EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE NORTHERN COLORADO HEADWATERS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1998

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Northern Colorado Headwaters Wilderness Act of 1998.

This bill is inspired by the dramatic mountain beauty of Colorado. Its provisions have been tempered and refined by a process of review and comments by hundreds of Colorado citizens and local officials, and crafted to fit into the tapestry of Colorado wilderness legislation.

In Colorado we are experiencing one of the highest growth rates in the country. That growth brings with it ever greater demand for outdoor recreation, as well as more stress on our supplies of water and other resources. As we face that growth and those pressures, it is especially timely and important that we deliberately and carefully set aside some special places to remain forever wild.

As a very thoughtful and pragmatic county commissioner from my district describes it, we now are putting, and will continue to put, demands on our natural-resources checking account. As we try to accommodate those demands, it is important that we make some deposits in the savings account of our wildland heritage. That’s what this bill would do.

The areas this bill would protect include sweeping alpine tundra along the great Continental Divide; rich, deep old growth forests of fir, spruce, pine, and aspen; and crisp, sparkling mountain streams that flow from the edge of perennial snowfields and from deep mountain lakes.

They are places where you can witness the primal naturalness of the world and watch weather moving through one hundred miles of sky.

Their designation as wilderness will permanently protect them as habitat for elk, big horn sheep, mountain goats, native greenback cutthroat trout, bear, bobcat, and eagles. As wilderness, these remarkable places will remain as refuges for our own sanity and inspiration, either because we visit them, or just because we take comfort in knowing that such places are there, and remain unspoiled.

Among the wilderness lands included in this legislation is the James Peak area, certainly the key single area in the proposal, comprising about half the bill’s total wilderness acreage. James Peak is a broad expanse of alpine terrain, about two-thirds above timberline. Roadless and virtually untouched by the centuries and a half of human activity and settlements around its flanks, James Peak offers unique backcountry recreational opportunities and the reassurance that a part of our natural heritage, near the homes of two million people, endures as it has since the last ice age.

Although this bill includes only half the James Peak roadless area suitable for wilderness designation—that portion east of the divide in the Congressional District that I am proud to represent—it is important to protect that portion now. Its designation will reflect the will of a majority of people who have contacted me about James Peak and the resolutions of support received from three counties and many communities near the area.

Discussions will continue on the ultimate level of protection for the portion of James Peak to the west, outside the scope of this bill. I hope these discussions will conclude in a compromise agreement on boundaries and designations that will keep a significant portion in wild condition, free from motors and permanent habitations.

The other areas included in this bill are additions to existing wilderness areas, at Comanche Peak, Indian Peaks, and Mount Evans. Their addition will not only expand the terrain protected as wilderness, but also enhance the values and features that led to the original designations.

It’s important to note that this bill, at 30,030 acres, includes only one tenth of the roadless areas in National forests and in national Forests that were recently studied by the U.S. Forest Service. And while the bill would designate as wilderness more than the Forest Service recommended, it still is a very small part of the lands that qualify. We should protect this much, on which we have much agreement, now, while we can, leaving discussions about additional areas to another day.

I realize that this bill is introduced very late in this Congress, at a time when many other issues are seeking attention and time on the legislative calendar. Its timing, however, reflects the extensive discussions that I have had with so many knowledgeable and concerned citizens and officials at home.

Because of that time invested, this is a bill that reflects the broadest consensus of those who know and care about the issues. As such, it deserves prompt approval in the weeks remaining before adjournment.

AMERICAN GI FORUM—"EDUCATION IS OUR FREEDOM AND FREEDOM SHOULD BE EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS"

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a proud salute to the members of the American GI Forum who have gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of this organization by the late D. Hector P. Garcia.

Dr. Garcia was an inspiration to all of us and his legacy continues through the work the members do in his name and in the name of the organization he founded. The American GI Forum, a family-oriented Hispanic veterans group, was conceived in Corpus Christi, Texas in the spring of 1948 after veterans received concerns about their benefits and treatment. Dr. Garcia began fighting for the civil rights of many Americans—long before others joined the cause. He fought for civil, human and individual rights. His ideas were firmly planted in south Texas and in the Hispanic community nationwide. His efforts produced many of today’s Hispanic leaders and provided the foundation for tomorrow’s generation of leaders.

Today, this organization has more than 100,000 members and 500 chapters in 32 states and Puerto Rico. More than 1,000,000 Hispanic veterans have proudly served their country and earned recognition for their service.

The GI Forum continues to champion issues which impact the community including: access to health care for veterans, affirmative action, a fair and accurate census count, juvenile crime prevention, adolescent pregnancy prevention, and improving conditions in colonias.

Dr. Garcia’s legacy continues to be felt today as the organization looks into the future. He believed that education was the foundation for future generations. The American GI Forum is making a concentrated effort to educate and provide leadership development opportunities for young people.

The American GI Forum celebrates 50 glorious years and many accomplishments, but the best years are yet to come. The future years will result in the fulfillment of Dr. Garcia’s dream for a better tomorrow for all Americans.

THE SIGNING OF THE CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, J.R.
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is scheduled to sign H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act, into law tomorrow, August 7, 1998, at 10:15 a.m., in a private ceremony in the White House Oval Office. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151, I rise today to praise Congress, the Clinton Administration and the credit union community for working together in a bipartisan manner to enact this important legislation.

With the enactment of H.R. 1151, the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act will be amended to preserve the ability of all Americans to join the credit union of their choice, and to ensure that the 73 million Americans who are currently members of credit unions in no way have their membership status jeopardized. Today, we celebrate a true victory for working, middle class Americans who need affordable financial services. Credit unions represent democracy in the work force. This bill improves consumer choice and allows for greater competition in the financial services sector. Now, working people and consumers will continue to have access to the affordable financial services that credit unions have always offered.

● 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.
The Almighty, in his infinite yet inexorable ways, has decreed the passing of Rabbi Leibish (Leopold) Lefkowitz. He was the proud servant of God that he wished to be.

Rabbi Lefkowitz was, the true and deserving servant of God,” he wished to be. He was the great-grandfather of forty-two. He loved Torah, or Old Testament, as his guide, but was no accident; he had suffered a grievous personal tragedy of his own. On August 1, 1966, an emotionally distraught young man occupied the clock tower in the Commons of the University of Texas with a high-powered rifle and began firing indiscriminately at the students below. Alice's oldest son was one of the first individuals killed. Characteristically, she dealt with her grief by helping others.

From July, 1977 to June, 1978 Alice served as a member of the San Bernardino County Grand Jury. In the early 1980's, responding to a desire to improve her own education, Alice enrolled in various courses at Crafton Community College. Despite a challenging academic schedule, she found time between classes to do volunteer work with Family Services in the community of Yucaipa, California. She was also a peer counselor with Ombudsmen for the Aging during this period.

The 1990's saw her focus return to children's issues as she became an active volunteer in the Child Advocacy Division in the Department of Public Social Services for San Bernardino County. She was also very involved as a volunteer at the County Juvenile Detention Facility. She currently runs the canteen at that facility, the proceeds of which are used to improve living conditions and provide recreational items for the young inmates.

Alice is also an active advocate for participation in the political process, both locally and nationally. She works tirelessly in getting out the vote and has served as an official delegate for her party on two occasions. Her contributions over the years can be summed up in one word: citizen. She embodies everything that word connotes, being involved and doing whatever she can to make her community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the valuable and selfless contributions of Alice Ashton. Her lifetime commitment to assisting others is certainly worthy of our respect and it is only fitting that the House recognize her today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and acknowledge Alice E. Ashton on her 80th birthday for 35 years of unselfish community service. The mother of seven children and a military wife, she nonetheless found the time, energy and commitment to assist others. A resident of Redlands, California, she has touched the lives of numerous individuals, young and old, through her many acts of humanitarian volunteerism.

Alice Ashton’s service is very well known. During the early 1960’s, Alice volunteered at the Redlands Well-Baby Clinic providing young mothers in dealing with the new responsibilities of parenthood. During that same period, she provided tutoring in the public housing project to elementary and middle school students and was a volunteer reader for young children.

From 1965 to 1975, Alice was a member of the Redlands Human Relations Council, an organization whose goal was to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate. The passage of the California Unfair Housing bill was a result of her tireless efforts. She was also a crisis intervention volunteer during this ten-year period, helping individuals deal with some of their darkest moments. With limited formal training, she brought a level of compassion and empathy to the job that was extraordinary, but was no accident; she had suffered a grievous personal tragedy of her own. On August 1, 1966, an emotionally distraught young man occupied the clock tower in the Commons of the University of Texas with a high-powered rifle and began firing indiscriminately at the students below. Alice’s oldest son was one of the first individuals killed. Characteristically, she dealt with her grief by helping others.

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Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my friends and neighbors in Smithtown, Long Island as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Smithtown Volunteer Fire Department.

Since 1908, the residents of Smithtown have entrusted their most precious possessions—their families—to the men and women of this historic department. That trust is well-merited. For Smithtown's volunteer firefighters are devoted to their duties, courageously shielding their family, friends, and neighbors from all dangers. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts save lives and provide safety, these volunteers have answered the alarm for 90 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters and emergency services personnel among my friends and neighbors.
Ninety years ago, the residents of this North Shore Long Island town recognized the need to protect their rapidly growing community. Starting with just a horse-drawn hook-and-ladder truck purchased for $75, the Smithtown Volunteer Hook and Ladder company opened on March 8, 1908. The Smithtown Fire Department, both residents, homes and businesses with the most sophisticated firefighting apparatus and equipment at area parades and festivals.

The Smithtown Fire Department is part of Long Island’s proud tradition of volunteer firefighting, a tradition that was never more evident than in August of 1995, when thousands of volunteers fought the two most destructive wildfires to strike Suffolk County this century. Though these fires burned miles from their own homes, Smithtown’s firefighters joined thousands of other volunteers who risked their lives battling brush fires that consumed nearly 4,000 acres of Long Island Pine Barrens in Rocky Point and Westhampton. Miraculously, thanks largely to the efforts of these brave volunteers, not a single human life was lost in the fire and the total property damage was kept to a minimum.

Speaking to the community’s local newspaper, the Smithtown Messenger, Smithtown Fire Chief Michael Felice spoke of the dedication his firefighters bring to the job of protecting their community and the people who live in it. Smithtown firefighters “take a lot of pride in giving something back to the community. They work closely with a lot of people. You have to count on people 100 percent, because life is always on the line.”

Service to our fellow man is the hallmark of a civilized society and the courageous selflessness of all volunteer firefighters is an example that all of us in this historic House should honor and recognize. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me on this 90th anniversary in saluting the courageous, devoted volunteers of the Smithtown Fire Department. May God keep them safe, just as they have worked to keep safe the Smithtown community.

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In 1990, there were 26 million errors in the census. About 8.8 million people were missed, a population almost equal to Michigan’s. Most of those missed were poor people and minorities. The 1990 census was long, expensive, labor intensive, and inaccurate. Despite the increase in cost, this count was the first one in recent history to be less accurate than the preceding census. We should not be satisfied with a means of testing that misses millions of people.

The Census Bureau has a comprehensive plan for 2000 that will produce the most accurate census in our history. The methods intended for the 2000 census are the same ones the government uses to calculate the unemployment rate and the GNP. The method, statistical sampling, has thus already received government approval in other important arenas. There is no reason to believe that it would not be equally as effective for the Census.

In 1990, the census cost $2.6 billion. In 2000, the census will cost $7.2 billion if similar methods are used. This number could be cut to $4 billion, nearly in half, if statistical sampling were used. Why use all the additional funds on a method that has proven itself faulty and insufficient?

Mr. Chairman, no one listening to this is unaware that there has been a large effort on the side of the Majority to prevent statistical sampling from being used in the 2000 Census. One aspect of this effort is the current attempt to make only half of the census funds available for the time being. By denying full access to the census funds, members of this Congress are in effect paralyzing any sort of Census for 2000. Permitting only partial use of the monies allocated for the census is detrimental to whatever type of method is eventually used, statistical or otherwise. A census, of any sort, cannot be executed efficiently if all the funds are not available for the start up of the census now. It seems that many members of this Congress would prefer to have the census fail instead of having an accurate one. It is disgraceful that any Member would want to tamper with the accuracy of the census for their own political agenda. It is disgraceful that they would purposely ignore people of this country and compromise their fair representation by preventing an accurate census.

An accurate census helps Americans in every community. Every year, census data determines $180 billion dollars in federal spending. Census information help direct where the money goes for better roads and transit systems, schools, senior citizen centers, health care facilities and programs for children like Head Start and school lunches. If the census isn’t accurate, local communities will be cheated of their fair share.

I urge my colleagues to stop the antics that are plaguing this debate, and realize that they are harming the census, any census, by continuing to halt full funding. I ask my colleagues to realize that only a Statistical Sampling Census will provide the accuracy needed and provide an accurate picture of our nation’s population and communities.

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Mr. Nadler. Mr. Chairman, I speak today in order to voice my disappointment with the current status of the census debate. The partisan politics that have been paralyzing the implementation of the census are an embarrassment and, ultimately detrimental to the public, the people for whom the Census is supposed to work.
and has grown to more than 10,000 employees. “He is generally considered to be the primary catalyst in shaping the wireless technology industry and has long been recognized as a philanthropist and community leader,” said William T. Archer, AEA president and CEO.

A Jacob will be presented with the award on Sept. 17 at AEA’s annual dinner. The organization is the largest high-tech trade group in the United States, representing more than 3,000 U.S.-based technology companies.

SUCCESS OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward on consideration of spending for foreign affairs, I would like to draw attention to the successes of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1997, CRWRC received a USAID grant of $75,000 for a Development Education project. In collaboration with the World Food Institute (BFW), CRWRC used the money to fund a national event which linked international development organizations with U.S. leaders who were interested in public policy, sustainable development, and hunger. The event was a huge success.

The Gathering, which took place in Washington, D.C. in June of 1997, was preceded by a number of training materials and publicity brochures and newsletters. Participants were divided into one of three groups: Track I, which involved over 300 people who were interested in poverty and hunger and wanted to learn more; Track II, the “leadership corps” or those who expressed a higher level of interest and would apply the “multiplier effect” in their own regions after leaving the Gathering; and finally, Track III, the 60 foreign nationals who were development practitioners, working in partnership with CRWRC overseas.

Attendance at the Gathering exceeded expectations, drawing over 500 people. The conference was a time to share stories and learn from others. According to the increase in learning based on the results of a baseline survey given at registration and a follow-up survey that followed the conference, each of the three groups was impacted significantly by new information. The follow-up survey showed that Track II participants tripled in their learning and Track I showed a positive increase as well. In addition, the visiting international developers were able to learn about the democratic process in the U.S. and the possibility of creating their own action in their own countries.

Other evidence of learning appeared in the comments from participants after the Gathering:

From Jean Claude Cerin, a development practitioner from Haiti, and one of the international presenters:

There was a woman in my small group the first evening. After our meetings who felt forced to adopt international issues. [.] She said that’s not what she’s concerned about, she’s more interested in what’s happening in her own backyard. After going through the workshops and interchanges, she became so interested. She’s interested in the mailing lists to publish talks of folks at the Track II workshops in her local newsletter, and to be in communication with international folks through email. She said, “I’m able to connect with my own community, my own backyard, now.” She caught the connection, the link. We are interconnected. [emphasis added]

From a Track II participant: “Thanks again for your faith-filled leadership and courage in conceiving creating funding and hosting the [TrackII] sectional. It’s a milestone in raising awareness for me!”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize the positive aspects of this program and believe it shows how far public dollars can go to serve the world’s poor when coupled with private effort.

THE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION MERGER PLEDGE ENFORCEMENT ACT (H.R. 4420)

HON. JOHN J. LAFLANCE
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LAFLANCE. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in an era of mega-mergers among financial institutions, and the trend is likely to continue. There is some public concern about these mergers, and with a good reason. Diversified financial services companies offer real opportunities for consumers, including easier access to a larger array of financial services at lower cost. But they also carry risks: higher or hidden fees; intrusions upon consumer privacy; and indifference to community needs and concerns on the part of institutions with little or no actual local community ties.

Today I am introducing legislation intended to help ensure that these larger conglomerates remain responsive to community needs, fulfill community investment obligations and honor their own community investment pledges.

As part of the regulatory approval process for merger applications, the banking and thrift regulators are required to consider the financial institution’s community reinvestment record. It is becoming increasingly typical for financial institutions to announce sizeable financial commitments to provide loans within low and moderate income communities in the context of these pending applications. These pledges must be more than public relations; they are integral elements of the mega-merger trend. The community investment pledges being made by financial institutions are becoming an integral element of the mega-merger trend. They must be taken seriously by the regulators as well as the institution which makes them.

Some of the regulators have taken this initiative and wide-ranging. I believe they are seriously interested and I have confidence they will be pursued. But the public must have confidence as well, and the current regulatory oversight system does not provide it.

These commitments have typically been for ten years and generally involve sizeable, but unspecified pledges of credit for affordable housing, business loans, consumer loans and investments in community projects. Yet current supervisory oversight does not examine whether the institution is meeting minimum required levels of community reinvestment, nor the higher levels promised in these commitments. Several recent studies have found that even these routine CRA examinations have been inadequate and that CRA ratings are generally “inflated.”

The capacity to monitor the higher levels of lending and investment committed to in conjunction with proposed mergers is difficult for the public and community groups to have confidence that the generalizations of these pledges of these institutions will take concrete and positive shape within their communities if there is no way to monitor pledge implementation.

My legislation attempts to strike a middle ground. The bill would direct the Federal banking regulators to develop and maintain procedures to monitor compliance with community investment pledges made by financial institutions. If adopted, it would:

Require the regulatory agencies to notify institutions when commitments are not being met and make such non-compliance public;

and

Authorize the regulators to take an institution’s record of compliance with these pledges into account in any future decision-making regarding the institution.

The community investment pledges being made by financial institutions are becoming an integral element of the mega-merger trend. They must be taken seriously by the regulators as well as the institution which makes them. Community groups and the public at large must have confidence in the integrity and meaningfulness of these pledges. The development of a mechanism for monitoring and enforcing these community commitments can therefore affect that confidence without undue regulatory intrusion.

These pledges must be more than public relations devices. If public concern about the
wave of mega-mergers is to be assuaged, these commitments must show tangible results in local communities. I believe my bill will help accomplish that important objective, and I would welcome the support of my colleagues.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R. 4420

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Depository Institution Merger Pledge Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF COMMITMENTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ACQUISITION OR MERGER APPLICATIONS.
Section 18(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(t) ENFORCEMENT OF MERGER AND ACQUISITION PLEDGES.—

“(1) In general.—Each appropriate Federal banking agency shall establish and maintain procedures for monitoring, on an ongoing basis, any pledge or commitment made by any such person in connection with the approval of any application by any such person under subsection (c), section 4, or 4 of the National Bank Consolidation and Merger Act, section 3 or 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, or section 10 of the Home Owners’ Loan Act, including any pledge or commitment relating to community lending and investment.

“(2) Report of noncompliance.—Whenever any appropriate Federal banking agency determines that any insured depository institution, bank holding company, savings and loan holding company, foreign bank, or any affiliate of any such person is failing to maintain compliance with any pledge or commitment referred to in paragraph (1) at any time during the effective period of the pledge or agreement, the agency shall:

“(A) notify the institution, company, bank, or affiliate of such determination; and

“(B) shall publish a notice of such determination in the Federal Register.

“(3) Noncompliance taken into account in connection with subsequent approvals.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency makes a determination of noncompliance under paragraph (2) with regard to any insured depository institution, bank holding company, savings and loan holding company, foreign bank, or any affiliate of any such person, the agency may take such noncompliance into account in making decisions in the future regarding the institution, company, bank, or affiliate.”.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEDFORD, LONG ISLAND FIRE AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the brave volunteers of the Medford Fire Department for their valiant efforts to contain and extinguish a huge blaze at the Gershon Recycling plant in eastern Long Island, New York on July 23, 1998. I also commend the Medford Ambulance Corps volunteer members who worked tirelessly at the scene of the fire treating firefighters for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion even as black smoke billowed around them.

A towering inferno erupted at the car recycling plant in Medford on that Thursday at around 3:45 p.m., emitting intense heat and flames until well into the next afternoon. The fire consumed tons of metal, petroleum and rubber tires from scrap automobiles measuring approximately two acres wide and 60 feet high. The Medford fire and rescue volunteers were first to arrive at the scene of the blaze and quickly unleashed torrents of water to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby homes and businesses.

The Medford volunteers were able to contain the inferno to the recycling plant site while awaiting mutual aid from 73 fire departments and emergency companies who responded to an Islandwide call for assistance. Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of the Medford firefighters, no one was seriously injured and no buildings or homes surrounding the recycling plant were damaged. Yet, the Medford Ambulance Corps, along with several other local emergency medical services, performed admirably in treating 36 firefighters for heat exhaustion, minor cuts and burns.

The quick response of the Medford fire and rescue volunteers ensured the containment of the blaze and kept the fire from resulting in tragedy. These volunteers work round the clock at perfecting their firefighting and emergency preparedness skills, and stand ready to help their neighbors at a moment’s notice. They deserve our praise and heartfelt thanks for another job well done.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the brave volunteers of the Medford Fire Department and Ambulance Corps and to recognize their commitment and dedication to protecting the lives of our eastern Long Island constituents. We are truly blessed to count on these volunteers in our time of need.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK W. NEUMANN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to briefly address the House about the Paycheck Protection Act. I regret that the campaign finance bill approved today does not effectively prevent organizations from forcing individuals to financially support campaigns. The Paycheck Protection Act authored by my friend from Colorado, Congressman BOB SCHRIFTER, includes this fundamental principle of American democracy. Despite my concerns that the Paycheck Protection Act’s language as originally drafted may not apply this principle equally to unions and corporations, I remain supportive of Congressman SCHIFFER’s efforts. Congressman SCHIFFER has already made some improvements to the bill and I look forward to working with him in the future.

RAIL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JERRY MORAN
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, rail transportation has long played an important role in shaping the American landscape. In recent years, however, the landscape has been made difficult for situations for shippers, railroads, and farmers looking to move their grain to export markets.
Following the deregulation of the Staggers Act, a dramatic shift has occurred in the rail-road industry in Kansas. Class I railroads have gone from operating over 6,500 miles of track in 1986 to 3,800 miles today. Short line carriers now have over 30% of the track in Kansas and make up an even greater percentage in the First Congressional District. Kansas still ranks fourth in the nation with over 5,500 miles of rail; however, we have lost nearly 700 miles of track through abandonments just since 1991.

These changes have left Kansas with fewer Class I carriers and back-to-back years where large harvests have crippled the grain transportation system in Kansas. While no single solution exists to cure all of the problems fac- ing the industry, the federal role in regulating this industry can and should be improved.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is responsible for approving railroad mergers, approving abandonments, and mediating rate disputes. The agency is currently being con-sidered for reauthorization. Earlier this year, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a series of hearings on the state of the railroad industry and the regu-latory functions of the STB.

As a result of those hearings and my own experiences in dealing with the railroad situation in Kansas, I am introducing legislation aimed at improving the ability of the STB to address the critical transportation issues fac-ing rural America.

Specifically, this legislation would:

- Reduce the likelihood of additional abandonments by providing states an other small rail-roads an additional year to acquire an aban-doned line;
- Provide an expedited rate case procedure;
- Provide direction to the STB to devote re-sources to promoting competition and reason-able rates; and
- Direct the STB to place a priority on improv-ing the economic viability of abandoned lines.

Maintaining an efficient transportation sys-tem has long been a key to the success of U.S. agriculture. As agriculture becomes more export dependent, rail transportation is more important than ever. As a member of the Rail-road subcommittee of the House Transpor-tation Committee, I am eager work to improve rail transportation.

The changes proposed in this bill would as-sist in solving the current rail transportation issues by quickly resolving shipper complaints and taking steps to ensure that over the long haul, rail transportation remains an option for America’s agricultural producers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its early con-sideration and passage.

**CRIME DOES NOT PAY ACT**

**HON. TOM BLILEY**

**OF VIRGINIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce the Crime Does Not Pay Act on behalf of Margie Nolan Cowles of Richmond, Virginia. Margie Nolan Cowles wrote a letter to the editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch de-crying the fact that criminals were receiving payments from injuries received during the commission of a crime. I agreed and have in-troduced the Crime Does Not Pay Act to cor-rect this injustice. This legislation prevents convict felons from collecting damages for injuries incurred while committing the felony. It closes a loophole that permits criminals to get rich while committing crimes.

For example, in California, a jury awarded more than $100,000 to Brian Forrett, a career criminal who broke into a home and tied up the residents. He then fired at one of the resi-dents and missed, and shot at the other resi-dent, killing her. Forrett was shot by police officers while trying to escape and is now re-ceiving $26,183 from each of the four officers that fired on him while he serves a 32-year prison sentence for robbery.

It is not right that criminals can receive dam-ages when they are injured in the commission of a felony. This is a travesty of justice and this bill will prevent such miscarriages of jus-tice in the future. I look forward to earning the support of my colleagues and the American people for this legislation because Crime Does Not Pay and my legislation will correct this in-justice.

**DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

**OF MARYLAND**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appr-opriations for the Departments of Com-merce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill.

There are many reasons for my opposition to this bill.

First and foremost, is the atrocity of this body’s inability to pass the Mollohan amend-ment to restore full funding for a fair and accu-rate census.

At this time, however, I would like to ad-dress a matter which has not been discussed on the floor: The dramatic reduction in funding in the bill for the Small Business Administra-tion.

The bill reduces funding for the Small Busi-ness Administration’s regular operating ex-penditures by 27 percent, or $75 million less than the President’s request.

The Committee directs that reductions should come from “overhead” functions and pri-marily headquarters staff.

According to the SBA, this reduction “would literally shut down the Agency.”

The cut is so extreme that, if enacted, it would result in the elimination of more than 1,200 Federal employees, or 40 percent of SBA’s workforce.

But the situation gets worse! The Committee Report language on the funding cuts prohibits staff reductions from SBA district offices.

However, of the approximately 3,000 Fed-eral employees of the SBA, 2,000 are located in district offices.

In other words, even if the SBA eliminated every employee in its DC headquarters, it would still not generate the savings required under the legislation!

Thus, whether intended or not, this appro-priations bill will de-fund the SBA.

Mr. Speaker, the many programs operated by the SBA are critical to the people of my district and I am sure, to those of every Mem-ber of this Congress.

The SBA helps to ensure that America’s small business opportunities are available to the majority of Americans.

America’s 22 million small businesses em-ploy more than 50 percent of the private work force, generate more than half of the nation’s gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs.

In Maryland, SBA programs to encourage the establishment and growth of small busi-nesses have proven invaluable:

In 1997, through its 7(a) program, the SBA made over 750 loans to Maryland small busi-nesses; however, there are over $145,000.

The SBA’s Small Business Investment Com-pany program financed over $19 million for Maryland small businesses in 1997, and

The SBA microlending program in Maryland fin-anced over $190,000.

In addition to my concerns regarding the general operating budget, I am deeply trou-bled by the low funding levels for several key SBA programs.

Two of these programs, the National Women’s Business Council and the Women’s De-velopment Projects, have been addressed by my colleagues Representatives MILLENDER-McDONALD AND SANDERS in two amendments which receive my full support. I thank my col-leagues for their efforts.

There are at least two additional programs that were under-funded in this bill that are of particular concern to me and my constituents:

The 7(j) Minority Enterprise Development pro-gram, for which the President requested $9.5 million, was provided just $2.6 million; and

The HUB Zone program, enacted last year, for which the President requested $4 million, was provided only $2 million.

Just two weeks ago in Baltimore, Aida Alva-rez, Administrator of the SBA, signed an agreement with the Maryland Minority Con-tractors Association reaffirming SBA’s commit-ment to double the number of SBA-guaran-teed loans to African Americans.

Alvarez joined Allan Stephenson, Baltimore SBA District Director, and Arnold Jolivet, President of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association in Baltimore, in the signing of a partner-ship agreement between the two groups.

This agreement represents each organiza-tion’s commitment to work together to increase the participation of Maryland’s minority con-tractors in SBA’s financial and technical assis-tance programs.

I ask my colleagues, what purpose does it serve for SBA to promise to work more closely with the people of my district if there is no money in the programs for which my constitu-ents apply?
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

August 7, 1998

Gress taxes Americans twice. It is now time to remedy this situation. Mr. Speaker, not only are the fees unjust, but they are generating only half the projected revenue. I believe we are deterring individuals from discovering the wonder and beauty of our National Forest. We must encourage people to visit and experience them from doing so. When tourists go elsewhere, it hurts small businesses and it hurts our efforts to educate individuals on the importance of protecting this precious national resource. This tax serves as a barrier to working families, hikers, nature lovers and all those desiring access to our national forests.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort to return the forests back to the people.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF
HON. SAM GEJDENSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3790.

The major beneficiary of this bill will be the National Digital Library. The "profits" from the bill will go to make millions of items available freely on the internet by the year 2000. It is a most fitting goal as the Library of Congress celebrates its 200th birthday in the year 2000. The Library will be using the world's most advanced technology for further education of all our citizens.

Already more than 500,000 items from the Library's incomparable collections relating to American history are on line, including Civil War photographs, presidential papers, documents relating to the civil rights movement, and women's suffrage. Nearly 62 million transactions are now being handled by the Library's on-line services.

These services are used by students, scholars and the general public in the U.S. and around the world. The Library's web site has been called a "publicly and privately financed funded taxpayers dream" by Wired Magazine and an "internet hit" by the New York Times.

We have more than the 290 co-sponsors required to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor. I applaud the Library and urge all my colleagues to support this worthy bill.

BIOMATERIALS ACCESS ASSURANCE ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to support H.R. 872, the Biomaterials Access Assurance Act. The broad consensus of support that the bill now enjoys is the result of many months of hard work by many, especially the bill's sponsor, Representative GEORGE GEKAS.

"Biomaterials" are the raw materials that are used to make medical implants and devices. Examples of biomaterials include silicone, polyester, urethane, and polycarbonate. These materials have hundreds of non-medical uses, but their use in medical devices is one of the most important.

Despite having no role in the design, testing, or production of implantable medical products, biomaterials suppliers are exposed to millions of dollars in litigation costs from product liability suits. Courts have overwhelmingly found biomaterials suppliers not liable, but the costly litigation quickly overwhelms the relatively small financial benefits of selling to the medical device market. For this reason, many biomaterials suppliers no longer sell their products for medical use.

H.R. 872 would limit the liability of biomaterials suppliers to instances of genuine fault. It provides expedited dismissal for biomaterials suppliers, without extensive discovery or other legal costs, in product liability suits where plaintiffs allege harm from a medical implant.

Without congressional action, patients will lose access to life-enhancing and life-saving implantable medical devices and the medical device manufacturers will close their doors.

