a handful of taxpayers raises new questions not only of fairness, but of unfair competition because the stapled REITs are in direct competition with other companies that cannot use the benefits of the stapled structure.

This legislation, which is a refinement of the proposal contained in the Clinton Administration's Revenue Proposals for fiscal year 1999, takes a moderate and fair approach. The legislation essentially subjects the grandfathered stapled REITs to rules similar to the 1984 Act, but only to acquisitions of assets (or substantial improvements of existing assets) occurring after today. The legislation also provides transition relief for future acquisitions that are pursuant to a binding written contract, as well as acquisitions that already have been announced (or described in a filing with the SEC).

A technical explanation of the legislation is provided below.

TECHNICAL EXPLANATION

The tax benefits of the stapled real estate investment trust ("REIT") structure were curtailed for almost all taxpayers by section 269B, which was enacted by the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 ("1984 Act"). The bill limits the tax benefits of a few stapled REITs that continue to qualify under the 1984 Act's grandfather rule.

A REIT is an entity that receives most of its income from passive real-estate related investments and that essentially receives pass-through treatment for income that is distributed to shareholders. In general, a REIT must derive its income from passive sources and not engage in any active trade or business. In a stapled REIT structure, both the shares of a REIT and a C corporation may be traded, and in most cases publicly traded, but are subject to a provision that they may not be sold separately. Thus, the REIT and the C corporation have identical ownership at all times.

Overview

Under the bill, rules similar to the rules of present law treating a REIT and all stapled entities as a single entity for purposes of determining REIT status (sec. 269B) would apply to real property interests acquired after March 26, 1998, by the existing stapled REIT, or by a stapled entity, or a subsidiary or partnership in which a 10-percent or greater interest is owned by the existing stapled REIT or stapled entity (together referred to as the "REIT group"), unless the real property is grandfathered under the rules discussed below. Different rules would be applied to certain mortgage interests acquired by the REIT group after March 26, 1998, where a member of the REIT group performs services with respect to the property secured by the mortgage.

General rules

The bill treats certain activities and gross income of a REIT group with respect to real

property interests held by any member of the REIT group (and not grandfathered under the rules described below) as activities and income of the REIT for certain purposes. This treatment would apply for purposes of certain provisions of the REIT rules that depend on the REIT's gross income, including the requirement that 95 percent of a REIT's gross income be from passive sources (the "95-percent test") and the requirement that 75 percent of a REIT's gross income be from real estate sources (the "75-percent test"). Thus, for example, where a stapled entity earns gross income from operating a non-grandfathered real property held by a member of the REIT group, such gross income would be treated as income of the REIT, with the result that either the 75-percent or 95-percent test might not be met and REIT status might be lost.

If a REIT or stapled entity owns, directly or indirectly, a 10-percent-or-greater interest in a subsidiary or partnership that holds a real property interest, the above rules would apply with respect to a proportionate part of the subsidiary's or partnership's property, activities and gross income. Thus, any real property acquired by such a subsidiary or partnership that is not grandfathered under the rules described below would be treated as held by the REIT in the same proportion as the ownership interest in the entity. The same proportion of the subsidiary's or partnership's gross income from any real property interest (other than a grandfathered property) held by it or another member of the REIT group would be treated as income of the REIT. Similar rules attributing the proportionate part of the subsidiary's or partnership's real estate interests and gross income would apply when a REIT or stapled entity acquires a 10-percent-or-greater interest (or in the case of a previously-owned entity, acquires an additional interest) after March 26, 1998, with exceptions for interests acquired pursuant to agreements or announcements described below.

Grandfathered properties

Under the bill, there is an exception to the treatment of activities and gross income of a stapled entity as activities and gross income of the REIT for certain grandfathered properties. Grandfathered properties generally are those properties that had been acquired by a member of the REIT group on or before March 26, 1998. In addition, grandfathered properties include properties acquired by a member of the REIT group after March 26, 1998, pursuant to a written agreement which was binding on March 26, 1998, and all times thereafter. Grandfathered properties also include certain properties, the acquisition of which were described in a public announcement or in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or before March 26, 1998.

In general, a property does not lose its status as a grandfathered property by reason of a repair to, an improvement of, or a lease of, a grandfathered property. On the other hand, a property loses its status as a grandfathered property under the bill to the extent that a non-qualified expansion is made to an otherwise grandfathered property. A non-qualified expansion is either (1) an expansion beyond the boundaries of the land of the otherwise grandfathered property or (2) an improvement of an otherwise grandfathered property placed in service after December 31, 1999, which changes the use of the property and whose cost is greater than 200 percent of (a) the undepreciated cost of the property (prior to the improvement) or (b) in the case of property acquired where there is a substituted basis, the fair market value of the

property on the date that the property was acquired by the stapled entity or the REIT. A non-qualified expansion could occur, for example, if a member of the REIT group were to construct a building after December 31, 1999, on previously undeveloped raw land that had been acquired on or before March 26, 1998. There is an exception for improvements placed in service before January 1, 2004, pursuant to a binding contract in effect on December 31, 1999, and at all times thereafter.

If a stapled REIT is not stapled as of March 26, 1998, or if it fails to qualify as a REIT as of such date or any time thereafter, no properties of any member of the REIT group would be treated as grandfathered properties, and thus the general provisions of the bill described above would apply to all properties held by the group.

Mortgage rules

Special rules would apply where a member of the REIT group holds a mortgage (that is not an existing obligation under the rules described below) that is secured by an interest in real property, where a member of the REIT group engages in certain activities with respect to that property. The activities that would have this effect under the bill are activities that would result in a type of income that is not treated as counting toward the 75-percent and 95-percent tests if they are performed by the REIT. In such cases, all interest on the mortgage and all gross income received by a member of the REIT group from the activity would be treated as income of the REIT that does not count toward the 75-percent or 95-percent tests, with the result that REIT status might be lost. In the case of a 10-percent-or-greater partnership or subsidiary, a proportionate part of the entity's mortgages, interest and gross income from activities would be subject to the above rules.

An exception to the above rules would be provided for mortgage the interest on which does not exceed an arm's-length rate and which would be treated as interest for purposes of the REIT rules (e.g., the 75-percent and 95-percent tests, above). An exception also would be available for certain mortgages that are held on March 26, 1998, by an entity that is a member of the REIT group. The exception for existing mortgages would cease to apply if the mortgage is refinanced and the principal amount is increased in such refinancing.

Other rules

For a corporate subsidiary owned by a stapled entity, the 10-percent ownership test would be met if a stapled entity owns, directly or indirectly, 10 percent or more of the corporation's stock, by either vote or value. (The bill would not apply to a stapled REIT's ownership of a corporate subsidiary, although a stapled REIT would be subject to the normal restrictions on a REIT's ownership of stock in a corporation.) For interests in partnerships and other pass-through entities, the ownership test would be met if either the REIT or a stapled entity owns, directly or indirectly, a 10-percent or greater interest.

The Secretary of the Treasury would be given authority to prescribe such guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the provision, including guidance to prevent the double counting of income and to prevent transactions that would avoid the purposes of the provision.

HONORING SOUTH FLORIDA WOMEN IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of women who have served as a wonderful example to the nation of true commitment and service to their community. "In the Company of Women" was begun in 1989 when a need was identified to recognize outstanding local women for their service to the South Florida community.