Passage of this legislation is critically important for the future of Millions of patients and the medical device industry. Anyone that uses a medical device or knows someone that uses a medical device should be heartened by the action of the House today. This bill is a victory for consumers and ensures that the United States' leadership in medical technology innovation will continue.

In closing, I want to emphasize how important it is that this bill remain narrow in scope. As written, it addresses a specific, well-documented public health problem. Any effort to expand the scope of the bill by our colleagues in the other body to include broader product liability reforms will seriously endanger passage this year. On behalf of the patients who depend on medical technology, we cannot afford to let that happen.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF
HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to protest the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Even though the international community has condemned the Turkish government's action as a brutal violation of international law, Turkey has yet to comply with international pressures and remains the only nation in the world to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a sovereign entity. Since 1974, the United Nations and other international organizations have repeatedly attempted to find a solution to this dispute, but the border separating the Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities remains one of the most militarized in the world. Currently, over 30,000 troops retain control over the northern third of the island. Tensions remain high in the region, and, with the recent Turkish threats of military action, the prospects for a peaceful solution in the near future have been furthering reduced.

The invasion of 1974 marked not just a defeat of Cypriot military forces, but the beginning of a policy of Turkish ethnic cleansing.
Massive portions of the Greek Cypriot population were dislocated, exposing them to the threats of starvation and poverty. The Turkish invasion did not solve the political disputes that had already fueled factionalism and ethnic hostility in Cyprus, but only intensified the animosity between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. As recently as 1996, increased hostility along the buffer zone led to the injury and death of several soldiers. Strides toward gradual demilitarization remain essential to reducing tension in this delicate situation.

I applaud the Clinton Administration’s efforts to find a peaceful solution to this conflict. Recent visits by Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Presidential Envoy for Cyprus, underscore the United States’ commitment to furthering political stability in the region. I implore the President to make clear that violence should not be used to resolve this most recent crisis. United Nations-sponsored negotiations should recommence immediately. The United States must make it clear that it is willing to use foreign aid, sanctions, and its power as a member of several international organizations in order to compel a resolution to this conflict.

While preventing violence is our immediate priority, our underlying goal of a lasting and constructive peace on Cyprus remains at the priority, our underlying goal of a lasting and constructive peace on Cyprus remains at the priority, our underlying goal of a lasting and constructive peace on Cyprus remains. As recently as 1996, increased hostility along the buffer zone led to the injury and death of several soldiers. Strides toward gradual demilitarization remain essential to reducing tension in this delicate situation.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the Record these statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today.

Congratulations, thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY ABIGAIL NESSON REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

ABIGAIL NESSON: I believe that our forefathers had the right idea. Their wish was to create a safe and free nation for all of us to live in, and they wrote this to prove it: “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and, especially, common defense. I believe—I know—that the guns that are available today do none of these things. I believe that our forefathers would agree, because I refuse to think that the intentions of the ones who wrote the Constitution was to put lethal weapons in the hands of any person who wanted one. That is not "a well regulated militia." No, their intention was to ensure the safety and freedom of us, their posterity.

I propose that we follow the words of the preamble and of our constitution. I propose that we take a step to make our nation safe again, for me and for the children I want to have some day. I propose we remove the guns from our streets, our homes and our hands.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY ABE KLEIN REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

ABE KLEIN: The issue I am choosing to bring up today is that of campaign finance reform. As you may remember, it is really quite a simple process, to some extent, for getting people elected to the smaller, local levels, including in Vermont, our state Congress and the senate, as well. But once you go beyond that, it is really a different story, and it takes a lot of money for people to get elected to office, as I’m sure you are aware of.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Tell me about it. Yes, I know.

ABE KLEIN: You are the only person in the entire Federal Government of our nation who has been elected without the monetary support of the Democratic or Republican party. And that’s a real huge asset. The requisite amount of money required for people to obtain office is really limiting who can be elected to office and who can hold power in our country, and the other real issue behind this problem is that, though people are seeking it with the support of the democratic and republican parties, both of these parties get a large amount of this support from large corpora,

The one I am working with, there was a proposal, and there have been many proposals since 1974 when the first campaign finance reform was passed after the Nixon administration, but that particular proposal left a lot of gaps, including allowing organizations or PACs, these PAC organizations, to gather money or to spend without restrictions. And now people in the Congress, including you, have attempted to reprise that with new proposals.

I really wanted to bring that issue up as a discussion, because I feel that it’s really limiting the viewpoints and the opinions of people in Congress, and who can get elected to Congress. I mean, people continue to work on it, but really— I don’t know—I think that, at some point, maybe with large donations and major contributors, it could be brought up as an issue for serious debate, and it could be really brought into a forefront, and it needs to be done in a manner that doesn’t infringe in the free speech of the people. And that is a serious issue as well, because a lot of people claim that their ability to spend money for political elections is representing their free speech, and any limits on their ability to spend money is therefore infringing on their First Amendment rights. I am not sure if I agree with you, actually. Have you found any ways in which who and how much money can be spent, or who can spend money to elect people to federal office without infringing on their First Amendment rights.

The COURT: Abe, thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY BRIDGET GUILFOY, MICHAEL HASTINGS, KATE CHARLEBOIS AND MANDY COLLIER REGARDING VIOLENCE IN THE SCHOOLS

BRIDGET GUILFOY: We are going to be talking about violence in schools. And so a real important question to be asked initially is: Has the violence actually increased over the last few years, or several years? And it seems very obvious that it has increased, but there is a surprising lack of evidence and information about it. The last official national study was done in 1978, and, since then, there has been no national level to compare the data. The only ones that have been done have been in smaller local settings. So all we can do is really speculate, based on studies to compare the violence over the years.

In 1978, 1.3 percent of students reported being attacked, and 4 percent of those needed medical attention. And recently, 1989 of 31 Illinois public high schools, 8 percent of students reported being attacked, 8 percent of those had been cut, and 4 percent shot. And in a 1990 report, several students said that they had carried a weapon to school within a month before the survey. So with these more informal reports, it seems clear that the violence is increasing, but it is just very surprising and almost disturbing that there have been no studies, because it seems like there is a lack of interest.

It is also very interesting that, in the 1978 report, students reported 22 times the number of attacks and robberies that their principals and teachers reported, and it just is a shame, because it seems that if people are trying to cover up the problem here, it will make it a lot more difficult to actually get to the bottom of it and help it.

Violent children are usually victims of abuse themselves, and psychological studies have shown that child abuse is invariably connected with child violence.

KATE CHARLEBOIS: As Bridget was saying, there is a direct relation between child abuse and violence among teenagers. And recently, we have a report in The Burlington Free Press which stated that the number of reported child abuse cases is the lowest in 15 years. However, it has also been reported some cases that are yet to be much more violent than ever before, which may be in relation to why there is more guns and shootings happening, rather than fights in schools.

So we feel as though there is a real need for both more child abuse programs as well as an increase in the availability of these programs. And also, as a solution for this problem, if I could just read a quote from Jimmy Foster, who is the Mayor of Pearl, Mississippi, where, on October 1st of ’97, there was an article in The News which stated that 10 children were shot and wounded seven others. And he said: “You know the old cliché, it happens to somebody.
else. It happened to us this time, and it was shocking. It cut through the heart of the community. What happened to us that morning was unthinkable.

And I think the main thing that we would like to do is to have schools in Vermont be much more aware that this is a problem that is not just happening in the big cities, but also happening in small towns.

Mandy Collier: We wanted to try to offer some solutions that might also help with the problem. In doing that, we looked at the urban schools where school violence had occurred many times. And one of the solutions that they have been trying for the past years is to install metal detectors and go through, and in the case of the city, they have 2,600 or 3,000 detectors just for their schools. And there are many problems with this, and one of them is that it could take three hours just to get all the students to go through the metal detectors, which cuts into the school time itself, and you end up spending half the day making sure no one has weapons. The other problem is the high cost. The cost of these metal detectors range between $10,000 and $20,000, and many school districts don’t have the money, and when they do, they want to make sure that they rotate it between the schools, so schools are only getting checked once a week, and what happens the other four days when someone could be in the school? And in rural communities and areas like these, it is a little unreasonable to spend that much money when an incident may occur once, a random incident, and the detector might not even be there.

So as far as solution, Rebecca Coffee is a Vermont author who has written a book on the subject. She suggests that this need to be taught by their parents, by their school community and by their leaders how to express themselves. They need to know they have control, because many kids go through and use guns as a way of gaining control, and they also need to have a strong sense of community. To do this, I think that parents need to be taught better and they need to be aware of how to teach their kids these values. And I think, also, that schools need to have more teachers and more guidance counselors in them, because many times there are only one or two per grade, which is one or two per a hundred or two hundred students, which isn’t enough.

Michael: I think it seems that violence in schools is a consequence of a much larger problem of education that affects our society, and the question would be, why can’t every school be of the quality of a Phillips Exeter Academy or another elite institution like that. And if the answer is, well, there is no money to give to the schools, then I would have to consider the question, why does the government give three times more money to corporations, corporate welfare, than to education programs. Also, why do we spend so much money on a massive military budget, which shouldn’t come as a surprise—the military is a rather violent institution—that just breeds this kind of mentality of violence. Also, why it seems that we have been unable to mobilize this awesome American effort that was shown in winning World War II, when we put a man on the moon, and that we still use this American might to bully other countries around the world, but why can’t we use that same program towards improving the conditions of our school standards? Why do we seem to be unable to even feed the children that go to school? That surely doesn’t help the problem. And when the question comes to what is the correlation between spending money and economic stability comes to what is the correlation between the amounts of shoot- ings you have, say, in Andover, Massachusetts to southeast Las Angeles, the results are pretty clear-cut.

## TRIBUTE TO SUPERIOR DIE SET CORPORATION IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Superior Die Set Corporation, one of the nation’s oldest family-owned corporations, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

This American success story traces its roots to a 23-year-old Polish blacksmith, Kasimir J. “Casey” Janiszewski, who bid farewell to his mother and father in 1910 and left Poland for the United States. Ten years later he arrived in Milwaukee, home of his new bride, and soon established Superior Tool & Die Company.

As the family tree grew, so did the fortunes of the company. Casey Janiszewski’s sons, Alphonse, Casimir H. and Edward, became key executives in the company. Casimir Janiszewski, also nicknamed “Casey,” became president in 1968 and served the company for 55 years—longer than any family member—until his retirement in 1991. His sons, Casimir J. and Frank J., took executive positions in the mid-1980s and in 1991 were named CEO and President, and Executive Vice-President, respectively, their current positions in the firm.

The company thrived under the stewardship of three generations of Janiszewskis. Headquartered in the Milwaukee suburb of Oak Creek since 1965, Superior Die Set Corporation employs 500 workers in the U.S. and overseas, is a regional source for a multiplicity of products and owns an array of patents on products developed by the founder and his son. In 1992, the Janiszewski success story came full circle with the establishment of a subsidiary in Poland that gives the company a global reach.

The three-day celebration of the company’s 75th anniversary also includes the birthday celebration of Casimir H. Janiszewski, who also turns 75.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superior Die Set Corporation for being an outstanding corporate citizen, a major community asset, employer of hundreds, and living proof that the American dream lives on.

## EXPANDING CHILDREN’S HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will enhance the well-being of federal employees’ children by improving their access to health care. My bill will allow enroll-
In his philanthropic and community activities, Ron applies the same attributes of tenacity and perseverance that have created countless successful ventures which have produced a rich blend of social institutions that serve to invigorate the Long Island community. As Past chairman of the Long Island Campaign Cabinet of UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, he oversaw an annual budget campaign that raised $17,000,000. He is Vice-President of the Long Island Philharmonic as well as Treasurer and Board Member of the Long Island Association. In addition, he provides guidance and leadership to other major Long Island-based organizations that include the Long Island Better Business Bureau, the Nassau County Museum of Art, the Board of Directors of the Institute for Community Development and the Council of Overseers of the Tilles Center of C.W. Post College of Long Island University.

Ron’s constant giving of himself to the community has blessed us with business and cultural opportunities. Moreover, in his role as Chairman of the Long Island Regional Board of the League of B’nai Brith, we have come to view a model of understanding and compassion that readily emerges as a yardstick by which all such future efforts must be measured. His unique talent for understanding and humanity have earned him great recognition and honor. Among these many accolades are the Long Island Distinguished Leadership Award, the Distinguished Community Service Award of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai Brith, the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Frank Ornstein Human Relations Award of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as Ron Cooper now looks toward retirement and happily spending those innumerable hours of leisure he has promised to his wife, Marcia, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing their appreciation and joy for all he has done and all he will do.

IN INTRODUCTION OF TAX ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the “Tax Assistance for Children with Chronic Medical Conditions Act” which will enable the parents of children with ongoing medical conditions to participate in medical conferences that provide timely information for the treatment of their children’s health.

I am delighted to have as original co-sponsors of this bill Representatives Waxman, Hilliard, Frost, Moran, Pelosi, Carson, Sandlin, Furse, Farr, Stark and McNulty.

This legislation will, at an extremely minimal cost, facilitate the ability of parents whose children have chronic medical conditions to attend conferences, meetings and conventions at which physicians and other health and service providers provide them important information not otherwise available to them. Under current law, the expenses of attending such a conference is not deductible for a parent. Everyone else attending the meeting—the physicians, the vendors, the association members—can deduct the cost of travel and lodging except the parent and child who are directly affected.

There are many areas of this country where access to state-of-the-art treatment and diagnostic capabilities are simply not available to physicians or to patients. For that reason, organizations that work on behalf of those with chronic illnesses and other conditions hold annual or biennial conferences at which researchers, physicians, vendors of mechanical and other equipment and others provide their latest information for each other. Parents often are encouraged to attend these meetings with their children to learn about the latest treatment techniques. For many, this is their only capability to have access to this level of medical expertise, and we should encourage their ability to participate in such conferences.

My legislation would create a $500 per year deduction for a parent and child to attend such conferences. Deductible expenses would include travel, lodging, registration and meals while attending the conference.

I would hope that Members will support enactment of this inexpensive but important provision that will benefit children with chronic medical conditions and improve both their medical treatment and their quality of life.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SHELLY MCP Eck KELLY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary constituent, Shelly McPeck Kelly. Shelly was tragically killed in a plane crash with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in 1996. Shelly McPeck Kelly was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community and country, and she has been missed by all those who knew her.

Throughout her life, Shelly McPeck Kelly was a model citizen. She was loyal and devoted wife. As the proud parents of two children, she and her husband shared many wonderful memories. Shelly served faithfully in the United States Air Force as an airplane stewardess. Her hard work paid off by achieving the rank of Technical Sergeant. Shelly should also be commended for her service to the United States during the Bosnian Peacekeeping Operation.

On August 15, 1998, Shelly will be remembered by her family and friends as they plant a tree in her memory. I ask my colleagues to join the residents of Eastern Ohio and myself in remembering Shelly McPeck Kelly’s courage, loyalty and service to her country.
Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for Your nation's congressional leaders and for our President. Give our nation's leaders Your wisdom that they will lean upon You for understanding and direction.

Lord, we pray for all law enforcement officers. Give them Your protective care and wisdom to respond in courage to perform their duties with firmness and with love. We long for the final victory over sin and evil and sorrow in this world and pray that You will give us determination and faith to take our stand for righteousness in our land. Thank You Lord for laying down Your life for us that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Lift us up through this darkness of evil that we might praise You in Jesus' Name. Amen. Chaplain James Paul Maxwell, Shawnee Police Department, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

IN TRIBUTE — SPEECH OF HON. WES WATKINS OF OKLAHOMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a prayer I received from Chaplain James Paul Maxwell from Shawnee, Oklahoma. When Reverend Maxwell learned of the tragic deaths of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson he composed a beautiful prayer and asked that I share it with Congressmen DeLAY. After reading the prayer myself, I was so moved that I share it with Congressman DELAY. After reading the prayer I received from Chaplain James Paul Maxwell, Shawnee Police Department, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

HONORING FRIENDS OF DIALYSIS DAY

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare a day of recognition on August 16, 1998, for the Friends of Dialysis Day. Everyone who participates in this important day is taking an essential step in helping to give hope to people suffering from kidney disease and the need for organ donation. We all know that organ donations save lives, and increasing the number of donors throughout the country could potentially save the life a loved one for many families in our community and throughout the nation. I hope by declaring this Friends of Dialysis Day we can increase the willingness to donate organs by friends and members of our community.

The citizens of my district have participated in the Friends of Dialysis Day through an annual golf tournament. Participants, including patients, transplant recipients, medical staff, and family members, come together to raise money for this important cause. I urge other communities around the country to follow their example and help promote organ donation.

I commend all who have taken up this important fight and I hope we can all work together to continue to increase the awareness of kidney disease and the need for organ donations in our communities.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st century, we must address the issue of Social Security. When I support privatizing the system which would allow Americans to more fully control the financial aspects of their retirement years, I realize we must have a national debate on this issue. In an effort to contribute to the discussion, I would recommend that my colleagues read this following column written by Jose Pinera as it appeared in the European edition of the Wall Street Journal on June 25, 1998.

[From the Wall Street Journal Europe, June 25, 1998]

A WAY OUT OF EUROPE'S PENSION CRISIS (By J ose Pinera)

On the wall of my office in Santiago, Chile, I have a map of the Americas with South America's sharp southern tip pointing toward the top and the United States and Canada at the bottom. Visitors often look puzzled, then exclaim, "Oh, they've hung your map upside down."

"No," I say, "it's just a different way of looking at the world." I often think of that map when I'm asked about the crisis-rid- dled pension systems can fixed.

Reform is possible, I reply, if people are willing to look at the world in a different way. Most importantly, individuals will need more power to provide for their own retire- ment—and the government's role must be scaled back. We've accomplished this in Chile, where a pension reform model is being seriously considered in the United States. In the meantime, the system has already spread to several other nations around the globe.

Beneath its veneer of egalitarianism, Eu- rope's present pension systems are hideously unfair to tens of millions. Most young work- ers can look only to social security and payroll taxes to support those on retirement today—and then to receiving less and less when they themselves retire. Many under-40 members of the work force are already choosing to put their money on income support to make ends meet in the next few decades, even though they pay up to 20% or more of their income in social secu- rity taxes.

SIMPLE YET RADICAL

Part of the problem is demographics. Eu- rope's state pension systems are based on the so-called pay-as-you-go (Paygo) principle. I'm often asked: why not redesign the system to use contributions? The answer is simple: the contributions system underwrites a promise that the future generation can retire on the same pension income level as the current generation. One of the solu- tions is to make all contributors to the system into shareholders in the pension fund itself.

I commend all who have taken up this important fight and I hope we can all work together to increase the awareness of kidney disease and the need for organ donations in our communities.

As a result, the financial burdens will be- come enormous. Pension contributions in Germany, for example, are now 20.3% of earnings, and the government has just increased the VAT to finance the cost of pensions. And that is just the beginning. In France, pension contributions may have to double to 40% of earnings. But higher payroll taxes lead to even high unemployment and thus fewer contributions to the pension system.

At the same time, the pensions will be remitted. European governments have already begun doing so, for example, by increasing the retirement age.

Meanwhile, every pressure group grants to people more to spend and more to take by increasing their retirement age. It is a very complicated issue and it is not clear how to solve it. But it is clear that we cannot continue to support a pension system which is not sustainable.

A WAY OUT OF EUROPE'S PENSION CRISIS

-A殷 Jose Pinera

WASHINGTON, DC — August 5, 1998

This year, I again intend to vote for aid for Israel, and I want to draw special attention to what makes this bill so special and historic. Based upon Prime Minister Netanyahu's pledge to a joint meeting of Congress two years ago, Israel has started to reduce its request for aid. Imagine an aid-receiving nation feeling it would be a shame not to share this with its benefactors, and colleagues of these men. We will vote on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill which contains Israel's annual aid package. I have voted for this bill since its inception in 1974 and only in Fiscal 1998.

I am also pleased to note that it looks like Iran, Israel does need continuity in the region. In September, when we return to the region like Iran, Israel does need continuity in the region. In September, when we return to the region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Lord, we pray for the wives and children of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. We pray for the family, friends, and colleagues of these men. We know their hurt and sorrow is almost unbearable. Lift these up with Your love and healing and fill their loneliness magnified with grief with the presence of Your Spirit, and the Hope of Your gift of eternal life.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Nation's congressional leaders, and for our President. Give our nation's leaders Your wisdom that they will lean upon You for understanding and direction.

Lord, we pray for all law enforcement officers. Give them Your protective care and wisdom to respond in courage to perform their duties with firmness and with love. We long for the final victory over sin and evil and sorrow in this world and pray that You will give us determination and faith to take our stand for righteousness in our land. Thank You Lord for laying down Your life for us that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Lift us up through this darkness of evil that we might praise You in Jesus' Name. Amen. Chaplain James Paul Maxwell, Shawnee Police Department, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

HONORING FRIENDS OF DIALYSIS DAY

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare a day of recognition on August 16, 1998, for the Friends of Dialysis Day. Everyone who participates in this important day is taking an essential step in helping to give hope to people suffering from kidney disease and the need for organ donation. We all know that organ donations save lives, and increasing the number of donors throughout the country could potentially save the life a loved one for many families in our community and throughout the nation. I hope by declaring this Friends of Dialysis Day we can increase the willingness to donate organs by friends and members of our community.

The citizens of my district have participated in the Friends of Dialysis Day through an annual golf tournament. Participants, including patients, transplant recipients, medical staff, and family members, come together to raise money for this important cause. I urge other communities around the country to follow their example and help promote organ donation.

I commend all who have taken up this important fight and I hope we can all work together to continue to increase the awareness of kidney disease and the need for organ donations in our communities.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st century, we must address the issue of Social Security. When I support privatizing the system which would allow Americans to more fully control the financial aspects of their retirement years, I realize we must have a national debate on this issue. In an effort to contribute to the discussion, I would recommend that my colleagues read this following column written by Jose Pinera as it appeared in the European edition of the Wall Street Journal on June 25, 1998.

[From the Wall Street Journal Europe, June 25, 1998]
When I was appointed minister of labor and social security, my team and I hit upon a simple, yet radical way to keep the idea of a national retirement system, but change the way it works. Every worker would pay social security taxes, we proposed, could go into a private, individual pension account that would be his own property. His money would be invested in private management of stocks and bonds. If he changed his job, his retirement accounts would move with him. These would fuel an economy; keep up with a growing economy, yielding a far greater return than if the same sums went to the government.

Here’s how the Pension Savings Account (PSA) system works. To start with every working man and woman gets a PSA passbook to keep track of how much as accumulated and how well the investment fund has performed.

To manage these growing assets, individuals or—better yet—through a number of private companies that invest in a diversified, low-risk portfolio of stocks and bonds. Since workers can change freely from one company to another, there grows a trust in the customer service and lower commissions.

Many have user-friendly computer terminals where individuals can calculate the value of their own savings. From how much they need to deposite in order to retire at a given age.

The companies are regulated by the government and there’s also a safety net: the state guarantees a minimum pension if the worker’s savings fall short.

The PSA system changes the very notion of what a pension is. For example, Chile no longer has a right legal retirement age. People can retire whenever they want, as long as they have sufficient savings in their accounts. Thus 20% of pensionable pension (65% of average salary of the previous 10 years, as long as it is higher than the minimum pension), if they want to, they can continue working without penalty. Plan after their pension begins. No longer is anyone forced to leave the labor force—on work on the black market, and from the shadows they draw a pension.

The result? Today Chile’s private pension system has accumulated an investment fund of some $30 billion, in a country of only 14 million people and a gross domestic product of only $70 billion. As University of California economist, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to read President Hu’s speech before the Thirteenth Plenary Session of the National Unification Council on July 22, 1998. Minister Lee’s speech outlines his thoughts and aspirations for the future of Taiwan, especially the question of unification with the People’s Republic of China. His remarks are thought-provoking and insightful and consider the interest in the future of Taiwan in this body. I urge my colleagues to read President Lee’s speech.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I ask that President Lee’s speech be inserted at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CLOSING REMARKS TO THE THIRTEENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION COUNCIL BY LEE TENG-HUI, PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Speaker, today I received a copy of a speech by the President of the Republic of China, Taiwan, Lee Teng-Hui, which he delivered before the Thirteenth Plenary Session of the National Unification Council on July 22, 1998. Minister Lee’s speech outlines his thoughts and aspirations for the future of Taiwan, especially the question of unification with the People’s Republic of China. His remarks are thought-provoking and insightful and consider the interest in the future of Taiwan in this body. I urge my colleagues to read President Lee’s speech.

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THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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COMMUNICATIONS AND EMPOWERING WORKERS

The PSA system has other benefits. For example, the favor of taking their European-wide, workers would not risk losing their pension rights if they left a job in one country for a job in another. Interestingly, the government is administering a EU Commission change from Paygo to an investment-based retirement system for its own workers.

Harvard University economist Martin Feldstein has estimated that the value of future benefits to the American economy of privatizing Social Security pensions could be as high as 10% of average annual output. If private companies, and of course the fund managers themselves keep a constant watchful eye on the accounts.

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country, two systems" model is undemocratic, power is exercised from the top down, not from the bottom up. This runs completely counter to the democratic reunification trend of the 21st century.

Hence, we further advocate that:

First, although there will be only one China in the future, at present there is "one China." Dividing China into a Republic of China was established in 1912, and although the movement to Taiwan in 1949, the Peking authorities have never exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan. That the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are ruled by two separate political entities is an objective fact that cannot be denied.

Second, the reunification of China should proceed from the bottom up. When conditions are ripe, success will come naturally. No timetable need be set. The pace of democratization on the Chinese mainland and the improvement of cross-strait relations will decide the progress towards peaceful reunification.

Third, prior to reunification, the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan should possess the inherent right of the 21.8 million people on Taiwan. It is also necessary to preserve the achievements of democratic reform in the Taiwan area and encourage democratic change on the Chinese mainland.

Fourth, in light of the needs for survival and development, the people of the Republic of China should participate in international activities as they did in the fifties and sixties. This way, the people on both sides will have equal opportunity to contribute to the international community.

Fifth, Taiwan and the mainland should expand exchanges and enhance the prosperity of both sides. Cooperation should replace antagonism, and the state of hostility should disappear. In this fashion, a propitious foundation can be laid for the future peaceful reunification of China.

Finally, the two sides should pursue full communication on the principles of equality and mutual respect in order to resolve differences and seek common ground. They should conduct consultations based on the reality of the cross-strait peace agreement, thereby ending the state of hostility, promoting harmony in cross-strait relations, and preserving the stability of this crucial region.

Over the past ten years, the ROC government has followed a positive and pragmatic mainland policy in an effort to promote salutary cross-strait interaction and move towards democratic reunification. As early as May 1991, I declared an end to the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion, thereby formally renouncing the use of force as a means of solving the issue of reunification. Also over the past decade, the ROC has established the National Unification Council and the Mainland Affairs Council, and the Straits Exchange Foundation. Up to the present, the two sides have held eighteen rounds of talks. At the same time, we have actively worked to build the necessary legal foundation and put cross-strait exchanges on a proper legal track.

From 1987 through the beginning of this year, residents of Taiwan have made more than 21 million trips to the Chinese mainland, making them the second largest source of outside investment there. The ROC government has also raised numerous friendly and concrete proposals concerning such issues as meetings between the top leaders of both sides, cooperation in the information technology sector, the transformation of the transport center, cultural exchanges, agricultural cooperation, and the reform of state enterprises. It is through the perseverence and hard work of the ROC that cross-strait relations have been built from a foundation of zero to a round of progress. Relations have progressed without fail, exchanges have expanded without setback. A new opportunity for peaceful cross-strait relations can be laid for the future peaceful reunification of China.

What is regrettable, however, is that the Peking authorities have never been able to shake their rigid mentality. Not only have they not developed the state of private-sector exchanges across the strait and respond to the ROC's well-intentioned expectations, but they have stepped up the promotion of a Taiwan policy that seeks to "limit (our) foreign relations, suppress (our) military, and bind (our) economy (to theirs)." This has hindered and obstructed the development of normal cross-strait relations. On the Taiwan side, the peace policy emphasizing "patience over haste" and "steady progress for the long term." Last year, the mainland authorities convened the Fifth Plenary Session of the Chinese Communist Party and the First Plenary Session of the Ninth People's Congress, during which their new leadership was formed. It is the new leadership that will pragmatically face up to the global trends of democracy, globalization, and information in the 21st century, and demonstrate the broad-based wisdom necessary to bring about a new era of reciprocity and mutual trust between Taipei and Peking, thereby achieving win-win for both sides.

In fact, the accumulated experience over decades of cross-strait relations on the mainland is an internal property of the Chinese people. Taipei, on the other hand, has an inherent right of the 21.8 million people on Taiwan. It is also necessary to preserve the achievements of democratic reform in the Taiwan area and encourage democratic change on the Chinese mainland.

The ROC has spared no effort to establish direct and regular cross-strait communication in order to overcome all difficulties. The ROC's tangible success in realizing democracy fully demonstrates that Chinese people are capable of implementing democracy. We are pleased to see that the mainland authorities are beginning to recognize the significance of the promotion of grass-roots democracy in some areas. Furthermore, we look forward to even more active efforts on the part of Peking to encourage the people of China on the mainland to play a greater role in various aspects of the ROC. The ROC's drive to bring about a new era of reciprocity and mutual trust between Taipei and Peking, thereby achieving win-win for both sides.

It is our hope that this new leadership will pragmatically face up to the global trends of democracy, globalization, and information in the 21st century, and demonstrate the broad-based wisdom necessary to bring about a new era of reciprocity and mutual trust between Taipei and Peking, thereby achieving win-win for both sides.

Today, the ROC stands as a top-ranking nation in terms of gross national product, per capita income, economic growth rate, foreign exchange reserves, total trade volume, total outbound investment, and level of technological development. The ROC is also a rare example in modern history; one that was able to successfully achieve democratization while maintaining economic development and social stability. Thus, it is my hope that the ROC will overcome problems and challenges by adhering to the world-acclaimed "Taiwan experience." Today, the ROC stands as a top-ranking nation in terms of gross national product, per capita income, economic growth rate, foreign exchange reserves, total trade volume, total outbound investment, and level of technological development. The ROC is also a rare example in modern history; one that was able to successfully achieve democratization while maintaining economic development and social stability. Thus, it is my hope that the ROC will overcome problems and challenges by adhering to the world-acclaimed "Taiwan experience."
The House Committee of the Whole
on Energy and Commerce had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Energy.

GEORGE B. VANDERBILT, Jr., Chairman, is Meeting with the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF
HON. JIM KOLBE
OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to discuss an international organization funded by this bill—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As many of my colleagues know, the OECD was founded in 1961 as a successor to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Since its inception, the OECD has never strayed too far from its core mission to see that its member nations achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment, to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member nations, and to contribute to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis.