This year, 13 women leaders will be recognized for their contributions to the Miami-Dade County community at the 10th annual "In the Company of Women" celebration. The honorees will be Marleine Bastien, Laura Bethel, Mona Bethel Jackson, Kathy Gomez, Daniella Levine Cava, Diana Montes de Oca Lopez, Mary Lynch, Maria Marquez, Robin Riether-Garagalli and Meredith Pleasant Sparks. The women honored as pioneers are Sheba Major Martin, Ruth Wolkowsky Greenfield, and Mary Stanley-Low Machado.

The Cuban patriot Jose Marti once said: "Action is the dignity of greatness." These women have personified the true meaning of community action in giving of themselves and utilizing their God-given talents to help others. The women honored at this month's ceremony, which culminates Women's History month, have been key players in advancing the quality of life in South Florida. They have managed to balance family and career while caring for those in our community who are in most need.

THE 1998 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young Pennsylvania student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Kelly Shelinsky of Philadelphia has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Shelinsky is being recognized for establishing Kelly's Books for Bedtimes, a campaign to collect new and gently used children's books which are then donated to the local hospital. Kelly believes in the power of books to energize the imagination, especially for those children recovering from an illness in a hospital bed. After spending many nights in Children's Hospital recovering from a chronic illness, Kelly realized that the children's playroom had many toys and games, but only a handful of books. She began to solicit donations through local newspapers, church bulletins, and word-of-mouth, and has collected

more than 3,700 books. Thanks to Kelly's efforts, Children's Hospital has initiated a program called Reach Out and Read, for which books are being placed in the homes of families who have none. She plans to expand Kelly's Books for Bedtimes further to help improve literacy among inner city children.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Shelinsky are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only three years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 30,000 youngsters participating.

Ms. Shelinsky should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Shelinsky for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. FLOYD R. GIBSON

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Floyd R. Gibson, Senior Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit who will be celebrating his recent birthday this Sunday with his friends. Judge Gibson has dedicated his professional career to public service. From his graduation from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1933 where he earned both his law degree and bachelor's degree, through his 32 years on the Eighth Circuit, Floyd R. Gibson has enriched our community.

Floyd and his lovely wife, Gertrude have raised three successful children, Charles, John, and Catherine. His family accomplishments occurred while demonstrating a distinguished career in public policy and the law. Judge Gibson entered private practice in the Kansas City area upon his graduation where

he rose to become a named partner in three firms. While in private practice, Judge Gibson was elected County Counselor for Jackson County.

He later turned his efforts to state government where he served 21 years in both the House and Senate of the Missouri General Assembly. The Judge distinguished himself in the Missouri Senate as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Majority Floor Leader, and in his final term as President Pro Tem of the Senate. His success did not go unnoticed—in 1960 the "St. Louis Globe Democrat" newspaper named Floyd Gibson the Most Valuable Member of the Legislature.

With such credentials, President John F. Kennedy nominated him in 1961 to become a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Missouri. Judge Gibson was named to the position of Chief Judge one year to the day of his September 1961 appointment. In June of 1965 President Johnson appointed Judge Gibson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He served as the Eighth Circuit Chief Judge from 1974 to 1980 when he assumed senior status.

The Judge has received numerous awards and honors, as well as having been published on many occasions. A member of the Missouri, Kansas City, Federal, and American Bar Associations, Judge Gibson has distinguished himself through his legal work. He gives back to our community through his service on the Board of Trustees for the University of Missouri-Kansas City and as an Advisory Director to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

A Kansas Citian for more than 80 years, Senior Judge Floyd Gibson is a critical part of our community's fabric and history. Through his decisions he has invoked a sense of equity and fairness that have benefitted our citizens. His work in codifying the probate statutes have improved the system significantly.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to salute a great friend and legal scholar of the bar, Floyd R. Gibson, Senior Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit.

RECOGNIZING JUDY STANLEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, March 29, 1998, The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield will host their annual Molly Pitcher Awards Reception. The recipient of this year's Molly Pitcher Award is Judith Hurley Stanley, a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey who has selflessly served the community in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Stanley has been active in issues and causes at a local, county and state level for as long as I can remember. She has been involved in the health care profession and has held numerous positions in the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey of which she currently serves as chairman. The Monmouth Medical Center and the Mid-Atlantic Health Group have also been blessed with Judy's involvement. The Governor recognized

Judy's expertise in this area when she was appointed to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Judy is also the founder and president of the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation. Generations of New Jersey residents will reap the benefits of Judy's efforts to preserve countless acres of beautiful open space in the Garden State through her activity in this organization and through her service on the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors.

Beyond the preservation of open space, Judy has helped preserve the history of Monmouth County through her association with the Monmouth County Historical Association. And it is noteworthy that beyond the efforts to preserve space and facts, Judy's numerous associations in the area of education have illustrated her desire to share the facts, ideas, and knowledge that she has sought to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, Molly Pitcher's fame stemmed from her heroic service to our nation's troops during the Revolutionary War. During the War, Molly tirelessly refreshed the troops with pitchers of water. Judy Stanley truly exemplifies the true spirit of Molly Pitcher through her countless efforts to replenish and maintain Monmouth County and the state of New Jersey.

I would like to add my name to the extensive list of organizations, association, and clubs that have recognized Judy's outstanding service and extend my congratulations to her on this award.

SALUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1998, I had the privilege of introducing a close friend of mine, Wayne Hitchcock, to the members of the House and Senate Committees on Veteran's Affairs. Wayne is the National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and was appearing to present his organization's legislative priorities to the Committees.

Throughout the history of the United States, in six major wars spanning 221 years, more than 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner. Each of these courageous men and women has experienced horrors unimaginable and undefinable in the annals of civilized existence. Most endured long-term deprivation of freedom and the loss of human dignity. Wayne was among those 500,000 Americans, and I wanted to take a moment to share his story with my colleagues.

Wayne was reared on a farm in Indiana and entered the military in 1942. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps and sent to Aerial Gunner School at Buckingham Air Base. He remained there as an instructor and later joined a combat crew and trained for overseas duty in B-24s.

Upon arriving in Foggia, Italy, his crew was assigned to B-17s. Wayne, flying as tail gunner, was shot down on his 14th mission over Hungary. After a few infamous box car rides, he spent 13 months in Stalag 17B in Krems, Austria.

The camp was evacuated on April 8, 1945. The prisoners were marched across Austria

and liberated on May 3, 1945 by Patton's Third Army.

Wayne was awarded, among others, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Upon returning home, Wayne became a homebuilder, land developer and real estate broker. He later returned to government service and retired after 30 years, including 23 years as postmaster.

Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Jo, moved to Florida. Since then, they have donated their time to the American Ex-Prisoner of War. Wayne has held office and served on essential committees at the department and national level since 1982. He was also instrumental in obtaining funds for the National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville, Georgia.

This past year, he served as Senior Vice Commander for the American Ex-POWs and as their National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He was elected and installed as National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War on September 27, 1997, at the 50th National Convention held in Tacoma, Washington.

Wayne is also a life member of the VFW, the American Legion and the DAV. His service to the community goes beyond his work for our nation's veterans. He also served as a Boy Scout master for 20 years and is a 40 year member of Lions International.

I have known Wayne and Jo since I became a member of Congress. Without question, they are among the finest people that I know.

Over the years, Wayne has served as a member of my veteran's advisory council. As a member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I have always valued his advice and support. He is a good friend and a great American.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH AIR BASE AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the 43rd Congressional District has been fortunate to participate in the writing of United States military history. I take the floor today to praise and honor a military installation that is an important part of Riverside, California. For the past 80 years, March Air Reserve Base, as it is now called, has contributed to the defense of our country and made a lasting impression in the lives of many service men and women. The March community is currently celebrating a milestone—the 80th anniversary of the installation and the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve.

As March Air Force Base, it witnessed many advances in aircraft technology, from the JN-4D "Jenny" which landed there in 1917, to the KC-10 which was housed at the base in the 1980's. On March 20, 1918, March Field was

officially named in honor of Second Lieutenant Peyton C. March, who had been recently killed in a flying accident. From there, Captain William Carruthers took over as the field's first commander. Following World War I, March Field was forced to close its doors due to budget cuts. With the creation of the Army Air Corps in 1926, March Field soon reopened as a pilot training field, training such luminaries as Hoyt Vandenberg, Nathan Twining, Thomas Power and Curtis LeMay. March Field became an operational base in 1931 and in 1949 became a part of the relatively new Strategic Air Command. From 1949 through 1993, March Air Force Base served as an integral part of the Strategic Air Command and America's nuclear deterrent force, a logistical springboard for supplies and equipment during the conflict in Southeast Asia and an effective support for the United States' defensive posture. March Air Force Base received its first Reserve unit in 1960.

In 1993, March Air Force Base was selected for realignment. Knowing how important the base has been historically and realizing its significance for the future, I fought vigorously to insure that it remained open. From its inception as a dirt air strip to today, the base has been a key element in the advancement of aviation and the growth of the modern Air Force. The impact of March Air Reserve Base's contributions to the community and the nation will be appreciated for many years to come. As March Air Reserve Base restructures, I want to offer them my full support, encourage them to look to their future as a large and important Air Force Reserve Base and look forward to their continued contributions to the defense of the United States.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A
NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege and honor to congratulate the people of Greece on the 177th anniversary of their nation's independence. The Hellenic Republic has held high the torch of democracy since its inception in 1821, reflecting a love of freedom, justice, and self-government rooted both in its renowned history as well as in the exuberant spirit of its people. The ancient Greeks served as one of America's most inspiring examples during the creation of our Republic, and more recently has stood by our side as one of our closest and most loyal allies.

The governments of ancient Greece were the original laboratories of democratic government. Thousands of years ahead of their time, the leaders of these legendary city-states were powered by the then-revolutionary notion that the choices of individual voters could result in a fair, free, democratic government emboldened by the confidence of the populace and driven by the interests of its constituents. Centuries later, the lessons of their civic experiments would provide the intellectual foundation for the birth of America's own de-

mocracy. "To the ancient Greeks," Thomas Jefferson once proclaimed, "we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves, the American colonies, out of Gothic darkness."

Forty-five years after the birth of the United States, the Greek people determined to fight to end their own "darkness." Following both the examples of their forefathers and the encouragement of their American contemporaries, the Greeks rebelled against hundreds of years of domination by the Ottoman Empire. Their war of independence, which began on March 25, 1821, lasted seven years and received the full support of the young American nation. President James Monroe described the Greek struggle in 1822: "That such a country should have been overwhelmed and so long hidden under a gloomy despotism has been a cause of unceasing and deep regret. A strong hope is entertained that these people will recover their independence and resume their equal station among the nations of the Earth." Six years later this battle for freedom ended victoriously, as the Greek people overcame seemingly insuperable odds to establish a modern state with the intellectual and moral strength to match their ancient predecessors.

The record of the Hellenic Republic shows the realization of this early promise. Greece has stood on the front lines of the fight for international justice as one of only three nations in the world outside of the British Empire to serve on the side of the United States in every major international conflict of this century. One out of every nine Greeks died while defending their country against Nazi oppression during World War II. During the half-century since that brutal conflict, a strong and principled Greece has worked with the United States as member of NATO, standing firm against communism and, in more recent times, the abridgment of human rights in the Balkans and elsewhere throughout the world. Throughout all of these obstacles, Greece's dedication to democratic principles has remained steadfast and proud.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Hellenic Caucus and on behalf of the citizens of California's Twelfth Congressional District, I am proud to commemorate the 177th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE MARIA JEFFERSON CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to offer my congratulations to the Maria Jefferson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on celebrating 100 years of service to northeast Florida.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in Washington, DC in October of 1890 with Caroline Scott Harrison, the wife of U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, as its first president. Just eight years later, on March 26, 1898, Saint

Augustine, Florida became home to the Maria Jefferson Chapter of the DAR, named for the daughter of President Thomas Jefferson. I am proud to represent Saint Augustine, the nation's oldest city of European extraction, and proud to call many of the Chapter's members my constituents and friends. The Florida State Society of the DAR boasts 106 chapters with over 8,000 members.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are descendants of those who aided in achieving American Independence. The National Society accepts service, with some exceptions, for the period between April 19, 1775 (Battle of Lexington) and November 26, 1783 (withdrawal of British Troops from New York). Among those ancestors with accepted service are signers of the Declaration of Independence, those with military service and those whose ancestors gave patriotic service in the Continental Congress, State Conventions and Assemblies, committees made necessary by the war, members of the Boston Tea Party, doctors and nurses and other rendering aid to the wounded and prisoners of war or refugees from occupying forces.

Those of us who have been to the DAR Constitution Hall, here in Washington, DC, have enjoyed the building's beauty and grandeur, courtesy of the devoted members of the DAR. However, because of the selfless way in which the members perform their community service, most of us have never heard what the DAR usually does on a daily basis. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the lofty goals of honoring our nation's historic forebears, preserving our nation's heritage and promoting education.

The members of the DAR not only honor their ancestors who have served our country, they themselves serve its citizens by visiting disabled veterans at their homes, in hospitals and in nursing homes. They sold recreational activities for patients such as carnivals and picnics and participate in special programs for homeless veterans such as medical and social screening and providing buddy bags. Some chapters give special support to needy, individual women veterans and participate in special women's health care programs. This year, five chapters in Florida are raising special funds towards the purchase of a van to transport veterans between medical appointments.

The DAR works with schools to help instill historical awareness and pride in our country by presenting medals and college scholarships and provide boarding schools for underprivileged children. DAR members also present American flags to schools and other public institutions and sponsor historic plaques.

I am thrilled to be able to use this opportunity to call attention to the work of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Saint Augustine's Maria Jefferson Chapter and the Chapter's regent Jane Rhea Douglas for their selfless and important work on behalf of our nation's veterans both past and present.

Congratulations Maria Jefferson Chapter on your 100th birthday. I send to you my sincere wishes that the new millennium may hold in store many more years of commendable service to our community.

CURBING UNAPPROVED UNION SPENDING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last week the AFL-CIO announced that it would launch a campaign against California Proposition 226, the June 2 referendum that suspends labor unions' incessant practice of contributing portions of dues to political campaigns that their members may oppose. This initiative and others like it in states across the country require unions to receive approval from union members before contributing dues money to political entities.