The OECD continues to do important economic work. For example, it is working on the Asian economic crisis. It is making an effort to help Russia get on the right economic track. The OECD is also the organization that developed the Anti-Bribery Convention now pending before Congress. OECD economic studies are considered crucial to understanding the functioning of the global economy. It is doing cutting edge work on regulatory and tax reform. And the OECD is taking the lead on understanding the impact that electronic commerce will have on global economic issues. In short, the OECD is as important today to its member nations as it was at its inception.

Nonetheless, the OECD understands that in today’s tough budgetary environment, they need to find ways to do more with less. The OECD is reforming on its own initiative. In fact, I believe it has shown real leadership in this area. As its internal reforms continue, I believe we should take a close look at how these reforms are being implemented, and perhaps even hold it up as example for other international organizations.

I would also like to draw the Chairman’s attention to the work of the OECD Development Center. Over the years, the OECD Development Center has served as a bridge between OECD nations and emerging economies around the world. The Center’s reputation as an “honest broker,” along with its commitment to promoting market-opening reforms, makes it an excellent resource to policy makers in developed nations and developing countries alike.

Mr. Chairman, the OECD and the OECD Development Center are important to U.S. international economic interests. I am hopeful that their important work will continue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, last night, during consideration of H.R. 4276, the Department of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1999, on roll call vote 398, the Helms amendment, I was recorded as voting “aye” but intended to vote “no.”

On May 28, President Clinton issued Executive Order (13083) intending to provide a uniform policy for the federal government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The order amended an Executive Order signed in 1969 by President Richard Nixon which prohibited discrimination in federal employment “because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin * * *.” The new order does not create any new enforcement rights for discrimination based on sexual orientation since such enforcement rights must be passed by the Congress. The Helms amendment would have prohibited any federal funds from being used to implement or enforce Executive Order 13083.

I have always strenuously opposed discrimination of any kind. I believe that opportunities should be given on the basis of ability and therefore feel that one’s sexual orientation should play no part in hiring, promotion or firing decisions. Accordingly, I intended to vote against the Helms amendment.

GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION IN GERMANY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support to the House Resolution that expresses the sense of Congress with respect to government discrimination in Germany based on religion or belief, particularly against United States citizens.

Government discrimination against members of minority groups, including American citizens, solely because of their religious beliefs, is occurring in Germany at the federal, state and local level. All acts have been documented in the last five State Department Human Rights Reports, United Nations Reports, and the most recent reports of the State Department Advisory Committee on Human Rights.

Despite attempts of our State Department to address the issue with the German government, it is only getting worse.

Because of a strong grass roots movement in this country by people of faith who are committed to ending religious persecution, Congress is taking a strong step toward helping to end international religious persecution. The right for someone to practice their faith should not be infringed by government actions.

Our country was founded on this principle, and we should stand up for this principle when we deal with other countries.

Religious persecution is morally unacceptable. Government discrimination based on religious beliefs, especially when it impacts American citizens, should not be allowed to persist without comment. I support this resolution offered by Representative Matt Salmon and urge other Members to do the same.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM AULL, III

HON. IKE SKELTON
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to pay tribute to William (Bill) Aull, III, a good friend and outstanding attorney, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

A native of Lexington, MO, Aull graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and continued his education at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. Bill began his legal profession as the Prosecuting Attorney in Lafayette County, which led to a position as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Missouri. He continued as the City Attorney for his hometown of Lexington, and spent most of his professional career practicing law there.

A veteran of World War II, Bill commanded a company of the 442nd Japanese-American Infantry Regiment in Italy. He received numerous decorations during his tour, including the Silver Star. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after twenty years of service with the United States Army Reserve.

In addition to his outstanding professional and military service, Bill served as the President of the Commerce Bank of Lexington, the Lexington R–5 Board of Education, the Missouri Historical Society, and the Wentworth Military Academy Board. He also served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Lexington.

Aull is survived by his wife Tuni, one son, two daughters, one step-son, one step-daughter, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Martha Bolding Aull. Mr. Speaker, Bill Aull’s public service and military career make him a role model for young civic leaders, and his closeness within the Lexington community will greatly be missed. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this distinguished Missourian.

BREAK THE CYCLE OF PERSECUTION OF IRANIAN BAHÁ’ÍS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, adherents of the Bahá’í faith in Iran have lived a precarious and dangerous existence since the religion originated in what was then Persia in the 1840’s. Originally the Bahá’í faithful were persecuted by Muslims in Iran as heretics. They were exiled to Baghdad and then to Akka, in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, the Bahá’í World Center was established in Haifa, Israel, near the site of Akka, where it remains today. From those humble beginnings, today about 300,000 Bahá’ís live in Iran, with millions more in communities elsewhere around the world. As such,
Baha’is comprise the largest religious minority in Iran today.

Unfortunately, little has changed for the Iranian Baha’is since the time the faith was founded. Although the U.S. State Department reports that exile is not a tool presently used to persecute the Baha’is, Baha’is in Iran are subject to ongoing, egregious violations of their human rights.

Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, over 200 Baha’is have been executed by the government solely for their religious beliefs. It is important to note that Baha’is have never engaged in any illegal activity nor participated in any form of opposition to the Iranian government. In fact, one of the basic tenets of the Baha’i faith is obedience to the civil law in the country where the adherent lives and the Baha’is in Iran have followed the tenet to the letter. When Iranian law was changed to effectively forbid the administration of the Baha’i Faith by elected groups and require the disbanding of Baha’i schools, the Baha’is of Iran complied, although these steps are a major impediment to the continued vitality of the Baha’i community in Iran.

Since the founding of the faith, Baha’is have been persecuted to varying degrees. Unfortunately, there are disturbing new signs that we may be entering a period of increased persecution. On July 21, the Government of Iran executed Ruhollah Rowhani, a Baha’i from the northern Iranian city of Mashad. He was arrested over ten months ago and charged with converting a Muslim to the Baha’i faith. He was held in solitary confinement without access to lawyers or his family. Then, after a sham trial in which he was deprived of the right to offer a defense, he was sentenced and killed.

A further cause for alarm over this heinous act is the fact that fifteen other Baha’is are currently in detention in Iran and three may face imminent execution. It is unclear when, if these men—all charged with religious crimes—will be put to death, but three have been found guilty and are essentially in the same position Mr. Rowhani was immediately prior to his execution.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Iran clearly marches to the beat of its very own drummer. Nevertheless, I cannot see one single reason the Iranian government would execute Mr. Rowhani and threaten the lives of other Baha’is at a time when the outlook is more promising than it has been in a long time for an exploration of the possibility of a gradual move toward normalization with the rest of the world community. The Iranian authorities must be made to realize that the U.S. Congress, the administration, and the world community considers the Baha’is and other religious minorities as one of the crucial yardsticks to assessing Iran’s progress toward re-entering the ranks of the global community.

The Government of Iran must be aware that the U.S. Congress has passed no less than seven resolutions since 1982 condemning persecution of the Baha’is in Iran and that the U.S. State Department carefully monitors and releases a widely-read annual report on such persecution. Congress, the administration and the world know when the Iranian Government is violating the principles of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which Iran has signed. We are watching carefully.

I call on the Government of Iran to cease the persecution of all of its citizens, including Baha’is, to release those currently being held, and to break the historical, mindless pattern of persecution of the Iranian Baha’i and all other religious minorities in Iran.

**INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN TRUST FUND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE ACT**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, August 6, 1998**

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce, by request, the Indian Trust Fund Judicial Procedure Act on behalf of the Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA). Earlier this session I introduced legislation to address the Indian trust fund problems as proposed by the Administration.

The legislation I am introducing today would set up a temporary court to address claims against the United States regarding tribal trust funds. A Special Master would be appointed and staffed to get as much information as possible together on all trust fund accounts and activity in order to come up with a formula to then apply to each account for restitution.

The problems with the Indian trust fund accounts are one I have worked on for much of my time in Congress. It is complex and controversial. I believe that this legislative approach by the ITMA and its member Indian tribes will continue the debate begun with the Administration’s approach on how to come to a resolution regarding the Indian trust fund accounts held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**WASHINGTON WELCOMES THE TAOTAO TANO DANCERS**

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

**OF GUAM**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, August 6, 1998**

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 1998, I was delighted to co-host an event with the Smithsonian showcasing the impressive talents of Guam’s Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers. For their first performance in Washington, D.C., the dancers traveled many miles to perform in the Meyer Auditorium at the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art. Newcomers, as well as those familiar with and native to Guam, were given the opportunity to share in Guam’s cultural heritage. Some of us were even invited to go onstage with the dancers and learn some of the steps of the batusu, a native dance influenced by the Spanish. Under the guidance of choreographer Frank Rabon, the dancers also took the audience back in time by revitalizing ancient dances, chants and songs from prior to Euro-American colonization. Colorful and authentic costumes enhanced the women’s graceful movements and strong voices. The intense energy and well-honed skills of the male performers impressed everyone in attendance that evening.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers for their lively and engaging performance, as well as to thank the staff members of the Guam Council of Arts and Humanities (CAHA) who facilitated the event. These individuals were: CAHA Staff: Ms. Jackie Balbas, Mr. Vid Quidtioriano, and Mr. Paul Cruz. Performers: Mr. Frank Rabon, Choreographer, Mr. Ryan Aguigui, Ms. Maxine Bigler, Mr. Frank Cruz, Mr. Darrell Lujan, Mr. Dominic Mendiola, Ms. Eileen Meno, Ms. Renati Narcis, Mr. Art Pangelinan, Mr. Angel Pares, Mr. Jonathan Paulino, Mr. Eric Reyes, Ms. Judene Salas, Mr. David San Luis, Ms. Rosanna San Luis, Mr. Brian San Nicolas, and Ms. Bobby Tainatongo.

Having received the invitation from the Guam Society of America to come to Washington, the Taotao Tano dancers were fortunate to receive their continued support upon arrival. Under the leadership of President Lou Barrett, the members of the Guam Society opened their hearts and their homes to the dancers in order to ensure a pleasant stay and help them travel throughout the city.

With less than a week to make this performance a reality, I am indebted to the Office of the Governor of Guam for finding the funds to support the dancers. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to two members of the Smithsonian, Mr. Franklin S. Odo, Counselor of the Provost, and Ms. Stacey Suyat, Program Associate of the Office of the Provost, whose prompt efforts in securing a venue for the performers were invaluable given the time constraints to which we were subject. I also wish to thank Ms. Lucia Pierce, Head of the Education Department at the Sackler Gallery of Asian Art, and Mr. Michael Wilpers, Public Programs of the Freer Gallery, for their aid in finding a performance space for the dancers.

It was truly a privilege to collaborate with such dedicated individuals. It is my hope that future events which promote Guam’s culture and arts will be as warmly received as the performance of the Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers.

**ADDRESS OF JOHN BRADEMAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

**HON. TIM ROEMER**

**OF INDIANA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, August 6, 1998**

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, one of my distinguished predecessors as Representative in Congress of the Third District of Indiana is my friend, Dr. John Brademas, now President Emeritus of New York University.

John Brademas is also, by appointment of President Clinton, Chairman of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. On July 18, 1998, Dr. Brademas delivered an address to delegates attending the National Conference of Academic Deans in which he discussed the recommendations of the President’s Committee contained in “Creative America,” the Committee’s report to the President, with recommendations for strengthening support for these fields in our country. Dr. Brademas also spoke of the significant role of the nation’s colleges and universities in teaching the arts and the humanities.

Beginning on August 17, 1998, you will find Dr. Brademas’ remarks in Memphis of interest, I insert the text of his address at this point in the **RECORD**.
I am for several reasons honored to have been invited to the University of Memphis to address this distinguished company tonight. You may be surprised to learn that I have a special connection with this city. Some 52 years ago, I first came to Memphis en route to the Millington Naval Air Training Base where I went through basic training. Soon thereafter, still in a sailor suit, I went next door to Oxford, Mississippi, and as a Naval Officer candidate, spent my freshman year at the University of Mississippi, Ole Miss, a fascinating experience.

I add that one of the consequences of my time at Ole Miss was that last fall I had the great honor of delivering the principal address, on the Town Square in Oxford, at the centennial celebration of the birth of William Faulkner.

From Oxford, Mississippi, I went on to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Harvard where I took my B.A. and did a year of graduate study. Next it was three years at the other Oxford, in England, where I earned my Ph.D. with a dissertation on the anarchosyndicalist movement in Spain.

In 1953, I returned to my hometown, South Bend, Indiana, to fight Irish of Notre Dame, and in 1954 won the Democratic nomination for Congress from the Third Indiana District. I lost that race, by half a percent. In 1956, I ran again on an anti-Adlai Stevenson ticket in his second presidential campaign. He lost again that year, and so did I, but on my third try, in 1958, I was elected and then ten times re-elected to the United States House of Representatives.

In the House I served on the Committee on Education and Labor where I took part in writing all the legislation I did during those 22 years, from 1959 to 1981, to assist schools, colleges and universities; the arts and the humanities, libraries and museums; and to provide services for the elderly and the handicapped.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

During my last four years in Congress, I served as Majority Whip of the House, that is, the ranking member of the Democratic Leadership, responsible for counting votes and pressuring my fellow Democrats to support the positions of the Speaker, then Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.

You will understand from this chronology that I served in Congress during the administrations of six Presidents; three Republicans: Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford; and three Democrats: Kennedy, Johnson and Carter.

In some ways, the most gratifying years of my service were those of the "Great Society" of Lyndon Johnson, during which, among other measures, we created the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act; federal student aid; the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, of all which I was co-sponsor.

And, of course, it was during the Johnson presidency that Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, both of which I strongly supported, motivated in part, I must note, by my year in Mississippi.

In my last ten years in the House, I chaired the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the NEA and NEH, the subcommittee that also produced the laws that created what is now the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In 1980 as a Democrat representing a basically Republican constituency in Indiana, I was defeated in Ronald Reagan's landslide victory over President Carter.

A few months later I was elected President of New York University, the nation's largest private university centered on Washington Square in the Heart of Greenwich Village.

For eleven years, from 1981-92, during which period, I think it fair to say, my colleagues and I transformed what had been a regional—New York, New Jersey and Connecticut—commuter school into a national university. Indeed, this more than two-fold increase in enrollment of foreign students than any other university in the country—residential, research university. So after life as a legislator, I joined your ranks and became an academic administrator.

I must tell you, however, that everything I learned as a practicing politician on Capitol Hill proved immediately applicable at the University—making speeches, raising money, resolving conflicts, wrestling with big egos.

And although now president emeritus of NYU, I continue to be deeply engaged in issues that are the foundations of learning and culture in our country.

In 1994 I readily accepted President Clinton's invitation to chair the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. The President's Committee is composed of 40 persons, 27 from the private sector and 13 heads of Federal agencies with cultural programs, and our mission is to encourage support, from both government and the private sector, for the arts and the humanities in American life.

Slightly over a year ago, the President's Committee issued a major report, Creative America, warning that the entire structure of support, both public and private, would be endangered and that the proportion of Federal funds for the arts and humanities had fallen from approximately 40% that Congress had inflicted on the two Endowments as well as by proposals to eliminate Federal funding altogether. I am pleased to say that, in response to the work of such groups as Americans for the Arts, Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities and of individual men and women all over the country, moderate Republicans in the House and Senate joined a majority of Democrats to continue support for both the Endowments as well as by proposals to eliminate Federal funding altogether. I am pleased to say that, in response to the work of such groups as Americans for the Arts, Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities and of individual men and women all over the country, moderate Republicans in the House and Senate joined a majority of Democrats to continue support for both the Endowments as well as by proposals to eliminate Federal funding altogether.

Indeed, I must take advantage of this opportunity to remind you that only next week, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on appropriations for these agencies. I hope very much, therefore, that all of you will get in touch—and do so urgently—perhaps your own Representatives in Congress to urge their votes for continuing funds for the Endowments and against attempts to kill them or further reduce their budgets.

Here I want to pay tribute to two outstanding leaders from this part of the United States, both members of the President's Committee.

One is Bill Ivey, of Tennessee, for many years director of the Country Music Foundation in Nashville, and last month sworn in as new chairman of the Arts Endowment. Another eminent Tennessean, my friend and former colleague in the House of Representatives, now Vice President of the United States, Albert Gore.

Bill Ivey is already doing a splendid job in carrying the message of the arts across the land and making the point that "the arts are . . . important to how Americans explain themselves to each other—and how we present ourselves to the world. . . . American art," he says, "is democracy's calling card."

BILLY FERRIS, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The other eminent Southerner, from neighboring Arkansas, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, is greatly to be commended for having appointed such first-class persons to these important positions.

And although a Democrat, I'll even tip my hat to another former Congressional colleague from this region, the Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, for having expeditiously moved these nominations through the confirmation process.

I want also to salute President Bill Clinton who is with us here today and who has been making an invaluable contribution to the work of our Congress. Clinton, you will recall, is a product of the University of Memphis. He has a particular interest in the history of philanthropy as well as in the arts and humanities and in the role of nonprofits in promoting educational reform and international cultural exchanges.

The Executive Director of the President's Committee is yet another person whose name will be known to you, Harriet Mayor Fulbright, widow of the great Arkansan—and American—statesman and an authority on arts policy in her own right.

CREATIVE AMERICA

Now I have earlier mentioned Creative America, the report to the President—and the country—which the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is Honorary Chair of the President's Committee, presented at the Library of Congress last year. Our report contains over fifty specific proposals for generating both public and private support.

Our recommendations are subsumed in several categories. We call for:

A renewal of American philanthropy for the arts and the humanities;

An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy;

A public-private partnership to digitize cultural materials to make them available through new technologies;

A series of measures to strengthen education in the arts; and

Gradual increases in funds for the NEA, NEH and Museum Services program to raise from the current level of 85 cents per capita to 72 per capita in real, inflation-adjusted terms.

A national forum on enhancing knowledge of other cultures, including international cultural and educational exchanges.

In working on these specific proposals together, our Committee called on the President to help the nation realize this ambitious agenda by leading what we called a "Millenium Initiative.

I am pleased to say that President Clinton and the First Lady enthusiastically endorsed...
our proposal and have created a White House Millennium Council to enlist the aid not only of the cultural agencies but virtually the entire range of Federal agencies and cabinet offices. President's Council on the Humanities augmented the President's Council on the Arts and Humanities in the early 1990s, and our estimate of its annual funding for the humanities was no more than $100 million to the humanities for all purposes accounted for by the National Endowment for the Humanities in the United States.

It is clear, then, as we said in Creative America, that the arts and humanities are, after the private and public support for the humanities.

**THE HUMANITIES**

When in 1981 I was inaugurated as thirteenth president of New York University, one of my objectives was to encourage the development of arts and humanities. I made this commitment because I believed then, and still do, that it is through the humanities that one can understand the world. The arts provide society its most valuable resource: people who can think logically and write lucidly. It is the arts and the sciences that prepare people to understand the world equipped to practice their professions but also to act as intelligent, creative and honorable human beings.

Ideas and imagination are the province of the humanities, and a liberally educated person should be prepared to tackle complex problems, develop a critical perspective and be open to new concepts and experiences. Learning how to learn, one of the fruits of a liberal education, endows individuals with the flexibility to respond to their interests, needs and ambitions change.

There is still another reason a humanistic education is important. Since the Golden Age of Greece, when my father was born in Greece and I was the first native-born American of Greek origin elected to Congress—what we now call liberal learning has been expected to contribute to the development of an individual’s sense of civic responsibility. Certainly, no democracy can survive unless those who express their choices wisely.

And the American democracy cannot survive unless we as citizens rely on the processes of reason, accommodation and civil discourse—processes made possible only with an educated populace.

I must mention another area where Creative America identified a vital activity carried out by many colleges and universities, including some that have recently been highlighted. Said our report: “In addition to their indispensable role in supporting humanities scholars, colleges and universities are increasing the employers of artists and writers, providing them salaries, offices, rehearsal spaces, studios, and access to audiences. In many cases, they are often the leading cultural centers. For example, colleges and universities now sponsor nearly one-third of the nation’s arts concerts. To the best of my knowledge, no one has adequately catalogued the full extent of university support for the arts. It would not be easy to quantify such support as it is too much of it comes in the form of in-kind donations. Yet I think it evident that the nation’s arts as well as scholarly and intellectual life depends on a significant degree on what happens in our colleges and universities. Given this largely unrecognized support, it might seem unrealistic for us to ask the academic community to do more. But, in Creative America, our Committee did just that.

First, we called upon higher education to redouble its efforts to help our schools improve both the arts and the humanities, and we offered several specific recommendations to improve teacher training. For example, we asked the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop educational standards for the humanities that would strengthen foreign language requirements and in providing all elementary school teachers with some training in the arts.

**ARTS EDUCATION**

You and I know that the point, that arts education is essential to developing abilities for the arts. And we know, too that education in the arts helps students develop a capacity for creative thinking that is transferable to other subjects. So my colleagues on the President’s Committee and I have sought to encourage colleges and universities, in particular the private sector, to do their part in reversing these trends. And we have urged them to increase their interest in supporting programs in our schools, colleges and universities that enhance our knowledge and understanding of other nations, cultures and languages. To single out countries very much in the news right now, I would assert that most Americans, including members of Congress, know very little about three of the largest nations in the world, India, Pakistan and Indonesia. Yet knowledge about and understanding of other countries is essential if the United States is to have informed and capable leaders for the next millennium.

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

International education, I confess, has been a concern of mine for many years. A generation ago, in 1966, I authored—and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law—the International Education Act, to provide Federal funds to colleges and universities in the United States for teaching and research abroad. Since that time, the Congress has appropriated the money to support the Fulbright and Arts America programs, and pressed the Administration to liberalize its commitment to the idea that the humanities are a “crucial component of American foreign policy.”

Certainly the American economy is linked to international markets, as the current troubles in Asia demonstrate, and, as a global political power, the United States has a vital interest in supporting programs in our schools, colleges and universities that enhance our knowledge and understanding of other nations, cultures and languages. To single out countries very much in the news right now, I would assert that most Americans, including members of Congress, know very little about three of the largest nations in the world, India, Pakistan and Indonesia. Yet knowledge about and understanding of other countries is essential if the United States is to have informed and capable leaders for the next millennium.

In short, the White House is providing the leadership we asked in Creative America.

Now one of the areas where our report has not, in my view, received enough attention will, I think, be of particular interest to you. Let me quote from Creative America: “We find that institutions of higher education constitute a crucial, but often overlooked, part of the critique of cultural life in the United States. Although America’s universities provide the overwhelming majority of support for research and teaching in the humanities, the humanities are often the first to be cut in times of economic difficulty and find few external sources of funding. Support for the humanities and for liberal arts education generally is eroding as universities respond to market pressures and private foundations increasingly the employers of artists and writers, providing them salaries, offices, rehearsal spaces, studios, and access to audiences. In many cases, they are often the leading cultural centers. For example, colleges and universities now sponsor nearly one-third of the nation’s arts concerts. To the best of my knowledge, no one has adequately catalogued the full extent of university support for the arts. It would not be easy to quantify such support as it is too much of it comes in the form of in-kind donations. Yet I think it evident that the nation’s arts as well as scholarly and intellectual life depends on a significant degree on what happens in our colleges and universities. Given this largely unrecognized support, it might seem unrealistic for us to ask the academic community to do more. But, in Creative America, our Committee did just that.

First, we called upon higher education to redouble its efforts to help our schools improve both the arts and the humanities, and we offered several specific recommendations to improve teacher training. For example, we asked the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop educational standards for the humanities that would strengthen foreign language requirements and in providing all elementary school teachers with some training in the arts.
We speak of a time when the king rules by fiat, and could not be questioned, no matter how oppressive or heinous his conduct. And so it was till that magnificent new beginning in 1215 on the plains at Runnymede, when King John was forced to submit to the rule of law.

So too, at Philadelphia in 1776 when the Founding Fathers penned the Declaration of Independence and began writing the Constitution, all intended to limit governmental power in the quest for liberty.

So it is today when you are called on to vote on the Citizens Protection Act.

For the same question is asked: Should the Department of Justice and its employees be subject to the rule of law in the same fashion as all other citizens of this nation, or should they be given the right to decide, like monarchs of old, when and if the universal law applies to them.

But the executive department has the arrogance to proclaim their right to enact law and to decide as in a separate government how the law shall apply to them.

Listen to this language the Department of Justice wrote and tried to enact in (the 104th Congress, in the other body, in "crime" bill S. 3).

Sec. 502. Conduct of Federal Prosecutors

Notwithstanding the ethical rules or the rules of the court of any State, Federal rules of conduct adopted by the Attorney General shall govern the conduct of prosecutions in the courts of the United States.

The Department is so wrong in its thinking that all 50 States, though their chief justices, condemn the department's position, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously found against them, the American Bar Association and the leading professional legal organizations join in the unanimous disapproval. And most importantly, 200 members of this body have voiced their disapproval, by co-sponsoring the legislation which is included in this bill as the McCade-Murtha amendment.

Tell the lawyers at DOJ to abide by the same ethics rules which govern all other law enforcement agencies, and 6 months probation. A 5-day suspension.

pensions.

punished by main DOJ with 5 days suspension, and 6 months probation. A 5-day suspension.

Because of cases like this, section 2 of the bill also sets up a review process to afford a pension, titie 2 sets a series of standards, clear, unambiguous and self evident.

All of these standards are in fact court decisions which found specific improper conduct by the DOJ.

Let me quote from just one court decision, U.S. v Taylor, in which the court found that employees of the DOJ had convicted civilians of our country on perjured testimony.

We should all be familiar with this case before we vote . . . after the finding of perjury, the judge of course freed the citizens from jail, their lives ruined, reputations destroyed, chewed up by corrupt power.

The employees responsible for the false conviction on tainted testimony were punished, punished by main DOJ with 5 days suspensions, and 6 months probation. A 5-day suspension.

Decency, security and liberty alike demand that government officials should be subjected to the same rules of discipline applicable to the military and that are commands to the citizen. In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperilled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously . . . Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites and justify the violation of the constitutional law the end justifies the means—to declare that Government may commit crimes in order to secure the conviction of a private criminal—would bring terrible retribution. Against that pernicious doctrine this Court should resolutely set its face. (Olmstead v. U.S., 1928).
opposed public health measures such as part-
including the Americans With Disabilities Act
nosed early. And federal, state and local laws,
healthier lives, especially when they are diag-
those who are infected to lead longer and
been developed that offer hope for many of
communities of color are now the fastest growing
of the uninfected.
stead of a public health crisis. As a result, our
HIV would be treated as a civil rights issue in-
Due to the unfair stigmas associated with the
epidemic, however, partner notification programs
were suspended and replaced with extraor-
dinary privacy protections in the hope that
such an approach would encourage high risk
individuals to come forward and be voluntarily
tested. Because of this decision, if you have
been unknowingly exposed to HIV, the deadly
virus which causes AIDS, you have no right to
know that your life may be in danger—even if
public health authorities know that you are in
danger.
While every state is required to have a pro-
cedure to notify those who may have been ex-
posed, only 30 states have enacted HIV notifi-
cation laws, and most do not mandate a duty to
notify. The second is for the infected, and
of those exposed to HIV do not find out until
they have been infected for some time and
are already sick with AIDS-related disease.
By this point, they have been denied the medical
care that can prolong their lives and stave off
illness and may have infected others unknow-
ingly.
Due to this abhorrent policy, it is not shock-
ing that nearly 400,000 Americans have died
from AIDS in the short period since the dis-
ease was discovered in 1981 and another one
million Americans are believed to be infected
with HIV today. And despite billions of dollars
spent on prevention and research, more than
40,000 new infections are estimated to occur
each year in the United States and no cure or
vaccine appear to be on the horizon.
We do, however, know enough about the
virus to prevent its spread, but the response of
the federal government and the public health
community has contributed to the growth of
the epidemic. From its onset, proven public
health practices which have been successful
in helping to curtail other contagious diseases
were abandoned in our efforts against HIV.
Due to the unfair stigmas associated with the
populations most at risk, it was decided that
HIV would be treated as a civil rights issue in-
stead of a public health crisis. As a result, our
response has been based almost exclusively
on the rights of those infected to the detriment
of the uninfected.
But times have changed. Women and com-
unities of color are now the fastest growing
casualties of HIV. New drug therapies have
been developed that offer hope for many of
those who are infected to lead longer and
healthier lives, especially when they are diag-
osed early. And federal, state and local laws,
including the Americans With Disabilities Act
have been enacted to protect the civil rights of
the aforementioned groups.
Due to these changes, many who initially
opposed public health measures such as part-
ner notification have now reconsidered. Just
this year, the New York Assembly overwhelm-

downtown Pittsburg, the restaurant is a hive of activity, with counter and booths packed and overflowing, waitresses racing through the crowd, and presiding over it all with an enormous smile on his face, Bill Muniz, who is never too busy to talk about his plans for his community. He worked, as a boy, in canneries, in a chocolate factory and elsewhere before becoming the owner of the New Mecca in the 1960s and building it into a legendary institution in downtown Pittsburg.

So it is fitting that this weekend, the public square near the New Mecca will be dedicated to Bill Muniz, whose efforts have brought thousands of people to downtown Pittsburg and helped revitalize an entire city. And it is also appropriate that the Chicano Latino Academies Reaching Out (CLARO) will be naming its new computer center in nearby Brentwood for Bill in honor of his dedication to children, education and the community.

This is far from the first time Bill has been recognized for his civic contributions. He has been Pittsburg’s Man of the Year (1978), UCSSO Mexican American of the Year (1980), original member of the Contra Costa Hall of Fame (1988), Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year (1992), City of Concord Commendation (1995), California State Senate Commendation (1995), and many more awards and recognitions. In 1995, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors declared November 3 “Bill Muniz Day” to recognize his longstanding service to our community.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join in saluting a man who has lived the American Dream because of his own hard work and community spirit, and who now is doing so much to make that dream a possibility to others who are prepared to follow his example. He is a truly special and gifted man whose public enthusiasm for his community is as great as his personal modestly. I am lucky to call Bill my friend, and that is a genuine honor I share with thousands who will join to honor him for his many contributions and services.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE WOMEN OF GUAM ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMAN’S ARMED SERVICES INTEGRATION ACT OF 1948

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute in the name of equality, in the name of justice and in the name of opportunity. Fifty years ago, President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order, desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces and signed into law the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. This monumental piece of legislation was the realization of, at the time, a one hundred year struggle for women’s rights. It began in 1848 with the “Declaration of Sentiments” in Seneca Falls, New York where women for the first time congregated together to discuss women’s rights. Their immediate cause was achieved in 1920, when women were granted suffrage—the right to vote and participate in the American political system. In the 1920’s women were asserting their rightful place in the workforce and began to embrace their independence in unimaginable ways. Yet, women were still not accepted as full fledged participants among the social and cultural fabric of American life. They were still treated as second-class citizens, in the workforce, in education and the community, in the political process.