Labor organizations feel that their role in the political arena would suffer if they were forced to tell the truth about union dues. Mr. Speaker, the issue here pertains to individuals' hard-earned wages, not the unions ability to influence government. Working Americans must be assured of their right to decide where to spend their paychecks. The overbearing role that the forced-membership labor groups have played in the lives of dedicated men and women is appalling.

I find it unbelievable that, in a nation that guarantees liberty and justice for all, unions can force members to fund political campaigns that they do not support. Proposition 226 and similar initiatives in 30 other states would put an end to this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, we must do our part in this fight against ruthless labor unions and the obtrusive role that they have played in the lives of so many Americans. Curbing unsolicited political donations from union members is a good place to start.

EXTENDING THE VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and to provide for the collection of data with respect to the number of nonimmigrants who remain in the United States after the expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of HR 2578, a bill to extend the visa waiver pilot program till the year 2000. The current law is a good measure and is expected to red line this April 30, 1998.

I think it is important to allow tourists and business travelers from many Western European countries as well as Australia and Japan to come here for business and for pleasure. It boosts the economy and it allows people to see our great country first-hand. However, I also believe that the visa waiver pilot program

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

should be extended to other countries, such as; Greece, Portugal, and South Korea. Thus, I support the Pombo-Frank-Kennedy-Pappas amendment.

Furthermore, this amendment supports an increase in the visa refusal rate from 2% to 3% in order to support other countries taking part in the tourist visa waiver program. However, I would like to mention that the refusal rate process is in need of new measures in deciding who receives a visa waiver.

I cannot tell you how many letters I write every single day to U.S. Embassies abroad, asking them to reconsider their visa denials of my constituents. In many cases, there is no solid basis for the denial, rather it is a class issue. They want to make sure that those individuals traveling abroad are leaving behind property, bank accounts, jobs, etc. If not, often times their visas are denied. Are these people not coming here to visit family and friends? Are these people not going to visit our country and spend money—will this not boost the economy? We cannot deny visas to those individuals wanting to come to this country at face value. What substantive basis does this derive from?

Mr. Speaker, for the aforementioned reasons, I rise in support of the bill coupled with the Pombo-Frank-Kennedy-Pappas Amendment.

RECOGNIZING PAUL SAUERLAND

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 27, 1998 the Hunterdon County YMCA will recognize Paul C. Sauerland, Jr. as its Man of the Year with its 1998 Lend-A-Hand-to-Youth-Award.

Paul's longtime and wide ranging service to the community, county and state have earned him this well deserved recognition.

Since 1991, Paul has served as a Freeholder in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. His service to the county though began a long time before his first election to the Freeholder Board. He has been actively involved in numerous county boards, councils, and committees ranging in issues from transportation, housing, planning, human services, to health care.

Beyond the service that Paul has given to his local and county government, he has also served his state and country through his service of over thirty years as a member of National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, Paul has also been dedicated to serving the youth of his area. Through the many roles and positions that he has held in the local chapters of the Boy and Girl Scouts, he has helped to educate the youth of his community and instill in them a sense of community service and awareness. He has given of his time and knowledge so that young people have a greater opportunity of learning the values and skills that are needed to succeed. The participants of these programs represent the future leaders of our communities, state and country. Paul should be commended for his valuable contribution to our future.

March 26, 1998

I would like to congratulate Paul on this award. His service to the community is one that we are able to share in.

IN HONOR OF THE STRONGSVILLE RECREATION AND SENIOR COMPLEX

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the opening of the Strongsville Recreation and Senior Center, a state-of-the-art facility with something for everyone in Strongsville, Ohio.

After nearly a decade of planning and construction, the 157,000 square foot facility opening this month will provide a variety of health, fitness, leisure, and cultural activities to everyone in the community. The residents of Strongsville expressed their collective need for such a complex when they approved a one-half percent increase in the city income tax in 1993 to fund construction. Now, they no longer have to leave their community to participate in fitness classes, or senior programs.

The Complex promises to be a popular place for fitness enthusiasts who will enjoy the swimming pool, gymnasium, cardio-conditioning area and strength training center. Young people from the community can entertain themselves in the game area playing pool, air hockey and video games. Parents will appreciate the child care services offered. Seniors will gather for craft classes, socializing, and the wellness clinic. In short, the health and quality of life for everyone in Strongsville will improve greatly with the opening of this Complex.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing dedication of the residents of Strongsville to building largest Recreation and Senior Complex in Ohio, and in congratulating Strongsville mayor Walter Ehrnfelt and the city council for their contributions to improving the quality of life in their fine city.

RECREATION, SENIOR COMPLEX TO BENEFIT ENTIRE COMMUNITY

After nearly a decade of planning, discussions and actual construction, the new Strongsville Recreation and Senior Complex will open this month, providing the community with a state-of-the-art facility with 21st Century amenities for everyone who lives or works full time in the City of Strongsville.

The unique 157,000-square-foot facility, which is the largest of its kind in the State of Ohio, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Strongsville by providing a wide variety of leisure and cultural activities, special events, facilities and services that encourage health, fitness, relaxation, enjoyment, cultural enrichment and learning, as well as providing opportunities for community involvement.

As Mayor Walter F. Ehrnfelt points out, the center is family-oriented and offers something for everyone.

"This recreation and senior complex is designed to satisfy the needs of seniors, of young people, and of everyone else so that we can all enjoy a greater quality of life within the City of Strongsville," the mayor said, adding:

"We do not have to leave our home (community) for physical fitness classes, senior programs, health care services and even a food program. This facility covers the spectrum for all generations in Strongsville now and in the future."

Planning for the center actually started back in 1989 when a committee of various individuals in the community studied and identified the recreational needs of the city.

Committee members and city officials worked with numerous architects and engineering firms with extensive experience in building recreation centers and sports complexes to determine what was needed to make a great recreation/senior facility.

The project moved closer to reality in 1993 when the city's voters approved a one-half percent increase in the city income tax.

"City Council financed the complex out of the general fund with money generated from the additional income tax which was provided by businesses through jobs within the city," the mayor said.

"We now have the finest recreation/senior facility in the State of Ohio and perhaps in the country for a reasonable charge."

Membership packages are available at special rates for city residents and for anyone who works full time for a business located in the city.

Mayor Ehmfelt said the city is asking for nominal membership fees to offset the cost of operating the facility, which is estimated at \$1.8 million per year.

In a letter of invitation to the community, the mayor said, "The completion of the new Strongsville Recreation and Senior Complex brings our residents a facility that compares to no other in the State of Ohio. This facility is another great step for Strongsville's future and continues in providing the very best for all citizens."

"Please take the time to visit and become a member and use the facility to the maximum to improve and maintain your health and quality of life. Remember to use the facility. . . . Just for the 'Fun of it.'"

RECREATION CENTER

Central attraction in the recreation area is the Aquatics Center which features an eight-lane, 25-yard-long competition pool with three diving boards and a bleacher seating area for approximately 500 spectators.

Another highlight of the center is the activity pool with zero depth entry, a circular water slide and even a pirate's ship with a water cannon. The aquatics area also has steam and sauna rooms and an 18-person whirlpool.

The four-lane indoor track circles the upper level of the recreation area. Thirteen laps are the equivalent of one mile.

The main gymnasium has two high school regulation basketball courts and a volleyball area. The auxiliary gym is a utility gymnasium which can be used as one high school regulation basketball court, volleyball, indoor soccer, and tennis.

The cardio conditioning area on the upper level is equipped with treadmills, stair steps, bikes, ski machines, rowing machines, Gravitron and AB trainers.

The strength training center on the complex's lowest level offers Nautilus ZST resistance training equipment, plate loading equipment, free weights, and accessories.

A popular spot for teens will be the game area on the main level which is equipped with billiard tables, air hockey and foosball machines, video/arcade games and snack, soft drink and juice/water vending machines.

The Recreation Center also features two wood floor aerobics and activity studios

(1,400-square-foot each), meeting and conference rooms, a tot room for morning and evening child care services and two sets of locker rooms for men and women.

The center, which has ten full-time employees and 75 part-time employees, will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

SENIOR CENTER

The spacious Senior Center located at the west end of the complex is designed to promote the physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of all seniors in the community.

A major attraction is the Community Room which has a casual and comfortable atmosphere where people can relax, read a book, watch TV, visit and hold meetings.

The back porch off the Community Room is equipped with benches where guests can relax and enjoy the view of the city park.

The center also has a woodworking room which will be used for classes and open shop time; a craft room for quilting, knitting, sewing, needlepoint and other projects; two meeting rooms for seminars, lectures and club meetings; an art room for all types of projects, and a wellness clinic which will be operated in partnership with community health care providers.

A wide variety of activities will be offered for seniors. Including arts and crafts, line dancing, card games, bingo, physical fitness programs and many types of educational and fun classes.

More information on the senior programs can be obtained by calling the center at 238-7111.

CULTURAL CENTER

The Cultural Center on the complex's main floor is a common area which will be shared by users of both the recreation and senior centers. It seats 400 at tables and chairs and has an area of entertainment.

The center will be open to the public for breakfast from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday and for discounted lunches for seniors each weekday at noon.

The dining area and many of the other facilities in the recreation/senior center will be available for rental by the public for nominal fees.

GRAND OPENING

Everyone in Strongsville is invited to come and join the fun and excitement during the Community Open House Monday, March 16, through Saturday, March 28, and for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies on Sunday, March 29.

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce joins with Mayor Walter F. Ehmfelt and other city officials in welcoming the opening of this state-of-the-art facility and encourages everyone to join the Strongsville Recreation and Senior Complex. . . . Just for the "Fun of it."

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE CLAWSON

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Geraldine Clawson, of Chester, South Carolina.

Geraldine Clawson, a former nurse, has spent countless hours as a volunteer in her

community, working to help those struggling with homelessness, spousal abuse, alcoholism, and drug dependency. The organization she founded, "The Turning Point," offers counseling, an emergency food bank, a 60-day treatment program for drugs and alcohol, a women's shelter, and a program for abused or homeless women.

Because of her selfless dedication to those in need, Geraldine Clawson received the Jefferson Pilot Award for Public Service in 1993 and the Delta Sigma Phi Sorority Community Service Award in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the outstanding volunteer work of Geraldine Clawson.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. VIETNAM VETERANS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF HOSTILITIES OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women who faithfully served our nation during the Vietnam Conflict, 1954-1973, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Vietnam Conflict.

On Sunday, March 29, 1998, the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California, Montebello Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2317, and the City of Montebello will host a special ceremony at the Montebello City Memorial Park in observance of the patriotic service of our Vietnam veterans. At this special event, local veteran's organizations, including the Montebello VFW Post 2317, Brother's of Vietnam, Vietnam Veterans Association, Disabled American veterans, Hispanic Airborne Association, and the American Legion Post 323, will come together with the community and local elected and military officials to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Vietnam Conflict.

I commend the members of the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California for bringing together this patriotic salute to the brave men and women who answered our nations call during the Vietnam Conflict. I proudly salute the membership of the local chapter of the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California: President Michael Delgado (USMC), Vice President Gale Hulett (USAF), Secretary Gilbert Perez (USA), Treasurer Augustine Auggie Galaviz (USA), Chaplain Lance Campbell (USMC), and Color Guard Jose Garcia (USA).

Members who served in the United States Army: Tom Aki, Robert Barrientos, Manny Calazada, Bernie Castaneda, Rudy Espinoza, Henry Galindo, Frank Garza, John Gomez, Mel Henfenfeld, Barry Hardy, Bill Harrell, Lou Hernandez, Marty Intergrand, Ed Kwan, Ed Lara, Romero Lopez, Robert Mejia, Carlos Mendez, John Nay, Frank Nieto, Oscar Ornelas, John Paniagua, Robert Preciado, Manny Ramos, Miguel Reyes, Russ Rivera, Rob Robinson, Ed Rodriguez, Bobby

Rodriguez, John Williams, Ignacio Zarate, David Cardenas, Richard Gallego, Louis Guillen, Norman Hagelstorm, Michael Hamblen, Michael Montalvo, Henry Morales, Jr., Albert Rodriguez, Tony Rodriguez, Rudy Rubio, John Sanchez, Leonard Xiochiva, Salvador Pinon, and Ralph De La Torre, Jr.

Members who served in the United States Marine Corps: Carlos Aldona, Ted Barragan, Dave Castillo, David De La Cruz, John Leisure, Rudy Loera, Guillermo Gonzales, Leroy Martinez, Tony Morris, Don Usery, Richard J. Acuna, Robert A. Galis, Javier Gallardo, Henry Garcia, Arthur J. Hurtado, Roger Ortega, and Donald Snyder.

Members who served in the United States Navy: Pete Aragon, Rod Cargonell, John Schembari, Mich Sleck, Pete Walker, Carlos Gomez, Charles A. Holling, and Joe V. Ugarte.

Members who served in the United States Air Force: Joe Balli, Memo Munoz, and William Aguilar.

Mr. Speaker, at this special event ceremonial recognition will be given to our nation's POW/MIA's and to the thousands of men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our grateful nation. It is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and paying tribute to our American Vietnam Veterans and their families for their selfless sacrifice in service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES HATCH STODDARD

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my condolences to the family of Charles Hatch Stoddard, a former and courageous Interior Department official who made a significant contribution to the quality of life of his fellow Minnesotans and all Americans.

In the late 1960's Mr. Stoddard, then a top regional official at the U.S. Department of the Interior, coordinated a study of taconite wastes that a company was dumping into Lake Superior. He found that these asbestos fibers were harmful to human health, but was savagely attacked by opponents who claimed his report was biased and unsubstantiated. Stoddard's health findings, however, were ultimately upheld by federal courts and applauded by the Secretary of the Interior and all the public.

Mr. Stoddard served the United States in several other respects. He was a Naval Reserve officer in World War II, worked as an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, and held such important posts as Assistant Secretary and director of the Bureau of Land Management.

He was also a highly acclaimed conservationist, one of our nation's most effective environmentalists, spending a year as President of the Wilderness Society.

I have attached Mr. Stoddard's obituary from the Minneapolis Star Tribune for my colleagues' review. It highlights his courage in bringing to the public's attention a matter that was crucial to their health and the health of

their children in Minnesota and was repeated many times. The values and integrity that guided his decision and work reflect well upon the purpose of public service and the impact a good man can make.

I applaud Mr. Stoddard and present his model of courage yesterday as a benchmark for the environmentalists and policy making for citizens today and tomorrow.