The onset of the Second World War, flooded the work place with tens of thousands of women eager to help the war effort by laboring in the factories producing valuable war supplies and armaments. These patriotic women showed America their superb abilities in tackling jobs that were previously performed only by men. Through their efforts, these pioneering women laid the seeds of the modern women’s movement by forcing America to conform the double-standard in basic civil and social rights. There were many women who sacrificed much for the war effort by participat- ing in the WAACS, the WAVES and the USO. Some women even volunteered for the hazardous job of being a test-pilot (WASPs) for new fighter aircraft or agents for the Office of Strategic Service (OSS). Many were nurses, codebreakers, truck drivers, and clerks. Most served at home but there were many who were assigned to front line areas. They risked their lives in the same zones as their male counterparts and in some cases died while performing their essential duties.

After the war, these courageous women were told to return to the homes and kitchens of America. The ironic injustice of helping to defeat oppression overseas and yet be denied equity at home did not pass un-noticed. With the force of history held in the balance, President Truman’s executive order and Senator Margaret Chase Smith’s Women’s Armed Services Integration Act were both signed into law. The act authorized regular and reserve components wholly integrated and in many cases women have reached flag officer ranks. As a direct result of this historic act, women are now able to fully participate and serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, about 200,000 women serve on active duty and make up about 14% of the force; and about 225,000 women serve in the reserve components. 15.5% of their strength. Mr. Speaker, the Women’s Integration Act laid down the foundation for the future achievement of America’s women in the Armed Services. Today we celebrate and honor the past and present achievements of Guam’s daughters who have dedicated their lives in some capacity to the service of their country. Women such as the late Lieutenant Colonel Marilyn Won Pat (U.S. Army), Lieuten-

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIAL, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF HON. PETER DEUTSCH OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purpose.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my strong opposition to the Hefley amendment. I am pleased to see so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle firmly committed to nondiscrimination in the workplace. However, it is absolutely appalling that the House would even consider this outrageous amendment. President Clinton’s executive order reaffirms every American’s right to non-discrimination in the workplace. Yet the Hefley amendment would reverse this policy against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Non-discrimination is a fundamental American right, whether it be on the basis of sex, religion, or sexual orientation. Unfortunately, this amendment is yet another example of a concerted assault on human rights pushed by extremists who wish to divide Americans. It strikes a blow to the core of democracy and should be rejected by all Americans who value the principle of freedom in the workplace. Mr. Chairman, we must stand up in defense of all Americans and reject this amendment.

THE NEED FOR POSTAL REFORM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the continual rise in postal rates by the U.S. Postal Service. The recent
decision by the Board of Governors to increase the price of a postage stamp is questionable in the light of the fact that the Postal Service has made a profit of over $6 billion in the last four years.

Clearly, we need to examine the oversight function of Congress in a more vigorous manner if we are ever to achieve better results in the future. I want to congratulate my good friend, Representative JOHNNY MCDONough, Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Postal Service for his diligence in this oversight area. However, he cannot do the job alone. Congress needs to be more vigilant in ensuring that it is performing its own oversight responsibilities. In that regard, I would like to include in the record a column by the President of the United Postal Service, James P. Kelly, on the operation of the Postal Service.

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Estel England of Laurel County, Kentucky. Gunners Mate England served during the Second World War as a member of the U.S. Navy’s Armed Guard. His first assignment was aboard the SS West Cheswald, which was charged with carrying arms, ammo and food to allied troops in the Pacific. During his service, Gunners Mate England fought bravely and honorably. Like so many others who served on ships, in the air, or in the trenches during World War II, Robert England and his fellow servicemen saw battle and fought bravely. Unlike so many of his fellow servicemen, England and the other members of the Navy’s Armed Guard have never been recognized for their outstanding service. The Armed Guard was created as a branch of the Navy during World War II to protect the merchant ships of the United States. During World War II the Armed Guard was reactivated in response to the German attack and sinking of merchant ships, events of national concern, that appeared to be bringing goods to Allied Nations. The mission of the merchant service was absolutely critical: they were the lifeline for many allied troops, delivering ammunition, food, weapons, clothing, and other badly-needed supplies. The men of the Armed Guard who helped protect these ships were heroes in the true sense of the word. They made tremendous sacrifices, and many died in the hands of an unforgiving sea. They endured torpedoes, gunfire, and bombs. They were the target of enemy destroyers, submarines and bombers. They fought off Japanese planes and German U-boats. They fought for freedom and democracy, and they made our nation proud.

Mr. President, for too long the men of the U.S. Navy Armed Guard have not received the recognition they deserve, but, earlier this year the House of Representatives moved to correct this injustice. The Defense Authorization Act for 1989 contains a provision that recognizes the service, honor and bravery of the men who served in the Armed Guard. It expresses the appreciation of the Congress and American people for their service and their sacrifices. During their service, the men of the Navy Armed Guard served with honor, dignity, and courage. Nearly 145,000 men served in the Armed Guard on 6,236 merchant ships during WW II. Nearly 2,000 of these men made the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives in the defense of their country. It is time these men—men like Robert England—receive the appreciation of a grateful nation. It is time that these men receive the recognition they deserve.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP DAY GREETINGS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Guam Organic Act was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on August 1, 1950. As this law grants citizenship and the people of Guam, August 1 is celebrated on the island as “Citizenship Day.” I would like to share with my colleagues my statement for this year’s observance. I have also included a speech presented by a former Guam legislator, Carlos Taitano, who was a member of the Guam Congress and the Speaker of the 8th Guam Legislature. For his contribution towards the passage of the Guam Organic Act, he was invited to witness President Truman sign the bill into law.

Amer ic an C itize nship D ay G reetin gs
( By Robert A. Underwood)

As we commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Spanish-American War, it is most appropriate to reflect on this, the 48th Anniversary of the Organic Act of Guam and the granting of the American Era in Guam in 1898 brought with it the promise of freedoms, rights, duties and responsibilities of American Democracy, and the birth of the Chamorro quest for political justice, equality and self-government under the American flag. Though couched differently at various times, this has been our unchanging theme for nearly a hundred years.

In 1901, just three years after Guam became an American possession, our grandfather fathers and grandmothers sent a petition to Washington, calling on the Federal government to clarify the political status of Guam and its people. Subsequent efforts were geared towards the acquisition of U.S. citizenship as a means of political rights and protection. The passage of the Organic Act in 1900, which gave Guamites the status of U.S. citizens, was the result of a journey that had led to a grand vision as we continue to the present. The struggle of the Chamorro people has been long and arduous, the triumphs have been hard-won, but our cause is steadfast and our faith in America remains steadfast.

Today, as we celebrate nearly half a century of U.S. citizenship, enjoying the rights and privileges therein, I humbly restate the unyielding commitment of the people of Guam for political recognition, equality and greater self-government, in memory of all of Guam’s political pioneers who surely must be with us in spirit, happy to know that their efforts were not in vain.

( By Carlos Taitano)

At the end of the past century, The United States almost simultaneously took possession of the Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The full or “plenary” powers of the U.S. Constitution were extended to these new possessions. Fifty years later, all these territories, except Guam, had received some attention from the U.S. Congress resulting in some changes from their initial status. Hawaii, for example, was made an incorporated territory and its people were granted U.S. citizenship. Later, it would become a U.S. state.

In the Philippines, the military government which began with the U.S. occupation after the end of the Spanish-American War, was replaced with a civil government. The Philippines was granted independence in 1946.

In Puerto Rico, the military government that was established after the war was acquired from Spain in 1898, was replaced by a civil government only two years later. An Organic Act for Puerto Rico was enacted by Congress in 1917, including a grant of U.S. citizenship.

The treaty ending the Spanish-American War required the United States to determine the political status of the Chamorro people. By failing to act on this provision of the treaty, the U.S. Congress allowed autocracy to exist within the American democracy. Two generations of Chamorros lived under a U.S. military government in which a single person, a naval governor, exercised absolute control over all Chamorros and every aspect of their lives. During the 50 years that Guam was under military government, the Chamorros petitioned the U.S. House of Representatives to witness President Truman sign the bill into law.

After 50 years living under conditions of inequality and without regard for the rights of the individual ... After 50 years of military occupation in which virtual martial law applied ... After 50 years of a government policy of discrimination in our own homeland, resulting in the loss of our dignity, self respect, and self esteem. After a series of congressional legislation providing opportunities for many people around the world to become U.S. citizens ... opportunities extended to Chinese, Filipinos, and others ... but not to Chamorros.

By 1949, we were a restless people. We decided to demand in an aggressive, but peaceful manner, some action from the U.S. Congress hopefully, leading to some fundamental reforms in the way we were governed.

I was a member of the House Assembly of the Guam Congress at that time. This body decided to stage a “walkout” on March 3, 1949 and to stay out of the halls of the Guam Congress until we saw some evidence that some reforms were in the making. This was the first revolt by the Chamorros against an occupying power. In the 1940s, Chamorro wars were at the end of the seventeenth century.

Unlike most other people under colonial rule, the Chamorros were not seeking independence from the colonial power. On the contrary, they had been petitioning all along for closer association with the United States.

The “walkout” received nation-wide publicity, made possible by the Guam Auto- rity and congressmen who guided the Guam Organic Act. Mr. Speaker, this country was not alone in its 50 years of struggle, but joined by those who had met three months earlier ... one from the United Press, the other from the Associated Press. Influential newspapers and individual citizens across the nation were now calling for fundamental reforms in the Government of Guam.

President Harry S. Truman quickly took over and ordered thetransfer from a military government to a civilian government of Guam. The President successfully convinced the leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives that the Organic Act for Guam could no longer be ignored.

The Chamorros were finally granted U.S. citizenship. This could have been the only grant by the U.S. Congress and the Chamorros would have been happy and grateful. Citizenship would open many doors lead- ing to economic opportunities. But, most important, the Chamorro was now an American.

The government created by the Guam Organic Act was not exactly self-government for Guam. It was limited Home Rule. The people did not constitute a sovereign people. All political authority was derived from the federal government.

Nevertheless, when one considers the 50 years of political neglect, these gains were substantial. 1950 is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the treaty which virtual martial law. This juncture seems appropriate to witness President Truman sign the bill into law.

The treaty ending the Spanish-American War required the United States to determine the political status of the Chamorro people. By failing to act on this provision of the treaty, the U.S. Congress allowed autocracy to exist within the American democracy. Two generations of Chamorros lived under a U.S. military government in which a single person, a naval governor, exercised absolute control over all Chamorros and every aspect of their lives. During the 50 years that Guam was under military government, the Chamorros petitioned the U.S. House of Representatives to witness President Truman sign the bill into law.

Because of the role I played in the “walkout,” I was invited to be present at the signing ceremony of the Guam Organic Act at the White House. I also present at the signing ceremony were senators and congressmen who guided the Guam
bill through Congress and the two men who would carry out the mandate of the Congress . . . the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Interior.

While waiting in the Oval Office of the White House with these dignitaries, I recalled the statement made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio to the nation in this very Oval Office about a decade earlier. At that time, President Roosevelt proclaimed that one of the post-World War II goals of the United States would be to decolonize the various territories under colonial powers around the world. As a member of the U.S. Army at the time, and as a Chamorro, I was overjoyed and encouraged. For me, there was good reason to serve in the military during that world conflict.

Although the signing of the Guam Organic Act at the White House took place five years after the end of World War II, I thought at the time that it was the beginning of the decolonization of Guam. Unfortunately, almost half a century after the signing of the Guam Organic Act, the Chamorros are still trying to set up an island government without the bounds or restraint of colonialism. It is my hope that before another 50 years have passed since the signing of the Guam Organic Act, we would see the passage of the Guam Commonwealth Act, now before the U.S. Congress.

I took President Roosevelt’s statement about decolonization as a promise to me. I surely hope that the decolonization of Guam would happen while I’m still around. Si Y'u os Ma’ase’.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENDALL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ILEANA ROS LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th anniversary of Kendall Medical Center, an institution which has been responsible for providing South Florida with the best medical care possible. The facility, which provides full-service, state of the art care in a wide variety of medical specialties and has nearly 100 doctors on staff, has been honored for three consecutive years as one of America’s “700 Top Hospitals” and is currently “Accredited with Commendation” by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Among the 1,000 plus employees at Kendall Medical Center, I would like to honor the following thirteen individuals who have worked toward the evolution of Kendall Medical Center throughout the last 25 years: Teresa Beiro, Angela Carrodos, Rosa Casoria, Marta Cortes, Rosa Crespo, Elizabeth Mirono, JoAnn Plumeel, James Rosenzweig, Elizabeth Sollogub, Patricia Stiers, Nancy Tablada, Judith Williams and Victor Maya.

Victor, whom I have known for many years, has been with Kendall since its inception and has served as its Chief Executive Officer Center since 1987. It has been through his leadership, vision, and determination, combined with the efforts of his employees, which have led to the outstanding achievements of Kendall Medical Center.

On the date of its 25th anniversary, I extend my thanks and my congratulations to those 13 individuals who have dedicated their lives to a quarter of a century of continuous care. You have provided South Florida with an excellent medical facility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE
OF DELAWARE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, On August 6, 1998, I was not present to vote on rollover vote 403 because of a pressing family matter in my home State of Delaware. Had I been here, I would have voted “no” on the Doolittle substitute.

When we started this debate, there were many sound proposals on how to improve our current framework of campaign finance. However, only one of these proposals has emerged as a realistic approach to significantly improve our election system.

My opposition to this substitute does not reflect a negative opinion of the author’s hard work or ideas, but rather my opinion that the Shays-Meehan bill is the best method for reform.

Reformers who want to see significant changes to our election system signed into law must rally around the one bill that has the best chance of passing—that bill is the Shays-Meehan substitute.

DOMESTIC KAOLIN COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1998

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to introduce the “Domestic Kaolin Competitiveness Act of 1998.” This legislation will revise the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (The Jones Act) to ensure that laws meant to protect U.S. shipbuilding jobs will not hurt U.S. kaolin jobs.

Currently, the Jones Act requires all shipping between U.S. ports to be conducted exclusively by American built, owned, and crewed vessels. However, it does not apply to import/export shipments.

My legislation specifically targets the domestic shipping of kaolin, a fine clay found primarily in middle Georgia. Kaolin is used in a variety of industrial applications, such as producing the glossy finish on magazines, as well as the manufacture of porcelain products.

Accordingly, Georgia clay producers are forced to use more expensive truck and rail transportation to supply American manufacturing customers, giving Brazilian kaolin producers a price edge in delivered costs. Mr. Speaker, when it is less expensive to transport kaolin from Brazil to Maine than it is from Georgia to Maine, something is not right.

This legislation would allow kaolin producers to request a waiver of the Jones Act, but only if there are no American barges available to transport the clay. In other words, if there are no American barges available, clay producers would still be required to use them in order to ship by water, regardless of the price.

Mr. Speaker, this is a prime example of allowing federal regulations to strangle domestic industries, while granting de facto waivers to foreign competitors. It is also a case in point of the need for Congress to review past legislation to determine if it is still accomplishing the goals it was originally intended to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the kaolin industry is put on equal footing and can compete fairly with its foreign competitors.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole on the House of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Kucinich amendment.

Some of my colleagues oppose this amendment because they believe it is a fig leaf for protectionist impulses. Others support the amendment because they believe it is necessary to preserve basic American values from encroachment by an evil international trade bureaucracy.

These attitudes are typical of the way we debate trade in this town. We choose up sides, either as “free traders” or as “economic nationalists,” and throw epithets. But it’s never that simple. This amendment raises a legitimate issue. We visited this issue during negotiations on the World Trade Organization. An important impact of the creation of the WTO was that the United States, and all of the other members, lost what was in essence a veto power over decisions of WTO trade panels. At the time, we raised questions about the relationship between federal and state law in the context of our membership in this trade organization. This amendment focuses on the impact of the WTO on state efforts. These are not simple issues with simple answers. They deserve our thorough and thoughtful consideration.

But an amendment to a funding bill does not provide an appropriate forum for this reasoned discussion. The implication of the amendment is that state laws affecting trade and international trade agreements are immune from action by federal authorities. While there has never been such federal action in the past, it is not wise—without very serious discussion—to immunize state laws, whatever their nature, from any such challenge in the future. Would our next step be to prohibit the use of federal funds to implement the decision of a WTO dispute settlement panel perceived to be adverse to federal laws? Doing so nullifies our prerogatives as an international trade nation.

I took a lead position in trying to raise and resolve issues of interaction between WTO decisions and our federal and state laws when
the WTO was being negotiated. We made some progress in protecting the integrity of American law, particularly with regard to dumping. There still remain a number of gray areas, some of which this amendment sheds light upon. But these issues cannot be resolved simply by waving banners or invoking slogans such as "trade," "fair trade," or "any other." They require and deserve much more than a clash of polarized debate.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG
OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Neotropical Migratory Bird Habitat Enhancement Act.

This important conservation measure is modeled after the highly successful programs that Congress created to assist African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, and tigers. In fact, I am hopeful that later this week the President will sign into law my bill, H.R. 39, to extend the African Elephant Conservation Act.

This legislation is very similar to the African Elephant Conservation Act, and I am confident that this small investment of Federal funds will provide the leverage that neotropical migratory birds need to survive in the wild.

Neotropical birds, like bluebirds, robins, orioles, and goldfinches, travel across international borders and depend upon thousands of miles of suitable habitat. In fact, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, neotropical migratory birds typically spend five months of the year at Caribbean/Latin American wintering sites, four months in North American breeding areas, and three months traveling to these sites during spring and autumn migrations.

Sadly, there are 90 North American bird species that are listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and an additional 124 birds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified on its list of Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern.

In North America, an estimated 70 percent of prairie birds are declining. The Government of Mexico lists approximately 390 bird species as endangered, threatened, vulnerable, or rare. What is lacking, however, is a strategic plan for bird conservation, money for on-the-ground projects, public awareness, and any real coordination among the various nations where neotropical migratory birds reside.

While the full extent of the problems facing neotropical migratory birds is unclear, there is no debate over the fact that both bird populations and critical habitat declined significantly in the 1990s. We must act now before more of these species become endangered or extinct. This bill will contribute to the recovery and conservation of migratory birds, without violating private property rights.

There are 60 million adult Americans who enjoy watching and feeding birds at their homes. In fact, these activities generate some $20 billion in economic activity each year. In addition, healthy bird populations are an invaluable asset for farmers and timber interests. By consuming detrimental insects, these birds prevent the loss of millions of dollars each year.

Under the terms of this legislation, an individual or an organization would be able to submit a project proposal to the Secretary of the Interior. While the bill does not limit the type of projects that could be funded, it does require conservation and management projects undertake population studies, educate the public, and reduce the destruction of essential habitat. Some of these activities include:

- Establishment of essential habitat
- Development of new or improved conservation plans
- Undertake education programs
- Reduce the destruction of essential habitat
- Establish new or improved conservation plans
- Undertake public education programs
- Reduce the destruction of essential habitat

We must act now before more of these species become endangered or extinct. This bill will contribute to the recovery and conservation of neotropical migratory bird habitat, implement new or improved conservation plans, undertake population studies, educate the public, and reduce the destruction of essential habitat. This bill will contribute to the recovery and conservation of neotropical migratory bird habitat, implement new or improved conservation plans, undertake population studies, educate the public, and reduce the destruction of essential habitat.

THE ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the effective management of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) and their fisheries is perhaps the most complex challenge facing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) today. These species range widely throughout international waters and the jurisdictions of many coastal nations with diverse policies and perspectives on resource utilization and management. The fishing practices and marketing priorities for these species are equally diverse. Seriously compounding these challenges is the biology of these species is not well known and remains difficult to determine.

Congress has recognized the unique and difficult challenges associated with effective conservation and management of HMS and those who fish for them. Fundamental to this recognition is that effective management of these species and fisheries cannot be achieved on a unilateral basis, but instead must be pursued on a multilateral basis throughout their range. Unlike most other U.S. fisheries, effective multilateral management is the goal of U.S. HMS policy. A number of specific provisions in both the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) are intended to express this policy.

For example, Congress deliberately placed Atlantic HMS management authority in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce instead of the regional Councils for the purpose of ensuring that the U.S. maintained a multilateral, Atlantic-wide perspective and vision. As U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the principal purpose and obligation of domestic Atlantic HMS management measures is to faithfully implement and enforce the multilateral ICCAT measures. U.S. law requires such implementation to achieve but not exceed the conservation (fishery mortality) objectives of ICCAT measures and ensure that U.S. fishermen are provided a reasonable opportunity to harvest their allocations. U.S. law and common sense also dictate that domestic HMS management should avoid creating regulatory barriers that have to increase waste in the fisheries or disadvantage U.S. fishermen relative to their foreign competitors. These are some of the more important aspects of U.S. HMS policy.

As a matter of general fisheries policy, section 303(b)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act authorizes the Secretary to include a limited access system in any fishery management plan for any fishery, subject to certain considerations. The establishment of a limited access system is of critical importance in effectively managing fisheries for which U.S. harvesting capacity far exceeds the available resource—particularly if that resource requires rebuilding and is subject to quota reductions. Such is the case with our U.S. pelagic longline fisheries.

Limited access systems not only provide the opportunity to reduce harvesting capacity in such fisheries through attrition, a buy-back program, phase-out of latent permits, or other means. Such capacity reduction measures can facilitate the establishment of other important management tools designed to protect nursery and spawning areas and reduce bycatch while minimizing the economic consequences on the fishermen. Current Federal regulations provide that virtually any U.S. citizen who can pay a small administrative fee may enter the Atlantic swordfish fishery. This practice of allowing a continuous stream of inexperienced fishermen into this fishery has seriously hindered progress in achieving a number of key management objectives.

Although for many years the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline community has petitioned NMFS to establish a limited access system, the agency has repeatedly failed to move beyond endless deliberation and still has not put such a system into place. This delay has served to exacerbate the problems associated with this overcapitalized industry and has precluded consideration of one of the more important conservation needs facing pelagic longline fisheries.

Meanwhile, NMFS has established limited access systems in other overcapitalized fisheries leaving the pelagic longline fishery open to fishermen displaced from these other closed fisheries. There are a large number of unused, latent permits in these fisheries and many new vessels have entered in recent years. The pelagic longline community and fisheries are in a state of emergency and can no longer wait for the administration to respond.

There are two purposes of the legislation I am introducing today. The first is to prevent any new fishing vessels from entering the U.S. Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery by placing a moratorium on the issuance of any new fishing permits for vessels that did not hold a valid permit to fish in the U.S. Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery on August 1, 1998. I would note that although this permit moratorium provision relates specifically to the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, it is not intended to preclude or prejudice any possible consideration of a similar moratorium with respect to other Atlantic swordfish fisheries including the drift gillnet and handgear fisheries.
The second purpose of this legislation is to prevent those latent permits for the U.S. Atlantic swordfish fishery under which no swordfish was reported to NMFS as landed after January 1, 1987, from being used to fish in the U.S. Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery. Again, as was the case before that although this latent permit provision relates specifically to the use of such permits in the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, this is not intended to preclude or prejudice any future consideration of a similar latent permit prohibition with respect to other Atlantic swordfish fisheries, including the drift gillnet and handgear fisheries.

I believe the combination of these two provisions will go a long way toward addressing the threat of further overcapitalization within the swordfish pelagic longline fisheries and begin moving the fishery in the direction of reduced capacity. However, it is my sincere hope and intent that the NMFS will respond to this wake-up call and move forward expeditiously with the timely implementation of a comprehensive system of limited access for not only the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, but also the closely related pelagic longline fisheries for Atlantic tunas and Atlantic sharks.

On a broader note, I would like to take this opportunity to express my increasing concern—shared by a number of my colleagues—over the interpretation by NMFS of U.S. HMS policies and laws relative to the setting of our multilateral objectives at ICCAT, as well as in the context of domestic implementation of our international obligations. We are equally concerned with the ability and efficiency of NMFS to put into place sensible and practicable domestic measures that are fair and equitable to all U.S. fishermen. These concerns are heightened by the impending rebuilding requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act and the fact that fishermen are increasingly turning to the judicial branch for solutions.

For example, it remains unclear how NMFS plans to implement the new rebuilding provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as they relate to HMS. Specifically, it is unclear how NMFS plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for bluefin tuna with the results of the upcoming ICCAT meeting in November which is scheduled to focus on bluefin tuna. Perhaps even more unsettling is how the agency plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for swordfish with existing ICCAT swordfish management measures, given that ICCAT will not focus on swordfish again until November, 1999.

Another concern is that in 1996, ICCAT recognized the need to further protect juvenile swordfish and authorized ICCAT member nations to prohibit the sale, including importation, of small swordfish less than 33 pounds. This was done with the concurrence of the Office of U.S. Trade Representative. This initiative has been a priority of the U.S. swordfish industry for several years, and earlier this year, the President pledged to impose and fund the implementation of a ban on the importation of undersized swordfish. However, while the NMFS has succeeded in imposing and enforcing the undersize swordfish prohibition on U.S. fishermen, it is unclear how NMFS will proceed to impose or fund the enforcement of a equitable restriction on foreign fishermen through the import prohibition authorized by ICCAT and promised by the President. It remains unclear to this day how and when NMFS plans to implement or fund this crucial ICCAT recommendation.

As one further example of concern, there is a great deal of interest in the use of gear modification such as circle hooks in Atlantic HMS fisheries as potential tools to at least partially address critical problems facing HMS fisheries today including: reducing the mortality of bycatch in commercial HMS fisheries; reducing the mortality of fish that are released in recreational HMS fisheries; and reducing the catch (and mortality) of small swordfish in the pelagic longline fisheries.

Reducing bycatch and minimizing the mortality of bycatch that cannot be avoided is, of course, a strong statutory mandate for NMFS. But, it concerns me that the first and primary approach considered by NMFS for HMS seems to be to shut down pelagic longline fisheries during some rather uncertain times and in some rather uncertain areas based on some very uncertain scientific data. This appears to be a very disruptive approach with a very high cost relative to a very uncertain benefit. It is unclear what alternative steps NMFS plans to take to quickly and efficiently evaluate the benefits of circle hook use as a potentially more effective and certainly less disruptive measure.

As we conclude our consideration of the reauthorization of the ATCA this year and begin our preparations for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the next Congress, it may be necessary for us to consider a more comprehensive package of legislative measures intended to improve the management of Atlantic HMS and their fisheries by the NMFS. The legislation I am introducing today represents a good start in that direction and, to the extent a larger package becomes necessary, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the NMFS, the U.S. ICCAT Commissioners, the commercial and recreational fishing industries and other affected parties toward achieving some of the most important goals of HMS fisheries management.

SPEECH OF
HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
OF HAWAI'I
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman Patsy Mink's amendment. Her amendment increases funding for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by $2.26 million, the amount requested in the President's budget.

As my colleagues know, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency established to monitor, investigate, and report on the status of civil rights protections in the United States. In recent years we have experienced a disturbing trend of increased hate crimes, racial violence, discrimination against the immigrant population, and an intolerance for those who are perceived as “different” because of their color, nationality, gender, or disability.

Now is the time to invest in a modest increase in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. It is important that we assess the current trends which violate the civil rights of groups and individuals in this Nation. I urge my colleagues to support the Mink amendment to H.R. 4276.
“accidental nuclear war—a post-cold war assessment.” I want to share with you some of their results and conclusions:

“U.S. and Russian nuclear-weapons systems remain on high alert. This fact, combined with the aging of Russian technical systems, has recently increased the risk of an accidental nuclear attack. A conservative estimate, an accidental, intermediate-sized launch of weapons from a single Russian submarine would result in the death of (almost) 7 million people from firesstorms in 8 U.S. cities. Millions of others would (probably) be exposed to potentially lethal radiation from fallout. An agreement to remove all nuclear missiles from high-level alert status and eliminate the capability of a rapid launch would put an end to this threat.”

Part of their conclusion is that “the risk of an accidental nuclear attack has increased in recent years, threatening a public health disaster of unprecedented scale.”

I am one of three cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 307, a bill that proposes to address this most serious of issues. Our bill proclaims that it is in the best interest of the nation and the world to ban nuclear tests forever. The bill directs the Department of Energy, which has the responsibility for stewardship of the nuclear stockpile, to develop a program that is less costly, less provocative, and less likely to spend billions on facilities with little relevance to the safety of the arsenal.

On this day, let us recall and celebrate that our collective efforts to achieve peace have prevented the unleashing of further, nuclear horrors like those seen 53 years ago in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Yet on this day in particular, let us remember that we must continue working to educate ourselves and our society, and continue to make advances toward total nuclear disarmament.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROBERT J. GREENE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and congratulate Captain Robert Greene on a distinguished career as a Great Lakes pilot, and to wish him the best in his retirement. Our home area, from the base of Lake Huron to the Detroit River, will truly miss Capt. Greene’s leadership in ensuring safe pilotage and advocating on behalf of the Great Lakes. From the time he first sailed as a 16-year-old, Capt. Greene has served as Vice President for the Great Lakes of the American Pilots Association. The responsibilities Capt. Greene took on often led him to Washington to fight for the interests of his fellow pilots, those involved in the maritime trades along the Great Lakes and many of us in Congress. Over the 34 years of service to the waters he loved, Capt. Greene rose from an officer to the esteemed position of President of the Lakes Pilots Association located in Port Huron, Michigan—a position to which he was elected by his fellow pilots. In addition, he has served as President of the Great Lakes of the American Pilots Association. The responsibilities Capt. Greene took on often led him to Washington to fight for the interests of his fellow pilots and to ensure shipping safety on the Great Lakes.

At the time of his retirement, Capt. Greene was the longest serving pilot on the Great Lakes. He first sailed in 1945 and received his first license in 1952. In 1964, he joined the ranks of Great Lakes pilots, the dedicated individuals who ensure the safe passage of foreign vessels through our Great Lakes. Capt. Greene is a leader among our pilots—ensuring safety, promoting commerce, and protecting our environment. Capt. Greene met these challenges head on and put our pilots in a strong position as we near the next century.

He also understood our lakes and their importance to our community. For those of us in Michigan, our lakes are among our most important economic and recreational resources. The need to ensure commerce can safely pass through the sometimes treacherous waters is vital to economic growth in our region. The understanding of the need to protect our Great Lakes is critically important. Capt. Greene is one of those rare individuals who understood the importance of both needs.

TRIBUTE TO ERNESTO “ERNIE” AZHOCAR

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to remember a hero and leader of our community—Ernesto “Ernie” Azhocar, who died one year ago on August 18, 1997 at the age of 73. On this first anniversary of his death, we remember the many good things that Ernie did for our community, and the special ways that he touched each of our lives.