[From the Star Tribune, Dec. 30, 1997]

CHARLES STODDARD DIES; HE PLAYED KEY ROLE IN RESERVE MINING CASE

A CONTROVERSIAL 1968 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STUDY HE HEADED SAID TACONITE TAILINGS WERE POLLUTING LAKE SUPERIOR

(By Dean Rebuffoni)

Charles Hatch Stoddard was a besieged man 29 years ago.

As a top regional official of the U.S. Interior Department, Stoddard, who died Thursday at 85, had coordinated a major federal study on the taconite wastes that Reserve Mining Co. of Silver Bay, Minn., was dumping into Lake Superior.

Although the study had just been completed, it hadn't been released to the public. However, Stoddard had provided copies to Reserve, which quickly went over his head to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

The company urged Udall not to release the study, arguing that it was riddled with errors. Some critics suggested that Stoddard, a Democratic political appointee and longtime conservationist, was biased against Reserve.

Reporters were constantly calling Stoddard's office in Duluth, seeking information about the study.

Also, Stoddard knew that he'd have to resign soon from his federal post: Richard Nixon, a Republican with strong political ties to Reserve, was about to be inaugurated as president.

So Stoddard decided to release the study without Udall's approval.

On Jan. 16, 1969, the biggest headline on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune read: "U.S. Study Finds Taconite Tailings Pollute Superior."

The study, which quickly became known as "the Stoddard Report," made him a hero among conservationists.

Udall, however, told Congress that the study was "a preliminary staff report," a statement that Reserve repeatedly cited in its effort to discredit it.

The study also was attacked by U.S. Rep. John Blatnik, a Duluth Democrat who called it a preliminary report with no official status.

Ultimately, Stoddard was vindicated by the federal courts, which ruled that Reserve was polluting Lake Superior with potentially injurious asbestos-type fibers.

Reserve was fined more than \$1 million and shifted its taconite wastes to an onland disposal site.

Udall eventually retracted his statement, telling the New York Times that the study was an official Interior Department report.

He said his original discrediting of it was prompted by concerns raised by Blatnik, who in 1969 was a powerful politician whose support on many issues was needed by the Interior Department. Blatnik died in 1991.

Udall's recanting also was vindication for Stoddard, who died Thursday at a nursing home in Spooner, Wis. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years.

"Chuck Stoddard was a fearless public servant," said Grant Merritt, a Minnesota conservationist who played a key role in the

campaign to end Reserve's discharge into Lake Superior.

"Chuck did his job regardless of the heat he had to take," Merritt said. "The Stoddard Report gave us the scientific basis we needed to seek on-land disposal of Reserve's tailings."

Stoddard was born in Milwaukee in 1912 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan in the 1930s. He later did graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and at Princeton.

He was a Naval Reserve officer during World War II, and while serving in the South Pacific, he discovered a species of tropical tree that later was named after him: *Mastixiodendron stoddardii*.

He had several stints as a federal employee specializing in conservation issues, including work as a U.S. Forest Service economist in the 1930s.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was a private forestry consultant in Minnesota and Wisconsin and was active in several conservation groups.

From 1955 to 1961, he worked for Resources for the Future, a nonprofit conservation research organization based in Washington, D.C.

Stoddard also was involved in Democratic Party politics, and during the 1960 presidential campaign, he worked first for candidate Hubert Humphrey, then as an adviser to John F. Kennedy on conservation issues.

After Kennedy was elected, Stoddard was named an assistant secretary of the Interior Department and, later, was appointed director of the Bureau of Land Management.

After retiring from federal employment, he served for a year as president of the Wilderness Society.

He wrote numerous reports on environmental issues, often focusing on land-use matters, and was the author or coauthor of three books on forestry and conservation practices.

Shortly after the lawsuit, *United States v. Reserve Mining Co.*, went to trial in 1973, Stoddard encountered the trial judge, Miles Lord, in a hall of the federal courthouse in Minneapolis.

"Do you know me, Judge Lord?" he asked. When Lord said he didn't, Stoddard explained: "I'm the guy who got you into this."

Stoddard is survived by his former wife, Patricia Coulter Stoddard of Duluth; a daughter, Abby Marrier of Milaca, Minn.; four sons: Charles Jr. and Paul, both of St. Paul, and Glenn and Jeffrey, who live in Wisconsin, and five grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held at Wolf Springs Forest, the Stoddard family's nature preserve near Minong, Wis. The family suggests that memorials go to the Sigurd Olson Institute for Environmental Studies at Northland College in Ashland, Wis.

THE MEDICARE HOME HEALTH EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce today The Medicare Home Health Equity Act of 1997. This legislation will return equity to the Medicare system of reimbursing home health agencies for the valuable care they provide throughout our country.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 had the unintended effect of creating an inequity in the way Home Health Agencies are reimbursed for services provided to America's seniors and the chronically ill through Medicare. My legislation will correct this inequity and accomplish the following:

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act removes the IPS penalty on cost-efficiency and levels the playing field. The Interim Payment System (IPS) inadvertently penalizes cost-efficient home health agencies (HHA) by basing 75% of agencies' per patient payment limits in fiscal years (FY's) 1998-99 on their FY 1994 average cost per patient. Because an agency's average cost per patient in FY 1994 is based on the number of visits the agency provided per patient that year, agencies that provided the most visits to patients—regardless of whether the care was medically necessary or not—now have the highest per patient cost limits. As a result, high-cost agencies continue to receive a disproportionate share of Medicare home health dollars. This outcome is the opposite of what Congress sought last year.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act is budget neutral according to Price Waterhouse. It does not bust the balanced budget agreement reached last year. It also does not jettison the many good steps taken in the Balanced Budget Act to address the very real problems of fraud and abuse in the Medicare home health benefit. However, it does address the one provision that rewards high cost agencies and penalizes low cost agencies.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act moves Medicare home health reimbursement more quickly to prospective payment by basing payments on national and regional cost data rather than on agency-specific data. Prospective payment will bring Medicare home health expenditures under control by reversing the incentive under cost-reimbursement to maximize patient costs. The incentive for HHAs under prospective payment will be to manage costs efficiently over an episode of care. Prospective payment in hospitals has demonstrated that this can be done while maintaining high quality of health services.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act recognizes that Medicare home health costs have been managed effectively in 34 states. The average cost per patient in these states is below the national average cost per patient. Agencies in these states should not be penalized by the higher than national average costs experienced in 16 states.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act will not harm patient care by lowering the per beneficiary cost limit for home health agencies with costs above the 75% national—25% regional cost limit. HCFA data shows little difference among types of home health agencies (e.g. non-profit, for-profit, hospital-based, government-affiliated) in regard to their level of patient "case-mix"—or level of patients with similar conditions (from minor to severe). Therefore, it is hard to believe that high costs must be protected by the current IPS agency-specific formula when VNAs and other cost-efficient agencies provide high quality care to diverse populations at less than national average costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in restoring home health care equity by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, I was granted an Official Leave of Absence to attend a family funeral.

As an elected Representative of Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District, I have responsibility to my constituents to inform them of the votes from yesterday and to apprise them of how I would have voted.

The following indicates how I would have voted on Rollcall Votes Nos. 68, 70 and 71.

Rollcall No.	Bill No.	Position
68	H.R. 2589 (McCollum Amdt.)	No
70	H.R. 2578 (Pombo Amdt.)	Yes
71	H.R. 2578	Yes

The outcome would have been no different on any of these votes if I had been present.

RESTORE FAIRNESS TO MEDICARE'S HOME HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with my good friend and colleague, Rep. MIKE PAPPAS, in introducing legislation to restore fairness and equity to the Health Care Finance Administration's (HCFA's) new Medicare reimbursement program for home health care.

This new Medicare reimbursement program, known as the "Interim Payment System" (IPS), is based on an incomplete and inequitable funding formula which directly jeopardizes home health care agencies and the elderly they serve in my state.

The value of home health care is obvious. All of us intuitively know that enabling our seniors to receive quality, skilled nursing care in their own homes is preferable to other, more costly, sometimes isolated, settings. Senior citizens receive the peace of mind from familiar settings and their loved ones close at hand. And the cost savings to Medicare from proper use of home health care are considerable.

The legislation we have introduced today corrects several flaws contained in the IPS formula and assures fair and reasonable Medicare reimbursement for quality home health care. This bill is a good complement to another legislative effort (H.R. 3108) I am supporting with fellow New Jersey Representative JIM SAXTON. The Pappas-Smith bill is more targeted and limited in scope, focusing on equity issues between home health care agencies, while H.R. 3108 is broader in application and primarily deals with providing more resources to all home health agencies.

One thing that both bills address, however, is the need to reform the IPS. If left unchanged, the IPS will cut Medicare reimburse-

ment for home health care in New Jersey by \$25 million in fiscal year 1998 alone. Several agencies in New Jersey could lose \$2 million or more in anticipated reimbursement for homebound Medicare patients.

One of the most unfair aspects of the IPS is that it seeks to treat efficient and inefficient home health agencies alike, despite the fact that average utilization rates in New Jersey's agencies—43 visits per beneficiary served in 1996—are far lower than the national average of 74 visits that year.

Because the IPS reimbursement rates for each home health care agency are linked to earlier utilization rates and costs, agencies that were efficient and honest all along still find themselves struggling to squeeze another 12 to 15 percent reduction in aggregate reimbursement rates from already lean operations—a very tall order indeed. Meanwhile, agencies in other parts of the country with abnormally high home health costs and utilization rates are permitted to use base year utilization rates that were badly inflated in the first place. Thus, they will continue to receive high reimbursement rates because they had inflated costs in the past. The IPS, therefore, effectively punishes efficient operations and does not comprehensively address the problem in areas with inordinately high home health utilization statistics.

For example, home health agencies serving senior citizens in NJ will only receive enough funding to provide as few as 30 to 35 visits per patient. Meanwhile, agencies in other parts of the country—such as Tennessee and Louisiana—may continue providing their patients with almost triple that number of visits at twice the cost per visit. Disparities of this magnitude are inherently unreasonable and unfair, and must be corrected.

There is no reason whatsoever why the senior citizens of New Jersey should receive less quality care than senior citizens of any other state. While I understand that special circumstances in other states and counties will always generate some variation in home health care usage, the disparities that are enshrined in the IPS are simply absurd. Are Louisianans and Tennesseans that much sicker or that much more frail that they need to receive 100 or more visits per person? And how can the costs of treating these patients in other states be significantly higher than New Jersey? The wage rates and cost of living indexes in many of these high utilization states are among the lowest in the entire nation. Senator JOHN BREAUX stated that in Louisiana, there are more home health care agencies than there are McDonalds restaurants. Clearly, something is amiss.

In response, our bill—which we have strived to craft in a budget neutral manner—restores fairness and equity to the Interim Payment System in the following ways:

First, our bill will protect efficient home health agencies from drastic cuts in Medicare home health reimbursement through the IPS. Under our legislation, we provide relief from the Interim Payment System for those home health care agencies whose average cost per patient served, as well as their average number of visits per patient, are below the national average. In this manner, agencies that have been doing a good job in keeping their cost

structures under control will not be punished for their own best efforts.

The second provision contained in our bill restores the per visit cost limits for home health agencies to their September 1997 levels. The reason for this change is based on an assessment that unless this change is made, it will be virtually impossible for home health agencies to reduce their average number of visits per patient, and still live within their cost limits.

The provision is a matter of basic math: if an agency is to reduce its average number of visits per patient—as HCFA demands—it must do more with each visit. However, if an agency fits more activities and services into each visit, then by definition its costs per visit are going to rise significantly. So while the number of visits per patient will fall, its costs per patient will rise to some extent, because more services are being performed in an attempt to make the most out of each home health visit.

Under our bill, home health agencies will reduce their visits per patient and still operate within realistic per visit cost limits. HCFA's per visit cost targets, upon close examination, are unrealistic and will not allow home health agencies to accomplish the goal of more efficient home care.

Lastly, our legislation will give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the flexibility to make special exceptions for home health agencies treating unusually expensive patients. Among the problems with the IPS is that as initially implemented, the IPS gives providers a perverse incentive to avoid treating critically ill, chronic, or more expensive patients. Unlike a fully implemented prospective payment system (PPS), the Interim Payment System (IPS) makes no attempt to distinguish between agencies that are simply inefficient and agencies that are treating a disproportionately sicker patient population. Our legislation creates a mechanism for financially pressed home health care agencies to address and care for unusually expensive patients.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is balanced and carefully crafted to make improvements to the Medicare Interim Payment System. It is designed to be budget neutral. It will enable our senior citizens to continue to receive high quality, medically necessary home health care services. It also will appropriately target federal efforts to reduce waste and fraud in the Medicare program. I urge all of my colleagues to consider this legislation and support our efforts to protect the homebound Medicare patients who are now at risk.

HONORING THE JEWISH HERALD-
VOICE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Jewish Herald-Voice as it celebrates 90 years of uninterrupted weekly publication on April 1, 1998. Established in 1908, The Jewish Herald-Voice has a rich tradition of serving and reflecting the pride of the steadily growing Jewish communities in the Greater Houston and Gulf Coast areas.

Published weekly, plus two annual holiday magazines for Passover and Rosh Hashanah, this award-winning publication is read by almost every Jewish household in the area. Besides covering national and international news and events from over 90 local Jewish organizations, the Herald publishes monthly specialty pages for the Greater Southwest Houston Chamber of Commerce, seniors, parents of young children, party planners, plus weekly pages devoted to business, medical issues, singles, food, arts, and entertainment.

Three families have been responsible for this exceptional continuity; founder, Edgar Goldberg—1908–1937; David H. White—1937–1973; and Joe and Jeanne Samuels—1973–present. Not only is this the 90th anniversary of the paper, but also Joe and Jeanne Samuels' 25th Anniversary as owners and publishers of The Jewish Herald-Voice.

Ninety years ago, Edgar Goldberg envisioned a newspaper that would reach everyone in Houston's diverse Jewish community, crossing denominations, transcending organizational boundaries and providing a platform for every Jewish citizen regardless of affiliation. Goldberg started with a circular, the Houston Jewish Bulletin in 1907; then in 1908, the first edition of The Jewish Herald began publication.