Ernie was an important leader in our community, a champion of youth and education. He served as a Sweetwater Union High School district official for 13 years, as a liaison for Assemblyman Wadie P. Deddeh for 18 years, chaired the National City Lincoln Acreas Community Action Council, and was a charter member and Board Chairman for the Mission Area Advisory Committee (MAAC). He also served on the National City Service Commission and was the Chairman of the National City Youth Athletic Association.

He was recognized in our community as both a leader and a champion of causes that are important to our community. As a result of his civic activities, he was honored with the PTA National Lifetime Award, and was awarded “The Key to the City” by National City. Also because of Ernie’s extensive work with the MAAC Project, The Sweetwater Union High School District Board of Trustees named the administration center at the new National City Adult Education Center in his honor.

Ernie was born in Los Angeles in 1924, and attended local schools through high school. He then attended Military Academy in Tijuana, Mexico. In 1949, he married Maria Consuelo Aguilar, and then moved to National City. Ernie served with the United States Army in Normandy and Belgium, and also served in the National Guard and National City Police Reserve.

Ernie lives his life by his personal philosophy that “charity begins at home.” He was a family man, community leader, and good friend to many of us. President and CEO of the MAAC project Roger Cazares said, “Mr. Azhocar’s professional and volunteer pursuits always promoted community service, youth and education.”

He dedicated his life to helping others and making our community a better place to live. His was a wonderful life. Although we have all missed him greatly in this one year, we have all had his legacy of service, love and community to carry us through, and we always will.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and children and to the larger community who missed him greatly in this one year, we have all had his legacy of service, love and community to carry us through, and we always will.

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TRIBUTE TO STEVEN AND JENNIE GRANT

HON. ESTABAN EDWARD TORRES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, a fellow veteran and brother from the United Auto Workers, Steven M. Grant, and his lovely wife, Jennie, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Steven is a former recipient of the Norwalk Citizen of the Year Award for his many years of exemplary service to the community. He has served, and continues to serve, on the boards and committees of many civic and community based organizations including: Norwalk Coordinating Council; Norwalk Friends of the Library; LULAC Council #2043; Knights of Columbus Post #3678; Norwalk Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Committee; Veterans of Foreign Wars; VFW Post #139; VFW Honor Committee and Color Guard; Norwalk Senior Citizens—San Antonio Club; Golden Age Senior’s Club—St. Linus Catholic Church; Sierra Madre Retreat Co-Chairman St. Pius X; District Knights of Columbus-St. John Bosco Assembly 4th Degree; California Congress of Senior Citizens and the National Congress of Senior Citizens.

Even after his retirement from the Chrysler Auto plant, Steven remains committed to his brothers and sisters of the United Auto Workers (UAW). He has held the post of President and Commander of the UAW Chrysler Retirees Local #230; Recording Secretary for the UAW Los Angeles Region Five Retirees, a member of the UAW Community on Political Action and the Federation of Retired Workers.

Steven and Jennie were married August 29, 1948, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Boyle Heights. Since 1955, they have made their home in Norwalk, California. Together they have four children: Loraine; Mary; Lucille and Steve Jr. They have eleven grandchildren: Thomas; Marie; Dex; Albert; Steven; Lucille, Stephanie;0; Patrick; Omar; Derek; Rachel; Brianna; Ryan; Nicholas; Joselyn and Issac.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 9, 1998, Jennie and Steven will celebrate their 50th anniversary with their family and friends at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Santa Fe Springs. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of happiness.
I came to know Capt. Greene through his many years of service to pilots, but I also consider him to be a true friend. We have been through many battles together, and I always have admired his resolve to fight for what he believes is right. In Capt. Greene's eyes, no challenge was too great or insurmountable. He is the type of person you want on your side. He is also the kind of leader who will truly be missed. Indeed, Great Lakes pilots lost a friend, but if I know Bob, he'll be active in retirement and will, hopefully, have a little fun along the way. I wish all the best to you, Bob, on your well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE LECRON JURS, SEPTEMBER 28, 1912-JULY 24, 1998

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here to share with you the life of a legendary Oaklander, Ms. Florence LeCron Jurs, who died on July 24 after several months of failing health at age 85.

Ms. Jurs, a well-known citizen of Oakland, has sought out ways to improve the city she called home for sixty-some years. In 1965 she was a founding member of Oakland Public School Volunteers which grew to a corps of 2,000 during the time of the late Superintendent Marcus A. Foster. In 1970 she was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children. In 1977 she was an original board member of the Cowles Publishing Company, a publishers trade association from Virginia. In 1978 she was a member of the Cowles Publishing family. Her father, James LeCron, was the founding president of the Cowles Companies. Her husband, Eugene; daughters; Karen, Emily, Christina and Cynthia, six grandchildren and one greatgrandchild, together with all the people she has touched in her life, take pride in her legacy.

H. CON. RES. 315—ON SERBIAN ATROCITIES IN KOSOVA AND USING BLOCKED SERBIAN ASSETS TO COMPENSATE ETHNIC ALBANIANS

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 315, which expresses the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The resolution also urges the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are under control of the United States and other governments to be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosovo for losses suffered as a result of Serbian police and military action. In introducing this resolution, I was joined by my colleagues, the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on International Relations Ben-Jamin Gilman, my fellow Californian Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, our colleagues from New York Congressman Eliot Engel and Congresswoman SUE KELLY, and our colleague from Virginia Jim Moran.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we have seen continuing media reports about the ongoing violence in the province of Kosovo and about atrocities by Serbian military and police forces against ethnic Albanians. This week there were reports of a massacre. Last week, human rights groups reported about summary executions by Serbian forces, including the killing of women and children. International human rights organizations have reported on these atrocities and are documenting the violence and the deaths.

Until about a decade ago, the province of Kosovo was an autonomous province of Serbia, and as such the ethnic Albanian majority were able to exercise considerable autonomy and self government in the conduct of their local affairs. Ten years ago, as Slobodan Milosevic began his rise to power in Serbia, and in that effort, he fostered the rise of Serbian ultra-nationalism for narrow partisan political purposes. One of the results of that policy was that under Milosevic, the Serbian government began a systematic process of limiting and self government in the conduct of their civil and human rights of the majority population of that area, has been denied internationally recognized human rights and political rights, including the protection of life, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement.

Whereas the ethnic Albanian population of the province of Kosovo, which makes up the overwhelming majority of the population of that area, has been denied internationally recognized human rights and political rights, including the protection of life, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement;

Whereas Serbian police and military forces have engaged in brutal suppression of the Albanian people, and the number of Serbian police and military forces which have been deployed in Kosovo is estimated at some 50,000 men;

Whereas human rights groups have reported and documented instances of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent ethnic Albanian civilians in reprisal killings that are similar to those conducted by Nazi forces during World War II and are similar to the ethnic cleansing which was carried out by ethnic Serbian troops in Bosnia;

Whereas Serbian forces have indiscriminately shelled and burned villages, reducing strong community-based organizations that would not exist today had it not been for her passion, inspiration, guidance, and leadership. The City of Oakland has been blessed with thousands of hours of her volunteer time and expertise.

Her husband, Eugene; daughters; Karen, Emily, Christina and Cynthia, six grandchildren and one greatgrandchild, together with all the people she has touched in her life, take pride in her legacy.
them to rubble, in order to drive out the ethnic Albanian inhabitants, inflicting heavy material losses upon the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo; whereas hundreds of ethnic Albanians, including women and children, have been killed and over two hundred thousand ethnic Albanians have been forced to flee and have become refugees as a result of this Serbian military action; whereas the stubborn denial of human rights and political rights to the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo by the Government of Serbia has been the major factor in the radicalization of the political situation in the province and made the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict there difficult if not impossible; and

Whereas the United States and the governments of other countries have blocked the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring) that the Congress

(1) deeply deplores and strongly condemns the appalling loss of life and the extensive destruction of property in Kosovo that is the consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces against the ethnic Albanian population of the province;

(2) believes that the government of Serbia is primarily responsible for the loss of life and destruction of property, and thus, should bear the principal burden of providing compensation for the loss of life and for the costs of rebuilding areas which it forces have devastated;

(3) urges the President and officials he designates to work with the Congress to draft legislation and regulations which will permit ethnic Albanians from Kosovo who have suffered as a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces in Kosovo to make claims against the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are in the control of the United States or which have been blocked by action of the United States government, and in drafting this legislation and regulations special consideration should be given to the circumstances of the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and to persons located in and organized under the laws of the Republic of Montenegro;

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to urge all other countries to follow this same policy to permit claims by ethnic Albanians who have suffered as a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces in Kosovo to make claims against the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are in the control of the respective country; and

(5) requests that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of State by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my vote on Roll Call vote 384, Mr. Bass' amendment to the Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations bill. Yesterday, I incorrectly voted "Nay" when I intended to vote "Aye."

Mr. Bass' amendment would have transferred funds from the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) to the Edward Byrne grant program at the Department of Justice, an effort which I strongly support. The Byrne grant program is a valuable tool for local law enforcement in the fight against the crime and drug problems that threaten our neighborhoods. I believe that scarce taxpayer dollars are better spent funding a legitimate anti-crime program than in the "corporate welfare" ATP, which I have consistently opposed.

HONORING JACK SULLIVAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John (Jack) Sullivan of Sandwich, Massachusetts, who retired July 31, 1998, from the Internal Revenue Service.

Jack is truly one of the finest public servants I know. Not only did he do his job professionally, responsibly, with dignity and with courtesy, he sought to teach those attributes to those around him.

Jack continues to serve the public through his civic activities. He believes in the importance of getting involved, and exemplifies the idea that one man can truly make a difference, and that all men should try. As the leader of the NTEU Massachusetts Coalition, he has dedicated himself to educating public sector employees and the public sector about the importance in getting involved in legislative and political activities. He was part of the fight to ensure that federal employees have more of an opportunity to exercise their political rights and then to persuade them to use those political rights. And, he has taken the time to educate me about the issues that are of importance to federal employees—especially those of the employees at the IRS.

I am proud to call Jack my friend, proud to know that our country was served for over thirty years by such a dedicated public servant, and proud that I will continue to be able to work with Jack on the federal employee and PKU issues that are so important to him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the best of luck to Jack and his family upon the occasion of his retirement.

TRUE REALITIES OF OUR HEMISPHERE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, with an eye toward this country's emerging all-embracing trade arrangement with our Latin American neighbors, as outlined in the recent second heads-of-government meeting at the Summit of the Americas in Chile, we in this country would do well to better familiarize ourselves with the true realities found in the rest of the hemisphere. With the United States taking a better position to discharge our responsibility of expressing some words of caution or encouragement to our citizens and U.S.-based corporations that are considering whether to make investments throughout the region, including in Argentina.

Over the last few years, Latin America undoubtedly has made genuine improvements in the fields of economic development as well as administrative reform and the observance of human rights, but much work remains to be done regarding the region's respect for the rule of law. This was one of the main points made in a major article in the July 27th issues of the highly regarded British publication, The Financial Times, in which judicial corruption was listed as a major problem in Argentina today. Similar articles have indicated that problems stemming from a tainted judiciary are found throughout the region.

We are familiar with the need to wage similar battles in the U.S. to achieve the observance of justice and tough human rights standards, so we cannot be smug over such matters. But we can and must be forthright in expressing our opinions when the well being of our fellow citizens may be at stake and the welfare of one of our neighbor's citizens is being flagrantly flouted by a judiciary that protects the human rights of its own citizens in Latin America also enforces commercial law respecting foreign investments.

It is for this reason that, with alarm, we read reports issued by the OAS and USAID, as well as by the State Department, speaking about the inadequacies of the Latin American judiciaries, where the presence of corruption and venality is at times, almost beyond exaggeration, be it in Honduras—perhaps the worst case for corruption and venality in the hemisphere, or Argentina (one of the worst). Without an honest judiciary there is no level playing field and no reliable rules of the game. The pseudo-integrity of the Latin American court system is only raveled in scope by the substitution of democratic form in place of substance in much of the region. This reality has to be of great concern to us.

Argentina is a good example of many of these points. Despite Buenos Aires' continued claim that it is reforming its admittedly gangster-like judiciary into one that is less at the mercy of politics, cronism, influence peddling and payoffs, and more into one that can fearlessly uphold and conform to the country's constitution, there are good reasons to believe that its court system is apparently taking serious steps backwards. This is the case in spite of the fact that Argentine justice officials have begun to put together the long promised "Consejo de la Magistratura," which is a judicial oversight committee.

Unfortunately, the brutal military dictatorship, which wiped out a generation of democratic leaders during Argentina's "Dirty War" and drove much of its intellectual class into exile, has left a malodorous legacy in the person of many of the judges it selected who still sit on the country's bench. For years, the judiciary has enjoyed a period of relative anonymity from the scrutiny of public opinion. This has not all but required, but today it is subject for close examination by the international community, including the aforementioned issue of The Financial Times.

One classic example of the many instances of serious miscarriages of justice that have taken place in that country is provided by the bizarre case of the Buenos Aires Yoga School (BAYS), of which the following article from the
Council on Hemispheric Affairs' distinguished bimonthly publication, the Washington Report on the Hemisphere, provides a thorough critique. This includes outlandish tactics which that highly regarded Buenos Aires cultural and educational institution has had to endure at the hands of extremist and unprincipled elements of the Argentine judiciary.

We all have heard stories concerning the continued legacy of corruption and disregard for constitutional guarantees that exists in Argentina. These have been compounded by the long tradition of virulent anti-Semitism in the country. COHA's research associate, Anna M. Birns, and COHA research associate, Larry Birns, carefully read the following article by the director of the Council of Hemispheric Affairs, Larry Birns, and COHA research associate, Anna M. Birns.

After years of being held in contempt by the Argentine judicial system and being subjected to a number of disastrous instances where injustice has been done: where the courts have served as a persecutor of the human spirit, rather than its defender. The reason that this highly regarded institution of scholars, professionals and others seeking an education and philosophic investigation. Although such facts have become widely known to the Argentine public, their sensibilities have been dulled by the hecatomb of corruption charges leveled from all directions by the government of President Carlos Menem.

Merey one of a hundred cases where Argentina's police force, BAYS, has gone to Argentina, where they were diligent in promoting the cause of human rights. The local authorities have been the Keystone cop antics surrouding the farcical investigation of the bombings of two Jewish-related Buenos Aires facilities in the last few years, at a cost of over 100 lives. Last April, a delegation of our Hill colleagues went to Argentina, where they were informed that their son's remains were found. In June, his remains were returned to the cemetery in his hometown. One such case concerns the fate of Andreas Kassapis whose parents living in Michigan recently learned of his fate after 23 years of searching for him. During the 1974 invasion, Andreas was kidnapped in Cyprus by the Turkish Cypriots. In 1994, Congress mandated the President to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the whereabouts of missing American citizens. This spring, Andreas' parents were informed that their son's remains had been found. In Cypriot court, Andreas' remains were found and taken to the cemetery.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, it has been 24 years since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In 1974, just over 200,000 Greeks, most of the third of the total Greek Cypriot population—were forced to abandon their homes and became refugees overnight. For the past two decades Greek Cypriots have been denied one of the most basic human rights—the right to live in the communities that have been home to generations of their families.

The human rights problem also includes the thousands who have disappeared since the onset of the conflict. In addition to those who were killed and expelled at the time of the invasion, thousands who have disappeared since then. In May, Mr. BAY. Sanctions have been found. In the Cypriot court, Andreas' remains were found and taken to the cemetery.

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conference in recognition of his work encouraged an arrangement between Oakland’s schools and community agencies. Mr. Zellick facilitated an arrangement between Oakland’s government and the Preceptor Award from the Council of Khalistan, a prestigious award given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the Sikh cause.

Under his direction, the Community Affairs Department’s share of air time at KTVU grew by 50% in the first two years of his tenure. Mr. Zellick was the first staff member at a local television station in the City of Oakland to be appointed as a founding member of the station’s personnel committee. As a founding member of the station’s personnel committee, Mr. Zellick was able to form links between dissimilar agencies.

Mr. Zellick was the first staff member at a local television station in the City of Oakland. He worked at Channel 2 for more than 20 years as Director of the Community Affairs Department. He opened the doors of the station to serve on dozens of community boards and commissions. Mr. Zellick gave them air time.

Under his direction, the Community Affairs Department’s share of air time at KTVU grew from 30 minutes a week to more than six hours a week. Show topics ranged from politics to community concerns. He opened the doors of the station to all corners of the community. If more than two people wanted to debate or discuss something, Mr. Zellick gave them air time.

His enthusiasm for the community also took him outside the station to serve on dozens of boards and commissions. One year (1984) Mr. Zellick was on 26 community boards and commissions. The Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here to share with you the life of a legendary Oaklander, Mr. Ian B. Zellick, television pioneer and civic leader, who died on July 27 after a brief illness at age 73.

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Under his direction, the Community Affairs Department’s share of air time at KTVU grew from 30 minutes a week to more than six hours a week. Show topics ranged from politics to community concerns. He opened the doors of the station to serve on dozens of community boards and commissions. Mr. Zellick gave them air time.

His enthusiasm for the community also took him outside the station to serve on dozens of boards and commissions. One year (1984) Mr. Zellick was on 26 community boards and commissions. The Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association, the Oakland Bar Association.

As a founding member of the station’s personnel committee, Mr. Zellick was able to form links between dissimilar agencies. He was able to form links between dissimilar agencies. He was able to form links between dissimilar agencies. He was able to form links between dissimilar agencies.
Information on the extent of disappearances and extrajudicial killings is by no means complete, but new cases continue to come to light. According to the July 9-15 issue of the police newsletter Kashmiri Singh of the village of Khudal Kalan on the pretext of investigating a theft. They tortured him by rolling logs over his legs, which would cause the muscles in his thighs to rupture the muscles. For 15 days they tortured him. When his family and villagers came to see him, he could not walk. Then the claim that Kashmiri Singh had escaped from the police station and they arrested his father and brother and after being arrested by the Punjab police. Mr. Mandar was a correspondent for the Punjabi daily Ajit who was abducted from his house in Jalandhar by the Punjab police. Officials at the cremation ground would describe that bodies are not returned, and no valid identification has been made of the deceased, in virtually every case, the body has not been positively identified as being killed. The victims' bodies are sometimes handed over to the families by the police. Officials at the cremation ground would describe that at least 25,000 cases of cremation grounds throughout Punjab. Khalra's team found that in 1991 and October of 1994, 10 different police stations were bringing bodies to be burned. Officials at the cremation ground would describe that on some days 2 bodies would be brought, on other days 10 bodies would be brought. Often, more than 25,000 bodies have been cremated in various municipal cremation grounds throughout Punjab. Khalra's team found that in 1991 and October of 1994, 10 different police stations were bringing bodies to be burned. Officials at the cremation ground would describe that on some days 2 bodies would be brought, on other days 10 bodies would be brought. Often, more than 25,000 bodies have been cremated in various municipal cremation grounds throughout Punjab. Khalra's team found that in 1991 and October of 1994, 10 different police stations were bringing bodies to be burned. Officially, TADA has not been renewed and that it is no longer the law of the land. This is plain wrong. As reported by Human Rights Watch's 1996 annual report, there are thousands of detainees languishing in jails throughout India who are officially declared missing or escaped, but who are in fact detained. Total estimates are impossible to ascertain, but the number of Sikhs may be 20,000. This does not include the tens of thousands of Muslims, Assamese, Manipuris and other minorities detained under TADA. Since 1993, India has also defended its human rights record by pointing to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a Commission set up under pressure by the international community. Like any effective organization, the NHRC cannot operate without power, resources and independence. The NHRC has none of these attributes. As I had mentioned in my testimony last year, the NHRC has no power to directly investigate human rights abuses and no jurisdiction over violations committed by the security and military forces. The NHRC has...
no power to prosecute violators or compensate victims. Also, there is a one-year statute of limitations based on when the crime was committed. Thus, you could only bring a criminal case within a year in which the allegedly occurred. Therefore, the vast majority of Sikh killings, disappearances, rape and other violations cannot even be brought before the NHRC for investigation.

Cases filed with the NHRC are often ignored by the NHRC itself, even when human rights activists file them. In my previous report, I mentioned on how the co-producer of the video documentary “Disappearances in Punjab”, Ram Narayan Kumar was illegally detained at Delhi airport by the Indian government and intelligence personnel on January 19 and 20, 1997.

The complaint for the illegal detention that I filed last year states that the Union Home Minister have not been acknowledged by either party.

He stated in a letter he wrote to me last year that he intended to travel to Punjab, Kashmir and other north eastern regions, and I quote, “the armed forces have for decades followed a systematic policy of terror against people. Most of the violent and abhorrent actions have been committed by the JSO...” He also stated, quote, “Frankly I am worried about my safety when I travel in these regions. I am aware that a man like Jaspal Singh Dhillon who assisted me in my researches in Punjab, has simply disappeared. Personally too, during my time in Punjab, I experienced intimidation, including manhandling by unidentified people in Amritsar.”

Given Mr. Kumar’s misgivings about the ability of the NHRC to protect him, it is unrealistic to expect Sikhs to bring cases of human rights violations to the NHRC. Given the statute of limitations imposed, they are barred from being probed anyway.

In the year since I first reported to the Working Group on the NHRC’s ineffectiveness, the NHRC has received an estimated 38,000 complaints throughout India in just the past few months. The NHRC Chairman, Justice Venkatchaliah, has echoed the very same problems regarding the effectiveness of the NHRC. The NHRC Chairman also strongly objected to the fact that India continues to bar international human rights groups like Amnesty International, Asia Watch and other NGOs from being allowed to visit troubled regions like Punjab.

I mentioned last year that with the Akali party election victory in the state of Punjab last year, 1997, there was hope that there would be more peace, stability and a measure of democracy that would return to the Sikh homeland. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. In fact, police abuses including illegal detentions, forced abductions, use of torture, rape and murder have continued much like they have continued since 1984. What is worse is that there is a great deal of collusion by the Akali Government with police forces to cover up past abuses and to distract from present abuses.

The result is that the Akali Government does not merely condone abductions and disappearances by Punjab security personnel, the Government actively shields such conduct from public scrutiny by reminding the world that the government is run by an independent Sikh party (the Akalis) and they therefore must be responsible of the human rights of their own people.

Yet the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, refuses to let his government investigate allegations of human rights abuses and disappearances. He proudly boasts that his government has not taken action against any police officer. Instead, former Supreme Court Judge and Akali leader Surjit Singh, President of the World Sikh Council, was forced to appoint a Peoples’ Commission to investigate these atrocities. According to Mr. Jaijee, the government has spent Rs. 2 crore (20 million rupees) for lawyers to protect these brutal police officers.

The Peoples’ Commission is a response to the ineffectiveness of the NHRC, the refusal of the Akali state government to investigate abuses, and the active suppression of evidence discovered by international human rights forces. The members of the Peoples Commission have impeccable credentials. All are former jurists.

The Peoples’ Commission is a response to the failure of Indian State terrorism. It must be nurtured and supported by the international community. If the People’s Commission is dismantled and broadcasting the truth of the last 14 years, it will serve as an example of a peaceful and effective response to state violence. The members of the People’s Commission can be applied to other situations throughout the world where bloody conflict is the norm instead of the exception.

Unfortunately, the Akali state government continues to resist the People’s Commission. Instead, the state government has given into the abhorrent policy of state-sponsored terrorism in Punjab, where police forces much like previous state governments, to eliminate any and all opposition to their rule; including political opposition.

I have endured all of the atrocities that lists almost 150 atrocities, including several disappearances, in Punjab since the Akalis took power in March 1997. I had the honor of speaking to the Working Group last year to the Working Group a letter written by a group of respected human-rights activists last year states that 50,000 cash bounties were disbursed to Punjab police for killing Sikhs between 1991 and 1993. The figure does not include paramilitary and vigilante force killings. Some of the militants allegedly killed before policy changed were buried in mass graves while several thousand of them were posted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court requesting protection from the police. The letter rightly asks, and I quote, “If these dead men are alive, who have the police killed?”

The letter cites evidence from human-rights groups and the national press that 50,000 Sikhs disappeared in the state in 1994 alone. The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984 according to the book, The Politics of Genocide, by the noted author, Professor, and former jurist, Amritjit Singh. The book draws its figure from the Punjab State Magistracy.

It is my fervent hope, a hope shared by all Sikhs throughout the world, that the work of the People’s Commission will account for every last person killed in this last decade and a half. It will be the first step in a long road to bring those responsible to account for their crimes.

In light of these facts, I would respectfully submit the following recommendations for the working groups:

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation 1**

The Working Group should recommend the long-term presence of international human rights monitors in Punjab, Khalistan. In addition to the recommendations of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch Asia and other international groups, it must be possible for these monitors to operate freely throughout Khalistan.

Domestic government cannot deal with the human rights crisis plaguing the Sikh homeland. Neither the courts, the NHRC or the Punjab state government is independent of the Indian government. The Working Group is calling on the government to survey 13,000 villages throughout Punjab and documenting the quarter million victims of State terror. An added problem is the vexing question of what happens when the human rights workers leave? No one will talk to Amnesty International or the appropriate UN organ if they know that they will be gone next week. Although Amnesty was recently allowed to operate in other parts of India, they have been denied access to Punjab since 1994. The position of the vibrant group of respected human rights activists in Punjab, who will be there until all of the facts of the genocide are collected, could be a great example for Indian government retaliation will be too great to yield an accurate picture of the death toll.

**Recommendation 2**

The Working Group should encourage internationally monitored investigations of public crematoriums throughout Punjab, as it will likely bring to resolution many of the disappearances.

As far as we can determine, virtually none of the individuals named in the list I gave the Working Group last year has been released. A year later, this is still the case. Although the police allege that these persons were killed, no bodies have been returned, no identification has been verified and no valid death certificate has been issued. It is highly likely that many of them were cremated as unidentified by the Indian police. A thorough investigation of all public crematoriums throughout Khalistan will provide a final, albeit tragic, resolution to the death of 50,000 to 100,000 Sikhs.

**Recommendation 3**

The Working Group should urge India to dismiss all pending cases under TADA. Internationally monitored investigations should be made of detention centers throughout India to ensure that the tens of thousands of TADA detainees are released from custody.

Despite India government claims to the contrary, TADA remains in effect. An immediate census should be conducted involving international monitors to ensure that detention center’s throughout India no longer contain political and religious prisoners. Many Sikhs were taken to jails outside Punjab and are rotting there.

**Recommendation 4**

The Working Group should recommend that India authorize the release of, harassing and murdering human rights activists and others. The persons involved in the kidnapping and murder of Jaspal Singh Dhillon and Jathedar Kaunke Singh Khalra and that of Jathedar Kaunke Singh Khalra should be punished and the government should guarantee the safety of human rights activists, monitors, all Sikhs, and all the other minority peoples.

About two weeks ago, Jaspal Singh Dhillon, a human-rights activist, and four others were falsely charged with conspiracy to blow up a jail to free a Sikh militant. The police had filed an FIR (First Investigative Report) charging that Mr. Dhillon and the others were involved in a conspiracy to bribe, kill and assault inmates. No court magistrate has validated these charges by the police and when human-rights groups protested the charges, the police reacted with vigor in their pursuit of Mr. Dhillon and the others. However, the police shifted the very same charges to ten other Sikh youths, very young Sikh boys who would less likely capable of resisting police tactics. They are now in detention and it is extremely likely that they are being tortured. This is typical of the way the police concoct false cases against human-rights activists and any other Sikhs they want to harass.

**Recommendation 5**

The Working Group should publicly support the work of the People’s Commission after they are successful in achieving the most comprehensive and objective investigation possible.
The Working Group should acknowledge in its annual report the work of the People's Commission. This will not only provide much needed international recognition of the Commission. The Working Group should also provide technical assistance to the Commission so that the data they collect and the method of collection conforms to international standards of human rights documentation.

Recommendation 6

The Working Group should recommend measures to act against the Government of India until they comply with all of the international treaties and covenants regarding human rights to which they are signatories.

The above recommendations do not resolve the core issues between Sikhs and the Indian Government which gave rise to these abuses, issues that boil down to the right of the Sikh nation to national self-determination. But only international pressure will stop the campaign, and only sanctions will yield the necessary pressure to make India act in accordance with international law. Only sanctions will force India to respect the human rights of the people it purports to govern. Without effective international pressure, the whereabouts of the abductees will never be determined and every day, other innocent people will join the ranks of the disappeared.

Thank you.

KHALISTANI DELEGATION TESTIFIES BEFORE UN WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARANCES

WASHINGTON, July 18---Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, testified yesterday before the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Also testifying were Paramjit Singh, Mr. Aulakh's brother Bryan who previously had the distinction of being the last Sikh to escape from the police station and they arrested his elderly father and a minor brother. They, too, are being tortured. The villagers are afraid that Kashmira Singh was killed during the torture and that his body was disposed of as usual.

All international pressure will stop the campaign, and only sanctions will yield the necessary pressure to make India act in accordance with international law," Dr. Aulakh said. "Without effective international pressure, the whereabouts of the abductees will never be determined and every day, other innocent people will join the ranks of the disappeared," he said.

AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege on this special occasion to highlight the 1998 Massachusetts State Champion MIAA Division 2 Auburn High School Rockets from Auburn Massachusetts. This remarkable group of young men ended the season with a record of 25-0 and remained undefeated during District, Regional, and State competition. The Championship game was held in Fenway Park, home of the World Renowned Boston Red Sox.

The history of this team foreshadowed their success. In 1993 they won the State Junior Little League Championship, and in 1995 the State Senior Little League Championship. Team Captain Greg Spanos broke the school batting record with .544, edging out his older brother Bryan who previously had the distinction.

The team members are number and name: 7—Greg Spanos, Captain; 8—Mark Porcaro; 9—Dave Lebel; 10—Matt Clark; 11—Dan Dufrene; 12—Sean Lucey; 13—Derrick Hume; 14—Scott Wrenn; 15—Brian Macphee; 16—Tom Janowski; 17—Darren Natoli; 18—Scott Paradis; 19—Keith Gonyea; 20—Mike Hume; 21—Seth Paradis; 22—Mike Richard; 23—Adam Silun; 24—Keith Gonyea; Coaches: Paul Fenton—Varsity, Kevin Sloan—Junior Varsity; Assistant Coaches: Pete Pellegrino, Bruce Richards, Brian Finn; Manager/Scorekeeper: Derek Charbonneau; Bat Boys: Drew Gribbons and Kurt Bowes.

The citizens of Auburn celebrate with pride the accomplishments of these talented young athletes. On behalf of everyone in my district, I offer my heartfelt congratulations.
Tribute To Sophie Madej

Hon. Marcy Kaptur
Of Ohio
In The House of Representatives
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sophie Madej, a remarkable woman, a Polish-American from Chicago who recently closed the doors to her neighborhood diner, The Busy Bee Restaurant. Ms. Madej's Busy Bee was a beloved community gathering place for 33 years. Ms. Madej purchased the restaurant in 1965, fourteen years after she courageously immigrated to the United States from Germany. Her country of birth was Poland though, a land which she was forced to flee in 1943 due to the Nazi's labor laws. Ms. Madej, who recently turned seventy on July 5, plans on visiting her homeland during her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I submit today, for the record, an article from The Chicago Tribune that acknowledges the work of Sophie Madej and the closing of her Busy Bee Restaurant. Although, the Busy Bee will be missed, all of those who dined there will have many lasting memories. May I wish Ms. Madej continued happiness and success.

Retirement of Thomas Shively

Hon. Nick Smith
Of Michigan
In The House of Representatives
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished gentleman in my district who has performed commendable service to the U.S. Air Force.

On Friday, August 7, 1998, Colonel Thomas L. Shively, Commander, Air Force Cataloging and Standardization Center (CASC), in Battle Creek, Michigan, will retire from active duty after over twenty-six years of service in our U.S. Armed Forces. Also on this day CASC will be deactivated and Michigan will lose its last remaining active duty Air Force installation.

Colonel Shively served as CASC Commander from September, 1996 to August of this year. During that time, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him and his staff on issues facing the CASC and all cataloging operations at the Federal Center.

Tom served as the Air Force's representative to the Department of Defense's Cataloging and Centralization Study which selected Battle Creek as the site at which to centralize all cataloging operations. Colonel Shively and the men and women of CASC, along with the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS), were instrumental in the decision-making process to locate the new cataloging center in Battle Creek in March of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, it should be readily apparent that Colonel Thomas Shively accomplished much during his tenure as Commander. CASC has been a leader in improving its operations through automation, process improvements, and entrepreneurship, which has resulted in improved efficiency throughout the organization. As the result of this focus, CASC has been a model for the extensive customer service oriented approach it has taken over the last several years.

The men and women of CASC have become experts at what they do. So much so that today they handle cataloging functions for the National Weather Service and the Federal Aviation Administration, and, at this time, are negotiating contracts with other agencies as well.

CASC also has put its expertise to work to help identify those missing in Action during the Vietnam War by matching aircraft parts to the corresponding aircraft, which in turn help identify the crews aboard those planes.

Colonel Shively has also reduced the work force by over one hundred people without involuntary separation and streamlined the budget for 1998 saving taxpayers over $3.7 million, which was returned to the Air Force Material Command to meet other budget shortfalls. These are just a few examples of the bold and responsible leadership Colonel Shively has demonstrated and what others have come to expect from him.

Colonel Shively also has been an active member of our Battle Creek community. He is a member of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, the American Business Clubs (AMBUCS), the Knights of Columbus, Character Counts, a volunteer at the Veteran's Administration Hospital, a speaker before numerous groups, and a member of St. Philip's Catholic Church.

Colonel Shively plans to remain in the Battle Creek area to become the Assistant Director of the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center. I am confident that the bright and talented students of the Math and Science Center will benefit from the same type of leadership that Tom has given CASC over the years.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Bonnie and I salute Colonel Shively and wish him, his wife Barbara and their two children the very best in the years to come. On behalf of my constituents in Calhoun County, I also offer Colonel Shively my profound thanks for a job well done.

Happy Anniversary, Mr. Starr

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
Of Michigan
In The House of Representatives
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, anniversaries are typically a time for reflection—a time to think about where we came from and where we are going. Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of Mr. Starr's $40 million investigation of the President, and it is appropriate that we take a moment to reflect upon what the Independent Counsel has done over the years, and where it has led us.

Four years ago, Mr. Starr was appointed by the Special Division of the D.C. Circuit to look into allegations of wrongdoing involving an Arkansas land deal called Whitewater. While he did obtain several convictions and guilty pleas in that case, I think it is wrong that he has never publicly cleared either the President or First Lady. His role as Independent Counsel is not simply to charge wrongdoers with crimes, but to clear the innocent when the facts warrant it. When the Whitewater fraud in Arkansas finished its business months ago without any further indictments, a duty arose to publicly clear the President and First Lady of the public smears that have been made against them.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Mr. Starr turned his attention to the firing of the White House Travel Office, the so-called Travelgate matter. So far, we have not heard a peep from the Independent Counsel on Travelgate, even though it is widely reported that there has not been any grand jury activity on that front for some time. Once again, Mr. Starr has not admitted to the public that the President and First Lady were innocent of any wrongdoing.

Two years ago, Mr. Starr's investigation expanded again, this time to whether White House staff may have misused confidential FBI files, the so-called Filegate matter. As with Travelgate, we have not heard anything from Mr. Starr on this topic, even though there does not seem to have been any grand jury activity in some time. But again, no steps have been taken to publicly clear anyone in the White House.

Now, as we know, Mr. Starr is investigating the President's sex life. That is unheard of in the history of American politics. I think George McGovern said it best this week when he remarked that "this whole Ken Starr shenanigan is a disgrace to the Republic. I find it almost impossible to believe that we have a publicly-paid sex policeman roaming around this country." I couldn't have said it better. After four full years and $40 million, we are investigating things that are strictly the business of the President and the First Lady, and no one else. Mr. Starr, if you are going to send a report to Congress, send a report. But let's not drag this never-ending investigation on toward another unprecedented and unnecessary anniversary.

African-American Civil War Memorial

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Of California
In The House of Representatives
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 1998 the African-American Civil War Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC. This memorial pays tribute to the Black soldiers who fought in the Union Army to end slavery and preserve the United States of America as one nation committed to freedom and justice for all. Among the words of praise given for these brave souls was a poem written by San Francisco columnist and civic leader Noah Griffin.

I submit for the Record To The Massachusetts 54th In Memoriam When the drumbeat and the fife subside And the celebration's done,
When the memory of the men who died both North and South is one. This regiment will still shine forth in annals of the free. The Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth who fought for Liberty. Abe Lincoln had refused to act. Moreover, Stanton too. The one to recognize the fact was the Governor Andrew. He fought to do what saved the war: Bring Blacks into the fray. For up ‘till then there’d been a bar by both the Blue and Grey. When Lincoln signed the document which brought Emancipation, the administration did relent, accompanying authorization. From the Commonwealth the call rang out: “Come Colored Men to Arms.” Amid the ridicule and doubt they answered war’s alarm. They came from city and the farm; left sweethearts, wives and mothers to wear that Union uniform, and free their shackled brothers. From every state they filled the roll, from Maryland to Maine. The Governor more and more reached his goal, the mandate now was plain: to show that these Black fighting men were equal to the task: to never have to prove again; to never have to ask. They served for less than equal pay, accepting none, ‘til righted. Enlisted, they remained to stay, their honor yet unblighted. Eli George Biddle, Edward Hines and Sergeant William Carney: The knowledge of whom redefines the Northern Grand Old Army. Andrew had turned Robert Shaw to lead this regiment. For in this bold Brahmin he saw the strength of firm commitment. The men trained with exactitude, to Military precision. With courage, strength and fortitude they faced their disposition. Fort Wagner in South Carolina would prove the men’s test, to see if courage would align. By bringing forth the best from Blacks who fought to free the slave, for justice and the Right. These soldiers who when called on gave new meaning to the Fight. With neither map nor smooth terrain they charged the mouth of Hell. Into the with’ring blast they came, igniting shot and shell. Young Colonel Shaw, while rallying forth with sword clutched in his hand, exhorting, “Onward Fifty Fourth! His ultimatum command. He died upon the parapet. He fell amidst his men. All buried in a common pit, returned to earth unkin. The standard-bearer breathed his last; the flag was going down. Thrice wound Carney grabbed it fast: “It never hit the ground.” This soldier from New Bedford soil, who hailed from Company “C,” Half-dead amid the bloody toil, Dismissed his own safety. The men fought valiantly that day, though victory was lost. Amid the wreaths and laurels lay a source of new found pride. For courage, neither black nor white; resides within us all, when we surrender to our plight and answer duty’s call. When the drumbeat and the fire subside and the celebration’s done, and the memory of the men who died both North and South is one. This regiment will still shine forth in annals of the free. The Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth. They died for Liberty.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM: AMERICANS SKEPTICAL ABOUT PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the past year the President has engaged Americans in a dialogue about the reform of Social Security. This dialogue is a precursor to the President and Congress addressing Social Security reform next year. Last week, President Clinton participated in a dialog in Albuquerque, NM, and he outlined five fundamental principles with which the Social Security reform. These principles are: universality and fairness, provide a benefit people can count on, continue to protect the disabled and low-income beneficiaries, fiscally disciplined approach, and strengthen and protect the guaranteed. Social Security was created as part of the New Deal and it benefits 44 million elderly and disabled Americans. The system needs to be reformed, but there should not be a shift away from its fundamental principles. Without making changes, the system will be insolvent by 2032. Many of us in Congress differ on how to fix Social Security. Even a commission assigned with the task of reforming Social Security could not reach a unanimous consensus and instead, reported out three very different solutions. The concept of allowing individuals to place a portion of their payroll tax in a private account has been suggested and serious deliberation needs to occur to understand the consequences such a change would have on the guarantee of the benefit provided by the system. On July 25, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare released a study which was conducted by Peter Hart Research Associates which surveyed a sample of 1,094 adults and 326 of these individuals were between 18-34. The survey focused on Social Security and proposals to reform the system which included private accounts. The crux of the survey was Generation Xer’s view on the Social Security system fixed but oppose tax increases, benefit cuts, and a higher retirement age. Generation Xer’s share the same sentiment as their parents and grandparents in agreeing that “Congress should fix Social Security by strengthening its financial condition, so that future retirees will be guaranteed a reasonable level of benefits.” Many believe that younger Americans would like Social Security privatized and invested in individual accounts. This study showed that most Americans including younger Americans want the system fixed and do not think privatization is the answer.

REGARDING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to, and recognize the anniversary of the historic Voting Rights Act, August 6th. It was almost a frightening coincidence that on the anniversary, many of my colleagues were attempting to defeat efforts that would prevent the use of statistical sampling to accurately count America’s minorities. The opponents of an accurate election count wanted to prevent minorities from being counted because it could indirectly heighten their influence in elections and the drawing of congressional districts. Mr. Speaker, the floor debate did not mark the first time that efforts were used to prevent the political franchisement of African-Americans. Indeed, the very purpose of the creation of the voting rights act was done to address the countless obstacles African-Americans faced in electing their own to Congress. Before the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, minorities were subjected to these efforts to dilute their voting power: Gerrymandering, removing minorities from voting rolls and even outright threats of bodily harm. The Voting Rights Act was instrumental in protecting the voting opportunities of minorities. In addition, to the chagrin of those who would like to see the clock of progress turned back, the Voting Rights Act has directly resulted in the fair election of African-Americans to Congress. However, Mr. Speaker, I stand not only to call attention to the benefits of the Voting Rights Act, but to ask that Americans be ever vigilant in protecting the Voting Rights Act from those who wish to forever confine it to the annals of history. As the uses and benefits of the Voting Rights Act are forever enduring, so are the attacks and efforts to eliminate it. Unfortunately, there are those who seek to change or weaken the protections provided by the Voting Rights Act. If they are successful, then the wonderful diversity of Congress that mirrors
the rich cultural tapestry of our Nation may be jeopardized. If they are successful, the Congress of tomorrow could look like the Congress of a hundred years past.

Mr. Speaker, I highly suspect that arguments of fairness, constitutionality and rightousness are thinly-veiled attacks on the Voting Rights Act. One can seek to imperil the ability of African-Americans to gain elective office.

Some of my African-American colleagues are now experiencing the attacks that I went through; nevertheless, I am confident that they can prevail as I have.

One way that I believe we can continue to prevail and protect the letter of the law that is inherent in the Voting Rights Act is to teach future generations to study what it means and what it has accomplished. If we allow future generations to forget the strides we made in voting that has enabled African-Americans to serve in Congress, then they will not be able to recognize threats to the voting franchise, or fully appreciate how fragile the right to vote truly is. I ask that in the days following this historic anniversary, we teach new generations to be forthright students of history, so that they may be informed protectors of our future.

Mr. Speaker, as it was once said, "That is the supreme value of history. The study of it is the best guaranty against repeating it."

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF HON. LOUIS Stokes
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed $141 million account cut in funding to the Legal Services Corporation contained in H.R. 4276, the FY 1999 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary appropriations bill. I would like to fundamentally affirm—from the outset—the tremendous contribution which the Legal Services Corporation has made to this country's most vulnerable populations.

The Legal Services Corporation provides a wide host of benefits to those Americans who cannot otherwise afford legal support. A precipitous decrease in funding, as would occur if this proposed 50 percent decrease takes place, would resign America's poor and under-served to an unenviable situation where they would have little or no access to legal services. A measure of this sort would prove nothing less than unconscionable.

The Legal Services Corporation was created in 1974 by the Nixon administration with broad bipartisan congressional support. The program was created to provide civil legal support to those American citizens and legal aliens who could least afford it. Since its inception, the program has characterized served those generally underrepresented segments of our society, including African-Americans and Hispanics, as well as women who are victims of domestic violence. Statistically speaking, the Legal Services Corporation's client pool is as follows: 27 percent are African-American, 16.3 percent are Hispanic, 2.6 percent are native Americans, and an overwhelming amount, 68 percent, are female.

Last year alone, the Legal Services Corporation provided legal support to over 57,000 spouses who were victims of domestic abuse. The LSC provides legal support and counseling to all classes of Americans, and in 1997, the corporation was responsible for closing approximately 1.5 million legal cases.

Without the support of the LSC, many of these individuals would have absolutely no place to turn because the LSC is very often the place of last resort for those who can ill afford it. This was demonstrated in 1996 when Congress irresponsibly reduced funding for the LSC by 31 percent. According to estimates from the LSC itself, this reduced the amount of legal support offered by the organization by 14 percent.

This number does not represent a number in the abstract. Rather, it designates Americans and legal immigrants who—simply because they are poor—did not receive a day in court to address, and perhaps receive compensation for the wrongs that they have suffered.

Mr. Chairman, we must not close the only door that the most vulnerable of us have to address their legal wrongs. Thus, I urge my colleagues to vote no to the amendment to cut funding for the Legal Services Corporation by 50 percent.

A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN PANAMA

HON. DANA Rohrabacher
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, when John Adams was inaugurated as the second President of the United States in 1797, President Washington turned to him and said "I am fairly out and ye are fairly in." That inauguration was the most important in American history because it established the precedent of peaceful transitions of power, which are crucial to all democracies.

Unfortunately, a contagious trend is catching on in Latin America: Presidents are seeking to extend their reign by working to amend the constitutions that limit their terms. The result is that they are preventing democracy from developing deep roots.

What is happening today in Panama exemplifies the problem. Panama's president, Ernesto Perex Balladares, and his ruling PRD party, are attempting to amend the constitution to eliminate its one-term limit on the presidency. On Aug. 30, the people of Panama will vote on the adoption of this amendment.

This referendum is a power grab by the PRD, cleverly cloaked as constitutional reform. It should not be forgotten that the PRD is the same party operative James Carville in an effort to distance the Administration has coddled the world's dictators, from Hun Sen in Cambodia to the Politburo in Beijing, from the Taleban in Afghanistan to the North Korean regime, Perex Balladares has little to worry about from the people in the White House who are concerned about democracy.

For the sake of the Panamanian people and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served in Panama, especially those who have given their lives in Panama, I ask my colleagues to watch this referendum closely.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1998, I was unavoidably detained during roll call vote number 355, the vote on passage of H.R. 4328, providing funds for transportation and other related agencies for fiscal year 1999.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes."

ZEKE GRADER—ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, Vice President Gore recently honored William F. Grader, Jr.—Zeke to his many friends—with the presentation of an Environmental Hero Award. This award, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is particularly meaningful as we celebrate the International Year of the Ocean.

Zeke Grader has been an environmental leader in the San Francisco Bay Area community for many years and has always stood firm in his conviction that sustainable fisheries could be an achievable goal on the Pacific Coast. His efforts on behalf of fishery restoration and sustainable fishing practices set an example for our government and for coastal communities throughout America.

Zeke was responsible for creating the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen in 1976 and he has served as its Executive Director since that time. His leadership at the Federation has resulted in the implementation of Federal safeguards to bring greater protection to our marine resources and to restore weakened fisheries.

The human hand on the environment has been anything but gentle. By 1997, one third of U.S. marine fisheries were overfished, costing the U.S. economy $25 billion and coastal communities thousands of jobs. In managing our U.S. fisheries, the effect has been evident in the loss of salmon in the Pacific Northwest,
including northern California, lake trout in the Great Lakes, oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, cod in the Georges Bank; and these are only a few examples of the great loss worldwide in fisheries depletion.

At a time when the reports about “scorched earth fishing” are so alarming, it seems almost important to know that individuals like Zeke are making such an important contribution to preserve fishing stocks and to seek solutions to reverse this aspect of our planet’s deterioration. For the 22 years Zeke has been head of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen, he has been responsible for sounding the alarm on overfishing along the north Coast and for striving to bring about improvements to sustain our marine resources.

There are some very important to the San Francisco Bay Area where healthy fishery depend on healthy habitats in the wetlands and waters of our great delta and estuary that feed into the Pacific Ocean. Zeke has been an extraordinary leader and we are grateful for his dedication to the environment, and particularly to its marine resources. We are all the better for his great efforts in support of a strong and sustainable environment. Zeke is one of those rare leaders who we will look to for guidance on our troubled waters in the next century.

INTRODUCTION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVACY LEGISLATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills which are aimed at addressing the confidentiality of personal financial information, the “Securities Investors Privacy Act of 1998” and the “Depository Institution Customers Financial Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998.”

Today, the legal and regulatory walls are breaking down that previously have restricted or limited the availability of information about bank and other financial services customers. The companies say this will produce “synergies” that will benefit the consumer. But it may also facilitate intrusions into personal privacy.

What will this brave new world look like? When a husband dies, will the life insurance company’s affiliate to cold call the grieving widow as soon as she’s received the check from her deceased husband’s insurance policy in order to try and sell her stocks and bonds?

Will a bank deny a consumer a loan, because information it’s obtained from its affiliated medical insurance company indicates that he or she has cancer?

Will a bank share or sell information about a consumer’s credit card or check purchases with affiliated or non-affiliated parties?

The answer is yes. These companies will exploit their access to consumer personal information whenever they see a business advantage in doing so. The consequences for consumers can be disastrous. Just a few months ago, for example, the SEC signed a consent decree with NationsBank for making misrepresentations to their bank customers that the risky derivative securities their operating subsidiary was going to try to sell them were as safe as CDs. According to the consent decree, NationsBank assisted registered representatives in the sale of the Term Trusts by giving the representative maturing CD lists. This provided the registered representatives with lists of likely prospective clients. Registered representatives also received other NationsBank customer information, such as financial statements, and banking services. These NationsBank customers, many of whom had never invested in anything other than CDs, were often not informed by their NationsSecurities registered representatives of the risks of the Term Trusts that were being recommended to them. Some of the investors were told that the Term Trusts were as safe as CDs but better because the paid more. (unquote)

In reality the “Term Trusts” that NationsSecurities was selling the public consisted of funds invested in risky derivatives that largely have lost value for investors. We need to protect the public against the type of abuses of bank customers’ privacy that this episode has so dramatically exposed. Moreover, a letter I recently received from the SEC indicates that a proposed rule to strengthen privacy protection has been languishing before the NASD for over a year without action and that the proposed rule may need to be strengthened. In addition, the SEC letter indicates that there are gaps in SEC authority to protect the personal financial information of bank customers, and investment adviser customers. The legislation I am introducing today would address problems in each of these areas.

I think we should all agree that consumers have a right to know when personal information is being collected about them. They should receive adequate and conspicuous notice whenever any personal information collected is intended to be reused or sold for marketing purposes. And, most importantly, they should have the right to say “NO” and to curtail or prohibit the use or resale of their personal information. Current law provides consumers very little protection for their private financial records. The Right to Financial Privacy Act applies only to the federal government. The Fair Credit Reporting Act applies only to consumer reports provided by consumer reporting agencies. It generally exempts a bank’s disclosure of its customers’ account records. Moreover, a 1996 amendment to that Act has weakened the restrictions on transfers of financial information and persons related to ownership or control. State law is also inadequate, because the vast majority of states lack laws which establish any meaningful restrictions on banks disclosing customers records to non-governmental entities. Only seven states—Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, and Maryland—have financial privacy statutes that forbid disclosures of confidential financial information to private as well as governmental entities. One state—California—has a statute constitutional guarantee of privacy that has been interpreted by the courts to apply to a bank’s disclosure of customer financial records. Some states have recognized common law doctrines that recognize some privacy protection for financial records, but only seven states have adopted the common law doctrine of implied contract of confidentiality in the context of bank-customer relations. Unfortunately, the scope of the duties imposed by such implied contracts of confidentiality are unclear.

The two bills I am introducing today, the “Securities Investors Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998” and the “Depository Institution Customers Financial Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998” would help reverse this unfortunate trend. These twin bills would give investors in stocks and bonds, mutual funds, clients of investment advisors, as well as depository institution customers, and other consumers of other affiliates of financial services companies the privacy protections they deserve. The bills would establish under federal law the principle that financial services institutions generally must provide notice to the consumer of when information is being gathered about them, disclosure whenever the institution intends to offer such information to any other person, and a requirement for the express written consent of the consumer if the information is to be transferred or sold to any other person. The twin bills are the result of my colleagues and I urge my colleagues to support these two bills, and I look forward to working with all interested parties to secure their enactment.

PTFP

HON. DAVID MINGE
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House debated amendments to H.R. 4276, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State and Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1999. One of the amendments contained in the amendment to cut funds for the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) which funds new equipment for public television and radio stations in the United States. Because of time constraints, I was not able to speak on the amendment but I have several points and congratulations to the record I would have made if I had had a chance.

In Minnesota we are blessed with having the nation’s largest and to us, the finest, public
Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the end of an era in the United States Air Force and in my district.

On Friday, August 7, the Air Force Cataloging and Standardization Center (CASC) of Battle Creek, Michigan, will be deactivated from active duty at 0900. The functions of CASC will be incorporated as part of a new service-wide cataloging effort of the Defense Logistics Agency, known as the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS). CASC was the last remaining active duty Air Force facility in Michigan.

CASC began cataloging operations in Battle Creek in 1973. This was the beginning of efforts to centralize all Department of Defense (DOD) cataloging in Battle Creek. In 1976, all Air Force cataloging functions were transferred to Battle Creek.

The Air Force and CASC sought to encourage other branches of our Armed Forces and agencies to centralize their cataloging efforts in Battle Creek as well.

The Air Force and CASC sought to encourage other branches of our Armed Forces and agencies to centralize their cataloging efforts in Battle Creek as well.

Mr. Speaker, in 1986 the Office of the Secretary of Defense approved their idea to have the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) lead the new consolidated center and to deactivate CASC. That plan was finalized in March of 1997. This entrepreneurial spirit and their willingness to deactivate their unit for the greater good is simply the kind of innovative and decisive leadership CASC has shown over the years.

CASC’s Corporate Board developed a comprehensive strategic plan, putting customer service first. Independent customer surveys showed the company’s efforts were strongly supported by its customers. The company continued to try to rectify this problem in other appropriate contexts. And I also encourage NCUA to use every means at its disposal to prevent credit union members from losing their ownership in a credit union at the hands of a very small minority.

A brief history of the conversion issue will illustrate my concerns. Through its regulations, the NCUA has quite rightly kept a tight rein on the conversion process, requiring a majority vote of all members of the credit union before a credit union can convert to a mutual thrift. This is a difficult standard, and it is meant to be. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members. Once the conversion to a mutual thrift is accomplished, the institution can easily convert to a stock institution, with the result that credit union members from losing their ownership in a credit union at the hands of a very small minority.

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1995. The agency received no comments op-posed to the majority vote requirement while fully half the comments on this section urged the agency to institute a supermajority require-ment. 60 F.R. 12660 (March 8, 1995). The NCUA Board then imposed the least burdensome voting requirement suggested by the commenters.

Recently, credit unions have been under tre-mendous pressure to convert to other types of institutions. Legitimate uncertainty about the outcome of the AT&T case, encouraged by lawyers who specialize in conversions, pro-duced a record number of conversion applica-tions over the past several years. These same lawyers then complained that NCUA proc-essed applications too slowly and that the conversion requirements were too rigorous. They persuaded some members of the Senate Banking Committee to override NCUA's regu-lation and to weaken conversion requirements by allowing conversions upon a majority vote only of those members voting. This means that a small fraction of credit union members could force a credit union to convert, even against the wishes of the overwhelming major-ity of members who are unaware or did not participate in a vote. This same faction can then profit by a further conversion to a stock institution.

While 60 F.R. 11511 will address the field of membership issue for most credit unions, other restrictions imposed by the Senate ver-sion of the bill, such as the limits on loans to members for business purposes, will cause some credit unions to consider converting to other types of institutions. You can be sure that some other credit unions are already analyzing this legislation and preparing new arguments to credit unions as to why they should convert. This is why I urge NCUA to continue its close scrutiny of conversion applica-tions. While it may seem as if NCUA has very little discretion in this area, the legislation does at least grant them authority to admin-ister the member vote, and require that a credit union seeking to convert inform the agency of its intentions 90 days before the conversion. I would like to point out that firms used for monitoring elections should be required to submit a list of all its clients for the past five years. The monitoring firm and each member of the credit union board should then be required to sign a statement indicating that they have had no prior dealings, with falsification of these state-ments subject to criminal and civil penalties.

I would like to point out that such require-ments are not barred by the instruction to NCUA to develop regulations consistent with other regulators' conversion requirements, as other types of financial institutions do not have members threatened with losing their capital. While I agree that regulatory requirements should be comparable between agencies when possible, this is a case where strict par-allels are impossible. Also, the law allows NCUA to require the conversion vote to be taken again if it "disapproves of the methods by which the member vote was taken or procedures applicable to the member vote." This provision explicitly permits strict oversight by NCUA and I sincerely hope they will use it to protect credit union members.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I do not want to hold up such an important piece of legisla-tion. However, I did feel obligated to note my concerns with the conversion provision and strongly encourage NCUA to enforce this provision strictly.

BUSY BEE TO BUZZ NO MORE

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, the Busy Bee Restaurant closes for good on Sunday night. It marks the end of an incredible 33-year run for the Polish-American diner nestled like a robin’s egg under the L tracks at 1546 N. Damen.

The Busy Bee always held the promise of spring for old men from the Elm Park and Viceroy hotels. The Busy Bee was for the late Abbie Hoffman, who recommended its afford-able menu for anti-war demonstrators; it was also for Mayor Harold Washington, who loved the diner’s oxtail stew.

The Busy Bee has been buzzing with adora-tion for the Madej family over the last two weeks. Sophie and three of her children, Eliz-abeth, Hank, and Bob, 46, have been working around the clock at the crowded diner, where in recent days there has been a half-hour wait to be seated. (Her fourth child, Chester, 44, works for the National Oceano-graphic and Atmospheric Agency in Boulder, Colo.)

By noon on Thursday, the restaurant had run out of pierogis. Cops, friends and neigh-bors arrived, most of them taking pictures so they could hold onto the sense of community. Other people brought Sophie bouquets and flowers.

“I never knew people cared like this,” Sophie said. “Never. The first time I walked into the restaurant after I bought it, I asked myself and God if I could make it for a year or two. That was my biggest question. And this became my home. We’ve had all our fam-ily gatherings in the restaurant. But it’s time to let go and move on.”

John Schacht sat across the counter from Sophie, listening to her talk like a dotin son. Schacht, a painter-photographer, lives in a two-room trailer on the west side of the city. He took a train to Chicago so he could have one last meal at the Busy Bee. Schacht, 60, is a third-generation customer. When Sophie bought the restaurant, it was already called the Busy Bee—renamed from the Oak Room, its name when it was built in 1913. This time it made sense. Sophie moves to the neighborhood in 1965 was Sophie Madej. “My dad would come before his shift as a bouncer at the Bucket O' Blood Saloon on North Avenue,” Schacht said. “The first time I came in here was 1946. The neighborhood has changed. Around 1972, I was walking down Kimball and walked right into crossfire with two street gangs. I was scared to see Sophie go, but I’m glad to see her retiring. She’s been working for all the years I’ve known her.”
Sophie has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The hardest question to ask is why the restaurant couldn’t stay in the family.

“That is tough,” Bob Madej said. “It’s not an easy business. You’re here 16 hours a day, seven days a week. I’ve been part of this since I was in high school, mopping floors with my brother.

“Maybe something could have been worked out a few years ago where one of the sons could have taken it over. But it didn’t happen. And it’s best now. There’s no strings attached. We’re all happy. Now, she’ll have time to spend with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And that’s important”

Bob, a district manager for Superior Coffee, paused and looked across the counter. “I met my wife (Teresa) here,” Bob said. “I was working behind the counter when she walked in. Her sister was working in the kitchen. Maybe it won’t be as emotional for my mom . . . But I have a lot of memories here, too.”

It’s important for future Wicker Park residents to understand the memories within the walls of the restaurant. That is the purpose of the commemorative plaque. On Thursday, through an old white bullhorn, Jaconetti read the plaque honoring the Busy Bee. Sophie watched, her head bowed in humility. She cradled her 1-year-old great-grandson Anthony, who someday will hear stories about his grandmother’s great restaurant.

Her hard thumbs fidgeted nervously as Jaconetti reached the last sentence on the plaque. “. . . She may be gone from the Busy Bee, but not from our memories and hearts.” And honey-soaked tears fell from the eyes of a city’s queen bee.

INTRODUCTION OF BUFFALO COIN ACT OF 1998

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the issuing of the Buffalo Nickel. This nickel is still very popular and widely collected today. It remains a respected and cherished symbol.

That is why it is my pleasure to introduce the House companion bill to S. 1112, sponsored by Senator BENNIGUTHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado. S. 1112 authorizes the minting of Buffalo Nickels. The nickel is a high-demand coin and would cost $17 million over the next 5 years. Programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the programs in over 35 cities throughout the country.

INDIAN HEALTH EQUITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would fix an inequity in the current reimbursement rates for low-income Native Americans who receive health care through the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Under current law, a 100 percent Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) applies for the cost of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a hospital, clinic, or other IHS facility, as long as they are run by the IHS, tribe, or tribal organization. While IHS facilities (usually in rural areas) are eligible to receive the 100 percent FMAP, similar services provided through IHS programs (usually in urban areas) receive only 50–80 percent reimbursement depending on the service.

My legislation would fix this inequity by raising the IHS program FMAP to 100 percent as well.

Equalizing the FMAP for health care received through IHS programs is especially important given that roughly half of the nation’s Native Americans now live in urban areas. Furthermore, many urban IHS programs are run through Federally Qualified Health Centers whose state funding have been threatened by repeal of the Boren Amendment.