In 1914, appealing to Jewish communities statewide, Goldberg created an advertising slogan—"Texas News for Texas Jews"—and changed the paper's title to The Texas Jewish Herald. Throughout the prosperous years of the 1920s, The Texas Jewish Herald grew in circulation and content. The Great Depression struck the Herald hard and Goldberg was forced to scale the paper back to four pages from its usual eight. The paper was his livelihood and as long as the U.S. Postal service would cooperate, he was determined to carry on. In 1933 Goldberg grew weary at fighting the battle to keep the paper afloat. While deciding to put the paper up for sale, Goldberg was diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, he died in 1937, 29 years after his first edition of the Herald went to press. Goldberg's wife, Esther, maintained control of the paper for several years but she, too, grew weary from the effort and agreed to sell.

The chain of weekly Jewish Heralds continued unbroken when David H. White, publisher of the recently established Jewish Voice in Houston, purchased The Texas Jewish Herald. Preserving the name of both publications, White continued Goldberg's legacy, renaming the paper The Jewish Herald-Voice. Throughout the 1940s the Herald-Voice continued to grow as White instituted additional columns and special holiday editions, creating a reflection of the times.

In 1972 when David White died, his wife, Ida Schwartzberg White, who worked by his side throughout the years, stepped up to edit and publish the Jewish Herald-Voice during the remainder of the year. Shortly thereafter, she sold the highly successful D.H. White Company printing plant and began to search for a successor to continue publishing the Jewish Herald-Voice.

A casual conversation with a neighbor prompted Joseph W. Samuels to telephone Murray White, David White's youngest brother and part owner of the Jewish Herald-Voice. In

April of 1973, Joe and his wife Jeanne F. Samuels purchased the 65-year-old paper. It was a dream come true for Joe, whose father, Morris Samuels, a printer in Dallas, had planned to begin his own Jewish newspaper.

What Joe Samuels and Jeanne purchased 25 years ago was the name and reputation of a 65-year-old weekly newspaper, a mailing list of less than 3,000 subscribers, its payables and receivables, together with archives, a typewriter, two desks, two chairs and two filing cabinets. Over the past 25 years, they have nurtured the paper, more than doubling the number of subscribers and increasing its size from 8–12 pages to 36–80 pages.

Since 1994, when the Jewish Herald-Voice entered its first newspaper competition, it has received various awards each year. The Herald-Voice has received award recognition from the Texas Press Association, Gulf Coast Press Association, and the American Jewish Press Association, as well as honors from local Jewish agencies and organizations. Most recently, in 1997, the Herald received two awards from the American Jewish Press Association: first place for Excellence in Special Sections covering "Educational Alternatives: Where Do They Go From Here?" and second place for Excellence in Overall Graphic Design.

The Herald-Voice continues to grow and constantly endeavors to broaden its scope and appeal for readers and advertisers, alike. It is comforting to know, that the next generation, the Samuels' daughter, Vicki Samuels Levy, who has headed the advertising department for many years and knows the operation of the paper, is destined to take the reins one day as owner and publisher of the Jewish Herald-Voice.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Jewish Herald-Voice on 90 continuous years of excellence in journalism and the current owners and publishers, Joe and Jeanne Samuels, who have successfully continued the founder's dream. Ever since it was established in 1908 by Edgar Goldberg, the Herald has upheld the promise of remaining the voice of the Jewish community of Greater Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast.

TOWN OF ONONDAGA CELEBRATES
BICENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as a newly born nation expanded and grew two centuries ago, townships in America sprouted amidst the excitement and despite great obstacles. Such a town was mine, the Town of Onondaga, which this week celebrates its 200th Birthday.

Although many of the festivities will occur this summer, culminating with a Bicentennial Parade on August 15, many are focused now on the Annual Dinner Dance April 4.

I would like to thank the entire Town of Onondaga Bicentennial Committee for their important and historic work. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this fine group of civic leaders for their dedication to

preserving the history which guides us into our future.

They are: L. Jane Tracy, town historian and co-chair; Thomas Andino, Jr., town supervisor and co-chair; David and Cathy Hintz; Ken Pienkowski; Gwynn Morey; Beatrice Malfitano; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Royal; Bonnie Romano; Gary and Karen Livent; Suzanne Belle; Mary Ryan; Charles Petrie; Donald Hamilton; Dorothea Schmitz; Leo Kelly; Margaret Chesebro; Jeanne Tanner; and Dan Willis.

On a related note, I am very proud to be one of three Onondaga residents in town history to have represented Central New York in Congress. The others included my father, William F. Walsh, and one of the first settlers, James Geddes, who also served as Town Supervisor in 1799.

I am pleased also to mark this memorable time for us in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, in addition to presenting a United States flag to town leaders in a ceremony April 2.

Together, these people named today, joined by our fellow residents, thank God for our freedom, our country and our homes—just as we pray that we will impress on the next generation the importance of what our ancestors accomplished and the magnitude of the task. Only from history will we learn.

RECOGNIZING AUGUST KNISPSEL

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 21, 1998, residents from Franklin Township in Hunterdon County, New Jersey will honor one of the area's political legends at a testimonial dinner. For 31 years August Knispel has served the residents of Franklin Township as their Mayor and as a member of the Township Committee.

Mr. Knispel, the son of German born parents that immigrated to America, is a living example of the American Dream come true. He grew up on his parents farm in Franklin Township raising and selling ducks to make extra money during the depression at the age of seven. It was not too long thereafter that August became an active hand in the family farm which itself has become an area landmark.

In 1963, Mr. Knispel made his first run for Township Committee. The election ended in a tie that ultimately was decided in favor of his opponent. Not one to be discouraged, Mr. Knispel entered the race a year later and was successful. His election to the Township Committee that year began the first of 11 more victories. During his years of service, Mayor Knispel has been a leader in agricultural and open space issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the residents of Franklin Township and Hunterdon County in thanking August Knispel for dedicated service to his community. For almost a generation Mr. Knispel has dedicated a tremendous amount of his time and effort to serving the needs and addressing the concerns of Franklin Township. Saturday night's dinner is just a token of the well deserved recognition that is appropriate in thanking him for his service.

THE COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION CONFERENCE AND TRAINING ON GANGS, VIOLENCE AND DRUGS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the Annual Community Mobilization Conference and Training on Gangs, Violence and Drugs which will take

place in my hometown of San Diego, California April 1-3, 1998.

This will be the ninth annual conference convened by Nu-Way Youth and Social Services, a local community-based organization. The conference will be a national, collaborative event that will bring together parents, educators, law enforcement officers, probation officers, prosecutors, health and social service providers, together with civic, political and spiritual leaders to discuss the latest technologies and strategies for combating juvenile crime in our communities.

I would also like to give recognition to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice for their support and co-sponsorship of Nu-Way's 9th Annual National Conference. The NCPC and the BJA will add programmatic support and technical assistance. By doing so they are providing Nu-Way access to greater numbers of nationally recognized trainers, and broader participation. Conference participants will come from throughout the United States and Canada.

This support will further strengthen the Educating, Motivating, Organizing and Mobilizing (E.M.O.M.) process and demonstrate the effectiveness of the partnership between community and government.

This conference is a true collaborative project. And by its very nature, will reinforce the proverb that "it takes a whole village to raise a child"—and will challenge all of our citizens to accept the responsibility and join in our struggle to keep our youth free from the influence of gangs and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Nu-Way, a valuable resource in the fight against gangs, drug abuse and violence, is based in my Congressional district, and I applaud the efforts of Nu-Way and the Community Mobilization Conference for their important role in our fight against juvenile crime.