Passing this legislation would benefit IHS programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the federal budget estimates illustrate that equalizing the FMAP for IHS programs would cost $17 million over the next 5 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Indian Health Equity Act.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL
NATHANIEL P. WARD, III
HON. JOHN H. CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a truly exceptional citizen whose entire life was spent in service to his country. Colonel Nathaniel P. Ward, III, a native of Durand, Wisconsin, was born February 29, 1912. He attended Stout Institute, in Menominee, Wisconsin before entering U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, from which he graduated in 1934. Upon graduation, he married Evelyn Gardner of Hampton, Virginia. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, he served in company assignments with the Second Infantry at Fort Brady, Michigan; the 14th infantry in the Panama Canal Zone; and the 68th Tanks at Fort Benning Georgia. He served in company assignments with the Second Infantry at Fort Brady, Michigan; the 14th infantry in the Panama Canal Zone; and the 68th Tanks at Fort Benning Georgia. He served in the European and Asian-Pacific Theaters of Operation.

While serving in Europe he took part in 4 major campaigns, including those of Normandy, Northern France, the North Appennines, and Rome-Arno. As Commander of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion in 1945 he participated in the Luzon Campaign which resulted in the liberation of the Philippine Islands. During the occupation of Japan, Colonel Ward was assigned to the staff of the 1st Cavalry Division and as a battalion commander.

After tours in Canada and the Pentagon, Colonel Ward served in Vietnam as a senior advisor and Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group from 1958–60. Upon returning to the U.S., he assumed duties with the XXI U.S. Army Corps from which he retired in 1964. After his retirement from the U.S. Army, Colonel Ward and his wife Evelyn lived in Hampton, VA, where he was active in the Hampton Historical Society and the Lions Club for over thirty years.

Colonel Ward's passions were his family, the U.S. Army—especially West Point—and the cavalry. He was extremely proud of his service in Vietnam. Two of the soldiers under his command, killed in 1959, were originally left off the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC, considered to have died before the conflict began. Through Colonel Ward's efforts, their names are now the first ones inscribed on the Wall.

Colonel Ward served our country well, and made us proud. He passed away on April 3, 1998, and was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his devoted wife, Evelyn, his daughter Chartley Rose Ward and son Nathaniel P. Ward, IV, also retired from service in the U.S. Army, three grand children and a great-granddaughter.

IN HONOR OF PAUL O’DwyER
HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Paul O’Dwyer, a man who fought in the interests of justice without counting the costs. As “the people’s lawyer,” Mr. O’Dwyer dedicated his life to defend those unable to defend themselves.

Imigrating from Ireland in 1925, Mr. O’Dwyer began his American experience as a foreign face on the streets of New York City, surviving purely by hard work and street smarts. Working as a longshoremen, Mr. O’Dwyer put himself through undergraduate studies at Fordham University and law school at St. John’s University.

As his fellow Americans faced the pressures of the Great Depression, Mr. O’Dwyer committed his legal smarts to the defense of those struggling to earn an honest living. A labor lawyer in days when labor was scarce, he often worked without compensation, guided not by self-interest or commercial impulse, but a calling to social justice. Mr. O’Dwyer’s efforts on behalf of the working man earned him the suspicions of the House Un-American Activi- ties Committee, his defense of labor leaders like “Red Mike” Quill raising speculation that he was a communist. Such accusation always lacked sufficient evidence.

A champion of civil rights in the fifties and the sixties, Mr. O’Dwyer fought passionately in southern courtrooms to integrate publicly subsidized housing. Mr. O’Dwyer’s philosophies and principles with the Vietnam War culminated in his leading anti-war delegations that they walked out of the 1968 Chicago Democratic conven- tion. This brave act of defiance against the est- establishment would later be used against Mr.
O'Dwyer in his numerous attempts at being elected to public office. Mr. O'Dwyer did serve as President of the New York City Council from 1973 to 1977.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing the passing of Paul O'Dwyer, a man who rigidly and without pause adhered to principle at the price of his own life. Let us in our own efforts to show such a commitment to the truth.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION OF TOLEDO, INC.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge The Neighborhood Improvement Foundation of Toledo, Inc., commonly referred to as NIFTI, on its recent selection as a Citationist for the 1998 President's Service Awards. Awarded from a pool of approximately 3,600 nominations, NIFTI was one of thirty chosen for this prestigious recognition.

Organized in 1957, NIFTI's mission over the past 41 years has been to improve the quality of life in the Toledo metropolitan area through cleanup, beautification efforts, and by encouraging environmental awareness. NIFTI's role as a community organizer and activist has provided Toledo residents with a voice along with a viable means to eliminate urban blight, making our city a cleaner and safer place to live and work.

NIFTI volunteers, numbering in the thousands, are a collaboration of concerned individuals, corporations, local government and other community organizations. NIFTI, through its various programs, encourages volunteerism in both the adult and youth populations. In addition, NIFTI has effectively promoted neighborhood responsibility in the central city.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to thank NIFTI for all of its positive contributions to the city of Toledo. NIFTI's efforts toward solving serious social ills are representative of the spirit of community service that has made our nation and my congressional district a better place to live. To the Neighborhood Improvement Foundation of Toledo, Inc., congratulations on being named a recipient of such a noble award.

PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE CANCELLATION SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, the President signed into law S. 318, the “Homeowners Protection Act of 1998.” While the law provides important new rights to consumers who are required to purchase private mortgage insurance in order to qualify for a home loan, I wish the law had gone further. I am particularly concerned that the Federal law pre-empts State law, unless the State had enacted a law prior to January 2, 1998. Even the eight States that have private mortgage insurance (PMI) cancellation and termination laws on the books, are prohibited from passing stronger laws two years after the date of enactment. It is my belief that the law should protect the rights of all states to pass stronger consumer protection laws.

I am also troubled that the law allows a PMI law providing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) that secure mortgages, broad discretion to distinguish certain borrowers as “high risk.” Those borrowers, under the law, are prohibited from even initiating termination of their mortgage insurance after 20 percent of their mortgage is satisfied, and instead are required to carry mortgage insurance for half the life of the loan. While certain types of borrowers at loan origination may be riskier than others, by the time the borrower has satisfied 20 percent of their mortgage, the lender’s risks are negligible. At that point, consumers should not be required to make costly payments to the private mortgage industry.

For the above-mentioned reasons, today I am introducing the Private Mortgage Insurance Cancellation Simplification Act of 1998. The bill protects the rights of all states to enact stronger PMI cancellation and disclosure laws and provides the same cancellation rights to all consumers with conforming loans.

The text of the legislation follows:

H.R. 4435

This Act may be cited as the “Private Mortgage Insurance Cancellation Simplification Act of 1998.”

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY TO HIGH-RISK LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL. Ð Section 3 of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-216) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. Ð Section 4(a) of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-216) is amended Ð Ð (i) in clause (i), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and (ii) by striking subclause (IV); and (b) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and (iii) by striking subclause (IV); and (c) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and (ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and (iii) by striking clause (iii); (2) by striking paragraph (2); (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end; and (ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and (iii) by striking clause (ii); (4) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4), as so amended, as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF STATE LAWS.

Section 9 of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-216) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(a) EFFECT ON STATE LAW. Ð (I) IN GENERAL. Ð This Act does not annul, alter, or affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this Act from complying with, the laws of any State regarding any requirement that the mortgage insurance in connection with residential mortgage transactions, except to the extent that such State laws are inconsistent with any provision of this Act, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

(2) INCONSISTENCIES. Ð A State law shall not be considered to be inconsistent with a provision of this Act if the State law Ð Ð (A) requires termination of private mortgage insurance or other mortgage guaranty insurance after 20 percent of the mortgage is satisfied; and (ii) at a date earlier than as provided in this Act; or

(ii) when a mortgage principal balance is achieved that is higher than as provided in this Act;

(B) requires disclosure of information Ð Ð (i) that provides more information than the information required by this Act; or

(ii) more often or at a date earlier than is required by this Act; or

(C) otherwise provides greater protection for the private mortgage insurance consumer.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRUST ACT

HON. RON KLINK
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, today I’m introducing legislation to end the controversy over funding for the e-rate, make Federal telecommunications subsidies more explicit and stable and begin a needed national debate on the Federal role in supporting universal telecommunications service.

My bill, the Telecommunications Trust Act, would dedicate the Federal phone excise tax to Federal universal service support through a Telecommunications Trust Fund, very much like the Federal gas tax funds Federal transportation spending.

This bill will accomplish several things. First, it will remove the new line-item charges many consumers are seeing on their phone bills and end the debate over funding the schools and libraries part of universal service. That program will be funded through the Telecommunications Trust Fund, as will rural health care, rural high cost and lifeline Federal service support.

Furthermore, by dedicating the phone excise tax to universal service, we will be fulfilling the directive of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that universal service subsidies be explicit rather than implicit.

Universal service has been subsidized implicitly for 60 years by consumers and businesses paying more for phone service so that those in high cost and rural areas could have affordable phone service. My legislation will explicitly fund the e-rate, make Federal telecommunications support through a Telecommunications Trust Fund, very much like the Federal gas tax funds Federal transportation spending.

Furthermore, it will provide honesty to phone bills by shifting the revenue from the excise tax from the treasury to telecommunication. The Federal phone excise tax is a vestige of the Spanish American War and has been in effect off and on for a century. It is time this tax revenue went to telecommunications, just as the gas tax goes to transportation.

Finally, I am hoping that this bill will begin a public debate on issues currently being discussed at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and in Congress: how should Federal universal telecommunications support be achieved in the digital age.
Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill, H.R. 4429, that would ensure fairness in Zip code allocation. This issue was brought to my attention by the ongoing plight of one city in my district—that of the city of Signal Hill. This city is a bustling community of over 9,000 residents located in Southern California, surrounded completely by the city of Long Beach. Unfortunately, this community's growth and economic expansion are hampered by the three way division of the city among Zip codes. While the issuance of five little numbers may not seem like a big deal to many of those in Washington, it is of paramount importance to this community back home.

This division results in mail addressing and delivery problems and higher insurance rates for residents. It is unfair at best and inefficient at worst to punish residents of Signal Hill with unnecessarily high costs simply because the Postal Service mandated this division without any input from the community. I have worked with the U.S. Postal Service to find a solution to this issue that benefits both parties, however I am afraid we have come to an impasse. The Postal Service refuses to allocate a unique Zip code to this city despite the overwhelming evidence that Signal Hill needs and deserves its own Zip code. The time has come for a new approach to this ongoing problem.

I introduced H.R. 4429 which would ensure cities like Signal Hill can count on efficient mail service and a distinct community identity. It says any city with a population of at least 5,000 residents that is completely surrounded by another city would not have to share its Zip code with any other city. This legislation takes the politics out of Postal Service decisionmaking and institutes instead, a straightforward, fair system for Zip code allocation. H.R. 4429 will put an end to years of delivery problems, community identification problems, and insurance rate problems. Simply stated, Signal Hill residents don't share about their Year 2000 readiness and their efforts to become Year 2000-compliant will later be used against them in civil suits. While the President submitted a bill intended to encourage information-sharing by preventing some of its information from being admitted in subsequent suits, his proposal is crafted so narrowly that it really won't make any difference. The bipartisan “Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Act,” which I introduced today, gives companies the liability protection they need to make statements about Year 2000 compliance efforts, knowing that they're not just pouring gasoline onto some litigation bonfire.

The Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Act is by no means the last word on the subject. I look forward to working with the administration and committees of jurisdiction to make it better. In particular, I would support language to clarify that firms working together to minimize Year 2000 problems and promote Y2K compliance are not in violation of antitrust laws. Furthermore, starting this fall and moving into next year, it’s critical that Congress address the problem of liability for Year 2000 failures themselves. Legal analysts are already anticipating that the total litigation burden for Year 2000 failure suits will climb into the hundreds of billions of dollars. Congress and the President need to work together to make sure that companies are concentrating on preventing Year 2000 failures, not protecting themselves from wasteful suits after they’ve occurred.

While I’m not an alarmist, Year 2000 failures have the potential to have a significant impact on the economy of the United States and the world. Just as a stitch in time saves nine, Congress can prevent a lot of headaches down the road by passing legislation that’s carefully crafted to encourage companies to share information now.

My legislation simplifies the child tax credit manner. Over the past three years, the tax code has become unbelievably complex for the average individual taxpayer. The capital gains form that was part of last year’s Federal income tax return is only the first installment. The next installment will be the extraordinarily complex child tax credit form required on next year’s tax return. In a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, a tax expert stated that many people “will be totally overwhelmed” by required forms.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released proof copies of the 1998 child tax credit worksheet. These forms are extremely complicated. Some will be quick to blame the IRS for the complexity of the forms. In fact the IRS is merely the messenger. The complexity of the forms is the result of legislation last year by the Republican majority in Congress.

Taxpayers will find out next spring that the two-page child tax credit work sheet is difficult to fill out and time consuming. Claiming the child credit goes beyond filling out the child credit forms. Additional calculations and forms are required. Under current law, all taxpayers who claim the child credit with incomes between $45,000 for joint filers and $33,750 for single filers will have to make at least a rudimentary minimum tax calculation. Many of these taxpayers will also have to fill out the full alternative minimum tax (AMT) form. In addition, large groups of taxpayers such as self-employed and individuals who have a capital gain distribution from a mutual fund will have to fill out the full AMT form regardless of their income level.

The Internal Revenue Service has not completed an analysis on the amount of time it will take to complete the new child credit forms, but the Internal Revenue Service has completed a time analysis for completing the AMT form which will be required for many taxpayers claiming the child credit. It takes approximately 5 hours to complete this form. Not only will the taxpayer have to spend time on this form, many will have to fill out the Schedule D form for capital gains twice. The IRS estimates that it takes 5 hours and 20 minutes to fill out this 54-line form.

Not only is the AMT complicated, it can penalize taxpayers with middle-income who claim some of the new tax credits such as child credit and the Hope scholarship credit. In order to claim the child credit, parents must first figure out their minimum tax (AMT) form. In addition, large groups of taxpayers such as self-employed and individuals who have a capital gain distribution from a mutual fund will fail to receive the full benefits of nonrefundable personal credits. This number is expected to increase drastically because AMT thresholds are not indexed for inflation. By 2007, the complex child credit form that will be required to complete the new child credit forms, will have to make at least a rudimentary minimum tax calculation. Many people “will be totally overwhelmed” by required forms.

The following example shows the interaction between the child credit and the AMT. A married couple with 3 children and 1 child in college have a gross income of $67,000. They claim the family credit for a $1,000 and the Hope credit for $500 and this totals $1,500 in credits. They are required to pay the minimum tax and the minimum tax does not have to receive the full benefits of nonrefundable personal credits. This is expected to increase drastically because AMT thresholds are not indexed for inflation. By 2007, the complex child credit form that will be required to complete the new child credit forms, will have to make at least a rudimentary minimum tax calculation. Many people “will be totally overwhelmed” by required forms.

My legislation simplifies the child tax credit and other personal nonrefundable credits such as the new education tax credits in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 by eliminating their income limits with the AMT and also allows nonpersonal refundable credits against the minimum tax. Under current law, a taxpayer with three or more children is allowed a
The census is a constitutional requirement for the reapportionment of the House of Representatives. An accurate census is also absolutely essential for a fair distribution of Federal funding for roads, transit systems, schools, senior citizens centers, health care facilities, and children’s programs, including Head Start and the latest scientific services and resources at stake for our urban communities and rural areas, we must be mindful of the human capital costs involved with an “undercount” of the population.

In 1991, Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce and the National Academy of Science (NAS) to determine the most scientifically accurate and cost-effective means of conducting the decennial census. The National Academy of Science panel concluded that statistical sampling would fulfill such criteria. These findings were echoed in 1992 and 1996 reports from a second panel of experts who stated that sampling is critical to the success of the 2000 census.

The Molloy amendment directs the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review the Census Bureau’s plans and determine if they are consistent with recommendations made by the academy in response to bipartisan legislation enacted in 1991. By enlisting the aid of the academy, the U.S. Census Bureau can refine and improve their techniques in order to attain a more accurate census.

The Bureau’s “census 2000 plan” has been endorsed by the American Statistical Association, the American Demographics Association, and virtually all other professional organizations concerned with the census.

Mr. Chairman, the Congress must ensure that adequate and timely funding is available for the task of determining our Nation’s population. Any delay in funding to fulfill our constitutional obligation would delay and place in jeopardy many of the planning requirements necessary for an accurate census. By removing the six month cap on funding for census 2000, the Congress will enable the Bureau to continue its preparations for its most important task ahead.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to ensure that progress will continue toward the most fair, accurate, and inclusive census in our Nation’s history. Support the Molloy amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE CHURCH OF ST. CLARENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Church of St. Clarence.

St. Clarence Church has served as a welcomed community of North Olmsted for twenty years. Bishop James E. Hickey named the Church of St. Clarence in memory of his immediate predecessor, Bishop Clarence Issenman. He designated Reverend Thomas A. Flynn as its founding pastor in June, 1978.

The Church of St. Clarence consists of the Parish School of Religion, the Gathering Room and St. Kevin’s Chapel. St. Clarence uses these three components to achieve a mission statement that calls for opportunity, education, and friendship among its community’s members. St. Clarence provides its members with opportunities to worship God by offering the Eucharist on a daily basis at St. Kevin’s Chapel. St. Clarence’s Parish School of Religion hopes to educate and nurture all its members by making available classes in religion, including those of bible study. The Gathering Room promotes a community of prayer and friendship by providing a place for members to meet outside of regular church hours for extra-curricular activities. The Church of St. Clarence clearly meets the needs of all its members.

The population of St. Clarence’s Parish has grown significantly since its first beginnings in 1978. I stand here today in reassurance that St. Clarence will continue to grow and serve every one of its members, past and future, with the same commitment and the same faith that has helped it develop into the thriving community it is today. Once again, congratulations and God Bless!

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

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HON. DEBORAH PRYCE
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by my fellow Buckeye State colleague, Mr. TRAFICANT, and I commend him for his leadership on this issue.

All families in Ohio, which include my constituents in and around Columbus, were placed in serious harm’s way as a result of the recent breakout of six inmates from the Northwest Ohio Correctional Center located in Youngstown. Five of the escapees were murderers who had been transferred to Youngstown by the District of Columbia.

We are all a little bit relieved to know that, thanks to excellent law enforcement, five of the six inmates have been caught, but one remains at large and remains a menace to all citizens of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, I am particularly alarmed about this situation is that some of those murderers who escaped had absolutely no business being transferred by the District of Columbia to the Youngstown facility, which is designed to house medium risk criminals—not the extremely violent, high-risk variety like these thugs who escaped. This situation is unacceptable, and the people of Ohio will not stand for it.

Who is responsible for this? One thing appears certain, the District of Columbia agreed to transfer medium risk inmates to Youngstown. Yet, in the words of the director of the D.C. Corrections Department, many of the prisoners transferred by the District of Columbia to Youngstown were inmates who had
about this crisis, and to prevail upon him to cancel the S–300 missile transfer. At a time when Russia is looking to the United States and other members of the international community for help with its financial crisis, I think that Russia should understand that international cooperation is not a one-way street and that its security is not based on force. Like all of us, Russia has a responsibility to promote solutions, not new crises. I hope that President Yeltsin will see that this missile sale threatens to damage Russia’s goodwill in the United States, and that makes it more difficult for us to cooperate.

A few weeks ago, some of my colleagues here spoke of the Cyprus problem, but the common message was not solution-oriented. Instead, we heard that one side in Cyprus was to blame for all its problems, and the other side was innocent. I want to suggest to my colleagues that taking sides in that old and complex problem is not constructive, and will not enhance the ability of the United States to be an effective catalyst for solutions. I also want to point out that the history is not so clear as some have suggested.

Even before this most recent crisis was precipitated by a weapons purchase from Russia, the last major crisis in 1974 began for reasons that some of us have forgotten. The American Secretary of State at the time, Henry Kissinger, succinctly summarized the events in his book, "Years of Upheaval.

After World War II, the old enemies Greece and Turkey were allies in NATO with a common stake in the security of the eastern Mediterranean. But their atavistic bitterness had found a focus in the island of Cyprus, forty-four miles from mainland Turkey, with a population 80 percent Greek and about 20 percent Turk—Uphill battle.

As in many other nations of mixed nationalities, a tenuous peace had been possible while the island was under foreign rule. But when the British granted independence to the island in 1960, with Britain, Greece, and Turkey as guarantors of its internal arrangements, the struggle Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios and the Greek Cypriot community and of the campaign against British rule, found himself obliged to concede a degree of self-government to the Turkish Cypriots under his control. . . .

The history of independent Cyprus was thus plagued by communal strife, and the threat to intervene militarily was aborted only at the last moment by a strong warning from President Johnson. It had become since an article of faith in Turkish politics that this article was occupying only a small enclave on the island; if this created conflict, negotiations might lead to a negotiated settlement. It was determined to settle the old scores. On July 19 it invaded Cyprus, meeting unexpectedly strong resistance.

The Cyprus problem has been with us for a long time. United Nations peacekeeping forces have been there for a quarter of this century. Some of our European allies have invested, and continue to invest, considerable effort in finding a long-term solution there. The United States, of course, is also actively engaged in diplomatic efforts in Cyprus. The problem is daunting and filled with frustrations. For example, I was disturbed to read last week that the Foreign Minister of Greece had referred to the President’s efforts in Cyprus as “utter lies”. These kinds of remarks from senior government officials are not helpful.

I wish the Greek Cypriots would reconsider their decision to deploy these dangerous new missiles, but I fear that they will not. Unfortunately, restraint has not been a common feature of Cyprus’ history. In light of this, I am very troubled that Russia will allow this sale to go forward. Russia is a member of the United Nations Security Council, and I simply cannot understand why it would permit these missiles to be sent into this explosive environment—particularly after repeated Security Council resolutions expressing concern about the introduction of sophisticated weaponry in Cyprus, and admonitions to all parties to avoid further expansion of military forces on the island.

Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues and I have sent a letter today to the President urging him to speak directly to President Yeltsin and other leaders of our allies to persuade them to halt the sale of these missiles, and to conclude a diplomatic effort to achieve a lasting solution to this crisis. I urge support for the Traficant amendment.
particularly media expenses, candidates are forced to spend disproportionate amounts of time raising funds just to remain competitive. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support final passage of the Shaays-Meehan substitute. I believe now is the time to restore the American people’s faith in the electoral process by reining in the unsavory special interests who pollute our political system. Support the Shaays-Meehan substitute. Our democracy deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H FAIR

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to gear up for Congress’ annual August district work period, I rise today to recognize the 50th annual Somerset County 4-H Fair. As a member of 4-H for many years, an annual attendee, active supporter and volunteer, as well as the manager of the 12th district have spent a day in my district office in Flemington and attractions more than 75,000 people annually. As I am pleased to be part of 4-H program that gives the youth of our country the tools and knowledge to succeed in life. Today’s children represent the future of our nation and it is gratifying to know that this program exists throughout New Jersey and especially in Somerset County.

Throughout my time as a Somerset County Freeholder, I sponsored County Government Career Days for 4-H participants and have continued the tradition as a member of Congress beginning a Twelfth Congressional District Day. Over the past two years, 4-H participants from around the 12th district have spent a day in my district office and in Washington learning about congressional operations.

4-H has been and continues to be a model program in our nation. It offers our nation’s youth an opportunity to learn the values and skills that are needed to succeed. The 4-H should be commended for its on-going efforts to educate the youth of our country and instill in them a sense of community service and awareness. As Congress continues to emphasize the need for service organizations and volunteers to assume a greater role, it will be more invigorating than being proud of where one has come in contact with. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my warmest wishes to Roger Kunkel embarks on the journey his retirement will bestow upon him.

MARCHING INTO ANOTHER CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, nothing can be more invigorating than being proud of where we live, and I must tell you that the people of Caseville, Michigan, are among the proudest people I have ever met. This Saturday, Caseville will be holding its Grand Parade as part of its Centennial Celebration, and what a century it has been.

The history of this area rightfully claims that “this pretty little village is located on Saginaw Bay, the mouth of the Pigeon River.” Tracing its development back to the mid-1800’s, the first settlers were Reuben Dodge, his wife and family, who came from Maine in 1840. William Rattle came in 1852 on behalf of Leonard Case, establishing a sawmill in the town that was then called Port Elizabeth in honor of Mr. Rattle’s wife. The first school opened in 1859. The first hotel was opened at the head of Main Street by Robert Squiers in 1856, and the first mill came into town in 1858. A flouring mill was opened in 1870, and the first salt well in the area opened in the spring of 1871. The Pigeon Creek sawmill and iron works was started in 1873. The community continued to change and grow with the change, until on October 15, 1898, the Village
of Caseville was incorporated at a session of the County Commission.

The first election of officers was held on December 5, 1898. John Poss became the first Village President, and Frank Poss was the first Village Clerk. The first ordinance, adopted in 1899, dealt with riding or driving on sidewalks. This ordinance was framed by the people of Caseville and was the catalyst for enabling communities along the canal region without compromising their commitment to the well being of others. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to Beatrice Ayala Valenzuela, who is honored with the 1998–1999 Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement, presented by California State University, Fresno.

Mrs. Valenzuela is one of three students among the 343,000 in the California State system to receive such an award and is the third Fresno State student to be honored since the award’s inception in 1988. She has not only displayed superior academic skills, but also a dedication to community service and personal achievement. She is a role-model for all of our colleagues in wishing the Village of Caseville begins its next century.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. PAUL M. MARTIN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Dr. Paul M. Martin, the Senior Pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado. Dr. Martin recently celebrated his 8th Anniversary at Macedon, and in celebration of his tenure, a street in the City and County of Denver was renamed for a week in his honor. I want to add my voice to all those in his congregation and throughout the city who are taking this opportunity to honor Dr. Martin and praise him for his leadership.

Dr. Martin came to Denver from the South Central Community of Los Angeles where he grew up. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees with honors at several California schools, and holds a Masters of Divinity Degree, and the Doctors of Philosophy Degree.

Dr. Martin was appointed by Federico Peña, former Mayor of Denver, to serve on “Stapleton Tomorrow” where he has served continuously as the Co-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Stapleton Development Corporation. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver and is Chairman of the Department of the Ministry for the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountain Region. He is also a life member of the NAACP and his fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi. Dr. Martin is known for his concern about maintaining the ethics and integrity of the American Baptist Church, and is a member of the executive committee of the African-American religious experience. He is a highly respected citizen and I am honored to be able to pay homage to him in recognition of his service and contribution to Macedonia Baptist Church, to honor his dedication and fellowship to people of Denver.

TRIBUTE TO BEATRICE AYALA VALENZUELA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Beatrice Ayala Valenzuela, who is honored with the 1998–1999 Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement, presented by California State University, Fresno.

Mrs. Valenzuela is one of three students among the 343,000 in the California State system to receive such an award and is the third Fresno State student to be honored since the award’s inception in 1988. With a major in English and a 3.75 grade point average, Mrs. Valenzuela has not only displayed superior academic skills, but also a dedication to community service and personal achievement. She is very deserving of this award. Mrs. Valenzuela graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1969. In hopes of receiving a college degree, Mrs. Valenzuela resumed school in 1990, starting at Fresno City College and transferring to Fresno State in 1996. To further challenge herself, Mrs. Valenzuela applied and was accepted into the McNair Scholar Program, an academically intense effort that prepares college seniors for advanced studies.

In addition to her outstanding academic achievements, Mrs. Valenzuela has served her community in more ways than one. She has taught English as a second language to potential U.S. citizens and is a tutor at Fresno State’s writing center. Beatrice Valenzuela is an exceptional woman who has displayed an outstanding achievement in the academic arena without compromising her commitment to the well being of others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Beatrice Valenzuela in receiving the 1998–1999 Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement. She is a role-model for all future scholars. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Beatrice Valenzuela many more years of success.

NEW YORK STATE CANAL SYSTEM

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to recognize the historically significant role the New York Canal System has played in developing American culture. The New York State Canal System is the largest and most ambitious public works project ever undertaken by a single state. It has been the catalyst for enabling New York State to become the nation’s leader in industry and commerce by establishing the first effective route for inland interstate commerce in the country.

During the nineteenth century, the system played a vital role in fostering settlement, expansion, and ethnic diversity in the entire northern half of the United States. During this time, it was seen as a symbol of westward movement, and has formed an enduring place in American legend through song and art. It has also been instrumental in developing a strong political and cultural connection with our Canadian neighbors by providing a link that extends through New England, Upstate New York, and the Old Northwest.

Today, the Canal’s banks are bordered by more than two-hundred diverse municipalities, ranging from urban industrial areas, farmland, and wildlife preserves. More than four million people live in the counties surrounding the canal system. In all, thirteen million people, or 75 percent of the state’s population, live along the Erie Canal-Hudson River corridor between Buffalo and New York City.

Because of the vital role that the Canal System has played in our nation’s history, it is certainly appropriate that it be recognized by the federal government, and that every effort be made to preserve and develop its rich resources and those of the communities that surround it. The bill that I and several of my New York colleagues introduce today will designate the New York Canal System and its adjacent counties and connecting waterways as an affiliate of the National Park Service. This will allow the Park Service to provide technical assistance to enhance the canal region without infringing upon the autonomy of local governments and private property owners. This legislation will complement and build upon other federal efforts, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Canal Corridor Initiative, that are committed to enabling communities along the canal to maximize their potential for economic growth and community revitalization.

A TRIBUTE TO STU BYKOSKY AND THE VARIETY CLUB OF DELAWARE VALLEY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and fellow Philadelphian, Stu Bykofsky. Stu is a long time columnist, author and man about town. He is also a board member of the Variety Club, one of America’s most prominent charities. For the past eight years, Stu has organized and hosted “Stu Bykofsky’s Candidates’ Comedy Night.” The Candidates’ Comedy Night raises funds for the Variety Club of Delaware Valley. I know that all my colleagues and friends of the fine work done by Variety Clubs throughout this nation, and indeed in several other countries throughout the world. But, only my fellow Philadelphians could truly appreciate Stu and
his Comedy Night. This event is absolutely unique. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world. And, if this fundraiser is unique, it has nothing on Stu Bykofsky.

We all know that politics sometimes has its lighter moments. But Stu’s Comedy Night is one of the few times during which the laughs are of purpose. Stu’s Comedy Night, indeed, is a multi-partisan event—one that moves candidates from the heat of battle to the heat of the stage lights for one night each year. At this show, candidates for political office stand up and tell jokes. In its eight years, more than $50,000 has been raised for the kids served by Variety Club.

The mission of the Variety Club of the Delaware Valley is to provide programs and services to children with disabilities. It serves children between birth and 18 years of age with temporary or permanent disabilities resulting from injury, illness, or congenital conditions. It serves children with disabilities residing in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Stu Bykofsky’s Candidates’ Comedy Night will help Variety Club buy medical equipment, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and run its summer camp for disabled kids. Mr. Speaker, if not for the Variety Club, untold number of children in my district, and throughout our region would live much more difficult lives. And if not for Stu Bykofsky, the Comedy Night would have a much more difficult time helping those kids. I know that all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Stu and the Variety Club for all their hard work.

HONORING THE 111TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON, PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and give thanks to the 111th Security Police Squadron, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. These admirable Pennsylvania citizens provided heroic assistance during the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia when a bomb exploded in Centennial Park.

Approximately 1300 Security Policemen and women were assembled by the Air National Guard Bureau to serve as a uniformed presence on the streets of Atlanta along with various other Olympic sites. This brave group of men and women were the eyes and ears of a special civilian force that maintained security. Twenty-six of these Security Police were the men and women of the 111th Security Police Squadron from Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania.

During their Friday night shift, on July 25, 1996, a bomb went off in the Olympic Park area. This tragic event was alleviated by the commitment and dedication of the 111th Security Police Squadron. They assisted Atlanta police officers with the evacuation of the park while clearing the crowds that had assembled around the disaster area. The squadron ensured that the emergency roads were opened for ambulance, fire trucks and police cars. In addition to other emergency vehicles, Atlanta’s inbound and outbound roads were cleared by members of the 111th Security forces which made for a rapid entrance and exit of emergency vehicles. In turn, this ensured that those who were injured in the explosion were transported to nearby hospitals for immediate medical attention.

These proud Pennsylvania civilians assisted in bringing peace and order to the tumult in the streets of Atlanta after the devastating bombing. Approximately 120 injured people were transported to area hospitals while the Olympic Park site was secured and the fearful masses were calmed. Amazingly, the Security Forces patrolled their afternoon shifts the very next day.

The members of the 111th National Guard should be applauded for their noble efforts to provide for the well-being of their fellow citizens. Their devotion proves that they are true American heroes. I ask you to join me in thanking these brave men and women for their commitment in keeping our nation safe.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERALISM ACT OF 1998

HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Representatives Mike Castle, Gary Condit, Tom Davis, Karen McCarthy, and Rob Portman are introducing the “Federalism Act of 1998.”

This legislation will codify two executive orders on federalism: Executive Order No. 12612 issue by President Ronald Reagan on October 26, 1987 and Executive Order No. 12875 issued by President Bill Clinton exactly five years later. President Reagan’s executive order helped bring clarity to the division of responsibilities among federal, state, and local governments. President Clinton’s executive order sought to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates on state and local governments. Both executive orders affirmed the need to consult with state and local governments prior to undertaking any new federal agency actions.

Unfortunately, it appears that the current administration failed to abide by its own policy, when it issued a new executive order on federalism earlier this year. On May 14, 1998, the administration issued Executive Order 13083 with little or no consultation of state and local officials prior to its issuance.

A careful review of this new executive order reveals both substantive and stylistic changes, that from the state and local perspective, present a retreat from the two previous executive orders the new order replaces. On the issue of preemption of state and local laws, for example, President Reagan’s executive order sought to limit preemption to only problems of national scope and not common to the states—it should be done only to the minimum level necessary. President Clinton’s first executive order on federalism clearly stated that mandates should not preempt state and local law unless health, safety and national interests are at stake. President Clinton’s new executive order, however, makes preemption permissible across both multi-state and single-state scope and then expands the list of policy areas provided in his first executive order where preemption is permissible.

State and local officials are seriously concerned that the new executive order threatens their current relationship with the federal government and undermines their position and status within our republican form of government.

To this end, the response to these concerns we need to repeal Executive Order 13083 and provide state and local officials with an opportunity to sit down with the administration and iron out a new policy on federalism. The starting point for drafting any new executive order should be the two existing executive orders. The legislation I am introducing today with my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, takes us to this starting point.

From this starting point, it may be entirely appropriate to consider other legislative changes that strengthen the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act and judicial review of agency actions. But, before we consider these changes, let us agree on preserving the commitments, safeguards and procedures established by both President Reagan’s executive order and President Clinton’s first executive order on federalism by codifying them as federal law.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI LEIBISH LEFKOWITZ

HON. JERROLD NADLER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Leibish Lefkowitz, who passed away on August 1, 1998. Rabbi Lefkowitz, an esteemed leader of the Satmar community, earned the respect and gratitude of countless citizens whose lives he touched. Rabbi Lefkowitz was born in St. Peter, Hungary on June 20, 1920. In 1941 he married Dinah Fischer, and graduated from the Yeshivah of Rabbi Rosner in Sekelhíd, Hungary the following year. After escaping from a Budapest prison in 1944, he and his wife overcome immense challenges and arrived in the United States in 1956. Rabbi Lefkowitz established a crystal and gift store on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This store eventually evolved into the Crystal Clear Industries Enterprise, now one of the largest crystal companies in the U.S.

Rabbi Lefkowitz became the lay leader of the Satmar community in 1970. Rabbi Lefkowitz held many leadership positions within the community. He served as president of numerous educational and service organizations, and was well known for his philanthropy and leadership. He was also a member of the United Talmud Academy and Beth Rachel of N.Y. State, which educates over 18,000 students. Rabbi Lefkowitz was also the president of the Satmar Congregation Yetev Lev and leader and president of the United Jewish Organization located in Williamsburg. Rabbi Lefkowitz also founded and became the mayor of the Kiyras Joel Village, located in Monroe, N.Y.

Rabbi Lefkowitz did not reserve his generosity only for his many public endeavors, he was also well-known for his compassion he exhibited to every person he encountered. He was deeply kind and caring, and he will be missed sorely by all who were touched by him.
Higher burden for U.S. exporters than Con-

lines. That footnote—Footnote 159—created a

footnote to the International Antitrust Guide-

lines engaged in anti-competitive conduct

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countries but Japan.

The fact is that securing distribution effective

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vative glass products around the world; and in

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gess had intended by requiring that they show

ham to U.S. consumers in order to get

day in court.

This bill would ensure that the will of Con-

gress and the plain meaning of the FTAIA could

ever again be misconstrued by the fed-

tral antitrust agencies, a foreign litigant or a

united Technologies, where average wages

are $1.36. Compare this to the $7.71 for fac-

tory jobs in El Paso, when there are no jobs.

The largest employers in El Paso are two

hools and a military base. With lower wages

just feet away, it is no wonder why companies

take their operations across the border.

NAFTA would assist. It is not be seen along the U.S.-Mexican border. Just as

I other critics of NAFTA said in 1993, the cheap, unsafe labor markets in Mexico are too

iting to U.S. companies, and American

workers are losing jobs by the thousands. Not

ly are jobs stolen in El Paso, but they are lost in major cities far away from the border,

such as my hometown of Chicago. If we do not end this NAFTA injustice, NAFTA ghost

towns will pop up all across America.

NAFTA—AMERICAN GHOST TOWNS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to

highlight the inequity that NAFTA has created

along the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. As a

century.

The opening of global markets has ad-

anced America's current economic prosperity,

but it also poses fundamental challenges for

U.S. antitrust laws. One example is the U.S.

flat glass industry. For the better part of a de-

decade, America's leading flat glass producers

have been seeking access to the Japanese

market, the biggest and richest in Asia. This

isn't a situation where America doesn't have a

good product. American companies are lead-

ers in producing and selling high-quality inno-

vative glass products around the world; and in

close South America, Latin America, China, Russia, and a host of other countries.

Anti-competitive practices that block foreign

markets to U.S. exporters are just as much a

threat to the U.S. economy, as the purely do-

mestic cartels and combinations that the Sher-

man Act sought to address at the turn of the

century.

NAFTA=AMERICAN GHOST TOWNS

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fact, have succeeded in Europe, Asia, the

Middle East, Latin America, but not Japan.

The fact is that securing distribution effective

channels for American glass products has not

proved to be a significant barrier to entry in

any country but Japan.

My bill aims to address this situation by

making an important clarification in the U.S.

antitrust laws that govern jurisdiction over for-

gign firms. It does not change U.S. antitrust

law. Instead, it is designed to codify and clarify

U.S. antitrust doctrine. Although most observ-

ers would agree that the FTAIA established

conclusively that DOJ and U.S. firms have ju-

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This bill already has the support of industry

leaders, including Kodak, PPG Industries, and

Guardian International Corporation, and the

National Association of Manufacturers.

I look forward to working with interested parties to bring U.S. law into a new era of

international economic globalization, and to ensure that American firms and workers have

a timely and effective remedy against those who engage in anti-competitive acts designed to

exclude American products or services from the international marketplace.

The Panamanian people seem to have developed a stable democracy and I hope

they understand that any change could be the beginning of a retreat from this democracy.

I trust the Panamanian people will recognize the importance of this vote. In addition, I hope

international election observers will help guar-

antee an honest vote.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN H. BLOSSOM

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. John H. Blossom for

his life long dedication and hard work in the health care arena. Mr. Blossom's care giving

efforts in decentralized rural clinics has an-

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The Panamanian election

HON. CASS BALLINGER
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BALLINGER. Mr. Speaker, the Pan-

amanian people are soon to encounter an im-

portant vote that may affect the future of their
democracy. On August 30, Panama will hold a
election to decide whether to amend the con-
stitution to allow the current president, Ernesto Perez Balladares, to run for a second

term. The Panamanian people seem to have developed a stable democracy and I hope

they understand that any change could be the beginning of a retreat from this democracy.

balloons to areas such as my hometown of Chicago. If we do not end this NAFTA injustice, NAFTA ghost
towns will pop up all across America.

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today in congratulating the Ladies Legion on 75 years of success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Dr. John H. Blossom. Dr. Blossom’s lifelong hardwork in the health care arena has allowed other physicians to enter and start their own practice. I ask my Colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Blossom many years of success.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of people who are the embodiment of the American spirit of volunteering and selfless dedication to others. These people are the members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. The organization is dedicated to providing care and material support to hospitalized veterans and aid widows and orphans of the Polish Legion of American Veterans. It is these wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and nieces of honorably discharged Veterans of the Armed Forces, who preserve the eminence and sanctity of American ideals.

On Saturday, August 22, 1998, Michigan will celebrate the Legion’s 75th anniversary in Lansing. With members from 66 chapters throughout the nation, in attendance, this event will not only be a time to celebrate, but also a time to reflect. It will be a time in which both members and the community will come together and solemnize 75 years of community service and involvement.

The first chapter of the “Ladies Legion” of the American Veterans of Polish Extraction Association was formed, in Chicago Illinois in September 1920. It wasn’t until 1931 that the Polish American Veterans held a Consolidation Convention in Cleveland. It was at that time Ohio formally adopted the name of Polish Legion Of American Veterans, U.S.A. An Auxiliary of the National Ladies Legion was also formally formed. The first official consolidated Ladies National Convention was held in 1932 in Hamtramck, Michigan, represented by 56 delegates from the several states where their membership originated.

Today membership in the Ladies Auxiliary continues to grow and new projects have been implemented. The Auxiliary provides service to U.S.O. centers (Detroit), the Aid to the Blind Program (Illinois), which includes braille flags, books to schools, American essay and poster contests for middle school students, financial aid and scholarships to students and Hospitalized Veterans Wheelchair Olympics, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, PLAV Ladies Auxiliary has been working tirelessly for 75 years to improve the quality of life of others. Their efforts should be recognized. Please join me today in congratulating the Ladies Legion on its 75th anniversary, and hoping they will enjoy countless more years into the future.

BLACK AMERICANS’ RIGHT TO VOTE WILL NOT EXPIRE IN 2007

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the thirty-third anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On this day, it is fitting that we take the time to assure Black Americans that they will not lose their voice and continue to a widespread rumor that has been circulating around the country.

To correct the misunderstanding of the Voting Rights Act, I am introducing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that was featured in The New York Amsterdam News (July 16–July 22, 1998).

DON’T PANIC—YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE WILL NOT EXPIRE
(By Charles B. Rangel)

I am writing to address a widespread rumor that in the year 2007, Black’s will lose the right to vote as a result of the editorial by Brandy Darling, “Blacks’ right to vote ends by the year 2007,” is the latest reinforcement of well-intentioned but frightening misinformation on American Americans’ voting rights. This right is provided and guaranteed by the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The confusion is due to a misunderstanding of the Voting Rights Act. First enacted in 1965, the law removed the infamous barriers that had been systematically imposed to prevent voting for nearly a century, despite the mandate of the 15th Amendment. Among those forbidden practices were the imposition of poll taxes and literacy tests, not to mention the threat of violence.

While some provisions of the Voting Rights Act will expire in the year 2007, the most important protections of African-American voting rights will remain in place. The prohibition against racial discrimination in voting is permanent and is guaranteed in the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Certain provisions in the Voting Rights Act will expire in 2007 with serious implications for non-English speaking citizens and for the election of minority office holders. States or political subdivisions with significant numbers of non-English speaking citizens would no longer be required to provide bilingual services to eligible voters. If not corrected, this could minimize the growing political strength of Hispanics.

The growth in number of minority elected officials could also be affected by the expiring administrative provisions of the act. It includes the requirement for preclearance of election observers. This provision does not guarantee election of minorities. Rather, it prevents jurisdictions with a history of discrimination and racial polarization from manipulating the electoral systems to render the Black vote ineffective.

Although African-Americans were granted the right to vote in 1870 with the passage of the 15th Amendment and illegal measures which many southern states used to prevent Blacks from voting resulted in the exclusion of most African-American citizens from voting for nearly a century. In response, in 1965, Congress passed the first Voting Rights Act.

EXECUTION OF BAH’I IN IRAN—PERSECUTION OF MINORITY RELIGIONS CONTINUES

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it was with cautious hope that we observed last year the election of a “moderate” leader of Iran and the first tentative signs that the government of Iran might be willing to rejoin the community of nations. President Khatami addressed the American people and expressed his dedication to the principles of freedom, justice, and the rule of law for all Iranians. Unfortunately, it appears that Iran’s hardliners, led by Ayatollah Khomenni, remain committed to keeping Iran a pariah state and to applying to non-English speaking citizens. There is no truth to the claim that the extension of the Voting Rights Act requires ratification by the states. To be renewed, only a vote by Congress is required. After emancipation from slavery, Blacks earned the right to vote. This victory did not come easily. African-Americans were subjected to fraud, violence (including murder) and other unsavory tactics as a means to stop them from voting. Over the years, Blacks have sacrificed unduly for the right to vote. No one should ever have to experience such threats. That is why it is extremely important for African-Americans to continue to monitor potential threats to their right to vote.

We must be mindful of the fact that most of the gains made over the years have resulted from political activism. On the other hand, many of the losses that we are now experiencing stem from political apathy. In the 1996 presidential election, approximately 51 percent of African-Americans voted. To look at it another way, almost half of the eligible African-Americans voted in the last presidential election. If there are 40 African-American members in the U.S. Congress using a little over half of the voting potential, what will happen? Black Americans participated in the political process.

Black America is under attack. Affirmative action is being dismantled; Black churches are burning; racial hate crimes are on the rise; public schools are crumbling; and young Black men are filling the jails. These are reasons why we must fight back politically. And the struggle cannot end there. There is a serious need for improvements in education and training, affordable housing and increased job opportunities. Blacks must be prepared to compete in a global technological society.

Although the rumors over the Voting Rights Act are not true, the concern is real. Blacks are not in danger of losing the right to vote. However, the political power of African-Americans is being endangered. There is a need to monitor political threats and to inform the president and Congress of your concerns.
On July 21st, the government of Iran executed Mr. Ruhollah Rowhani, a Baha'i man, after having charged him with apostasy—specifically, converting a Muslim to the Baha'i faith. Mr. Rowhani, who had been held incompetent for ten months, was evidently not accorded basic legal protections such as access to an attorney, and his family learned of his execution only after it had taken place and they were notified they had one hour to prepare for his burial.

Since 1979, over 200 Baha'is—mostly elected community leaders—have been executed in Iran, solely on account of their religion. For the past six years, however, none had been executed and the number of Baha'is in custody had been rapidly declining. This apparent lessening of overt persecution, coupled with the new leadership in Iran, had raised hopes that a change in attitude towards the Baha'i and other minority religions might be forthcoming. The execution of Mr. Rowhani dashed those hopes. Currently, 15 Baha'is are being held by the Iranian authorities—four of whom are on death row.

In the days since the killing, the international community has joined forces to condemn this shameful execution and petition for the humane treatment of those Baha'is facing possible death at the hands of the Iranian government. President Clinton and State Department Spokesperson James Rubin have issued strong statements condemning the killing. The German, Australian and Canadian foreign ministers have issued strong denunciations and Representatives of the European Union have made their disapproval and concern known to the Iranian government. The Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights has urgently appealed to the Iranian government on behalf of the detained individuals.

For its part, the Iranian judiciary—which is controlled by Khomeini and the hardliners—responded by initially denying the charges were ever filed, denying the execution ever took place, and, incredibly, denying that a man named Ruhollah Rowhani ever existed. The Foreign Ministry later acknowledged that the execution had taken place.

Mr. Speaker, it is tremendously disappointing that the hardline elements of the Iranian government have resumed their assault on the Baha'i community. The hardline leadership continues to deviate far from the norms of civilized behavior by executing a man for nothing more than his faith. I believe that the execution of this innocent man marks a new phase in the ongoing power struggle in Iran between the hardliners and the more moderate elements. Given the fact that the hardliners control the Iranian government in very clear terms, the Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights has urgently appealed to the Iranian government on behalf of the detained individuals.

The Commission outlined three reasons for this recommendation: Fairness, Democratic principles and Practical utility.

Today the American citizens who live in the Northern Mariana Islands contribute and participate far exceeds the national average. They deserve representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is an injustice that the American citizens in the CNMI are the only U.S. citizens without representation in the U.S. Congress.

Without appropriate representation, miscommunications and problems arise because there is no one among our membership who stands up to speak for the Americans in the CNMI. There is no one among us willing to make the political investment to advocate on behalf of the CNMI on a daily basis. A Delegate for the CNMI will advance their cause and can work to resolve situations and concerns before they snowball into larger issues.

There are those amongst us who may argue that representation is contingent on tax contributions. Others have argued that the CNMI Delegate Act should not be addressed until the concerns are resolved. I disagree.

I believe that the best way to resolve these problems is to throw open the doors of the House and invite a representative of the CNMI on a daily basis. A Delegate for the CNMI will advance their cause and can work to resolve situations and concerns before they snowball into larger issues.

There are those who will resist entertaining this because there are minorities in the CNMI that have made its way to the surface and have received national and international attention. They will argue that the CNMI Delegate Act should not be addressed until the concerns are resolved. I disagree.

I believe that the best way to resolve these problems is to throw open the doors of the House and invite a representative of the CNMI to the table of public discussion. Even criminals have the right to representation in a court of law.

In either a state or a territory, we all have our problems with the federal government. At times, it's on an individual basis with an agency over a Social Security check or a Medicaid payment. Other times it is contradiction between state and federal viewpoints. In one way or the other, as Representatives in the U.S. Congress we become involved or can involve ourselves in the process. It's an advantage for our electorate and a right of American citizenship. We should not leave other citizens behind or alienate them from this process.

Perpetual denial of a Delegate for the CNMI is an injustice, especially to those American citizens in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who receive no representation at all.

Citizens of American territories are a unique group. Our constituents are grateful Americans and the citizenry are perhaps more loyal than any other in any state. Per capita, we have more men and women serving in the armed services and protecting our country and our way of life. With fervor, we engage ourselves in the political process. Voter participation far exceeds the national average. Our citizens are excited about freedom and we work to preserve democratic ideals and strive for equality of opportunities.

It is no different for my Pacific brethren to the North of Guam. They are committed to the ideals of American democracy and have a long history of developing their island within the American political framework. They chose to have a close and permanent relationship with the United States through a commonwealth arrangement. However, when the CNMI signed a covenant with the U.S., they were denied representation in Congress. Their current non-representation in the U.S. House of Representatives is the least perfect representation of any citizen on American soil. The dedication and loyalty of our American citizens in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands should not be overlooked.

They deserve representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is an injustice that the American citizens in the CNMI are the only U.S. citizens without representation in the U.S. Congress.
foundation a promise of fair and equal treatment by our government and that promise extends to the halls of Congress where fair and equal treatment demands that the Northern Marianas be represented by a Delegate.

The bill I introduce today mirrors the legislation which the Commonwealth and the United States Virgin Islands representation in 1972 and the legislation which granted American Samoa representation in 1980. The Northern Marianas will join the ranks of Delegates representing these islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianas will add its voice to those who represent American citizens who do not reside in the fifty states, but who reside in a diverse group of American communities on American soil.

As a Delegate, I know the difficulties attached to the kind of office I hold. There are real limitations to what I can do here. But I have the freedom to speak, to argue, to introduce legislation, to participate in debate, to make friends for the people who sent me here. The fate of my island rises and falls with my ability to represent my constituents. How unfair it is to keep any American from having the same privilege.

I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate will act on this legislation which granted Guam and the United States Virgin Islands representation in 1972 and equal treatment demands that the Northern Marianas be represented by a Delegate.

For the record, I am attaching a statement from CNMI Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta.

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT, AUGUST 6, 1998

Statement of the Honorable Juan N. Babauta, Resident Representative to the United States, from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The people of the Northern Marianas voted overwhelmingly in 1975 to join the United States of America. After three centuries of colonial rule we longed to be citizens of a democratic free, to participate in our own governance. Twenty-three years later, we still wait, governed from afar, the only people within the United States without a voice in Congress.

In negotiating our entry into the American political system we were advised that our small territory, 14,000 in the early 1970s did not warrant representation in Congress. We accepted that explanation knowing that Congress had recently provided representation in the House of Representatives for Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia and confident that once we, too, became United States citizens we would be accorded representation in our national government.

When, in 1978, Congress provided representation for the US territories of American Samoa, which has approximately 22,000, we in the Northern Marianas were further encouraged to believe that as a growing population of US citizens, we too, would soon have a voice in shaping the laws which now govern us.

Our hopes rose again in 1986 when the Commissioner Act of 1986, signed by President Ronald Reagan, recommended to Congress that the people of the Northern Marianas be provided a Delegate in the US House of Representatives. The Reagan Commission reasoned that:

"Every other area within the American political system with a permanent population is represented by a Delegate. Northern Marianas representation in Congress is in keeping with American traditions of participatory democracy and would dispel any lingering taint of American colonialism over the islands; and a Northern Marianas Delegate would effectively represent the interests of the islands, relieving other Members of this responsibility."

Although legislation was introduced supporting the Reagan Commission recommendation, the House took no action on it.

When, in 1989, I first ran for the office of Resident Commissioner to the United States from the Northern Mariana Islands, I pledged to make representation in Congress a priority. Despite joint resolutions from the Northern Marianas Delegate and the support of Governor Lorenzo I. DeLeon Guerrero, it was not until 1994 that a bill, HR 4927, was finally introduced. It was Robert Underwood, joined by co-sponsors Mr. Murphy, Mr. Faleomavaega, Ms. Norton, Mr. Romero-Barcelo, and Mr. de Lugo, who made that important first step on our behalf. Their effort was followed in 1996 by the introduction of legislation by Mr. Gallegly, co-sponsored by Chairman Young, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. DeLillo (since retired), Mr. Frager, Mr. Kim, and Mr. Rahall. The Northern Marianas Delegate bill was reported favorably by the Resources Committee. Opponents argued that it would encourage floor consideration of the measure in the waning days of the 104th Congress.

In opposition to the Gallegly/Young bills, both in committee and after the bill was reported favorably, it was argued that, although the people of the Northern Marianas are US citizens, they have no inherent right to participate in our national government. This argument is technically correct. The Constitution makes no provision for representation in Congress for US citizens not residing in the United States. However, since the very first days of our Republic, this Congress has acknowledged that US citizens, even outside the States, should in justice have a voice in Congress. And, over the last two hundred years, Congress has so provided, giving representation in the US House to Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Michigan—together some 30 territories ranging in population from 5,000 to 250,000.

At times, though, Congress has delayed in granting this representation—in the case of Alaska because of its remoteness and its population's racial and ethnic composition. But we live in modern times, when concerns about distance and homogeneity have been replaced by a more enlightened sense of justice and civil rights.

It was further argued that representation in Congress is a "privilege" and that the people of the Northern Marianas are unworthy, because of the abuse of foreign laborers which has occurred in the islands—to have the same privileges as other people living in the United States. But the privilege—i.e., the voice in Congress that we so long seek—has been denied the people of the Northern Marianas for twenty-three years, since long before the issue of foreign labor arose.

In approving the Covenant of political union with the United States, the people of the Northern Marianas elected to live under federal law. We do not fear it. We seek its protection for ourselves and for all persons living in the Northern Marianas. What we want is to have a voice in making those federal laws which affect us.

The Supreme Court of the United States opined in 1964. "[n]o right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who govern us."

It is with respect for that fundamental principle that we ask for passage of the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.
message. It signals that it is permissible to discriminate based on sexual orientation. I find this particularly inappropriate for the Federal government which should be doing everything possible to discourage all forms of discrimination.

Last fall, at my request, the Subcommittee on Civil Service held a series of hearings on employment discrimination in the Federal workplace. During these hearings, the current evidence of discriminatory conduct in the Federal workplace was overwhelming. I asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look into this matter, and in a report issued last month GAO found that the number of Federal employee discrimination complaints has risen sharply over the past few years. Clearly, more must be done to stamp out discrimination. What the Helfey amendment does is promote it.

RECOGNITION OF LEESBURG STUDENTS IN A.A.A. "NATIONAL AUTO SKILLS" CONTEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize two young students. They are Jason Kmak, age 17, and Gregory J. Welch, age 19. These two students represented Virginia and placed second in this year’s American Automobile Association (AAA) “National Auto Skills Contest.” Jason and Gregory competed as a team from the C.S. Monroe Technical Center in Leesburg, Virginia, against 49 other teams across the nation and represented AAA Potomac.

The annual competition pits the best high school auto repair teams in the nation against each other. Nationwide, more than 5,000 students competed in the competition. Over $8 million in scholarship money is awarded in the contest. The competition is based on written exams and a timed challenge for teams to find and fix bugs deliberately created in an automobile. Only the team from Oregon placed better than Virginia’s team.

Mr. Speaker, today’s automobiles have more computer processing power than the first Apollo spacecraft. According to AAA, a 1998 Ford automobile has about 84 percent of its functions controlled by computers, compared with 14 percent for 1990 models. The skills needed to repair automobiles today are complex and highly technical. These students displayed amazing talent by placing second in the competition. As second place winners, they will be awarded scholarships worth thousands of dollars. The team’s efforts have also earned their Leesburg school a Ford vehicle for use in the school’s automotive training program.

Mr. Speaker, more students should be encouraged to learn computer and advanced technology skills because it is the way of the future. From automobiles to television sets to the Internet, students must learn these skills if our nation is to remain globally competitive. I commend Jason and Gregory on their hard work and encourage them to continue to build on this success, and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS S. CHAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and to honor the memory of the late Thomas S. Chan of Sacramento, CA. As Mr. Chan is memorialized today he will be remembered by his many friends and family members as an intelligent businessman and dedicated community leader.

Mr. Chan was a true Sacramentan. Born on July 17, 1919 he was raised in Sacramento and has always called Sacramento home. He graduated from Sacramento High School in 1937. In 1942, he met Mae Chuck and the two were wed in 1947.

Tom Chan devoted much of his energy into helping his family’s produce business flourish. Begun by his father, Mr. Chan assumed management of General Produce Co. during the 1950s. Yet the produce business was not the only field in which Mr. Chan excelled. He went on to establish himself as one of Sacramento’s most innovative retailers and custom home developers. He was also an immensely talented furniture craftsman as well as an avid sportsman. General Produce Co., South Land Park Terrace, and Riverside Estates will endure as Thomas Chan’s lasting legacy in Sacramento.

But like his father, Tom also leaves behind a wonderful family, friends, and a community of people who are better for having known him.

The Chan family will always hold a special place in my memories. When my family and I returned to Sacramento after the incarceration of Japanese Americans, we had few possessions, little money, and no income. Moreover, because of the internment, there was a presumption of guilt and a suspicion of Americans of Japanese ancestry throughout California. But amidst such indignities, there were families like the Chans who reached out to my family and others like us.

My father, who was forced to give up his own produce business when the internment order came, was hired by Tom’s father to work at General Produce, where he worked with and for Tom Chan for more than 30 years. There are scores of people and families who have been similarly influenced by Tom Chan and his family. It is they who will feel the great loss in our community and remember him as an admired leader.

Mr. Speaker, as Thomas S. Chan is laid to rest today in Sacramento, I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating his dual legacies as a successful businessman and beloved family figure. Our thoughts are with Mae Chan, Tom’s four children, and two grandchildren during their most difficult time.

HONORING BAIASAKHI-1999

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BAIASAKHI-1999, which is the Tercentenary Celebration of the birth of Khalsa.

BAIASAKHI-1999 is where Indian-Americans, the government of Punjab, and the people of India will celebrate the rich Khalsa heritage of the last three hundred years. It will offer everyone an opportunity to reflect on Sikh values and traditions.

Punjab, India, is the land where the soul of Kabir found its resonance in the inspirational hymns of Guru Nanak, and the grandeur of Guru Gobind Singh’s spirit inspired countless people. Punjab has always been known for the rich heritage of Sikh culture.

BAIASAKHI-1999 represents the culmination of extensive planning, and has come about only through the remarkable efforts of devoted people whose commitment to the project should be commended. I would like to personally recognize the Chief Minister of Punjab Prakash Singh Badal and his council of ministers; members of the Legislative Assembly; Members of the Parliament; Serv Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala, Union Minister of India; Sukhbir Singh Badal; Jathedar Bhai Ranjit Singh; Jathedar Bhai Gurucharan Singh Tohra, M.P.; Bhajjedra Singh Haumard, M.P.; Dhadhar Singh Bhens; and the founder president of the Ambedkar International Mission U.S.A., Hardyal Singh.

To further mark this auspicious occasion, the Honorable Chief Minister of the State of Punjab, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, has proposed the development of Amritsar to be a cultural city in Punjab to reflect the rich heritage of Sikh culture. Included in the proposal is the Khalsa Heritage Memorial Complex, the Khalsa Memorial Academic Institute, a gallery of paintings, and a Sikh military museum among other things. Also planned is a Khalsa heritage memorial which will be three hundred feet high to mark this Tercentenary Celebration.

Once again, I would like to send my best wishes for this event, and my personal congratulations on this joyous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1998

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of this year, several of my colleagues and I introduced H.R. 3623, the “Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998,” which would simplify the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers. The bill would also provide modest capital gains tax reductions for millions of Americans.

At the time of introduction, I stated that we would modify the legislation if the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) determined upon reviewing the bill that there would be a revenue loss. Since then, I have learned from the JCT that this bill as originally introduced would lose revenue. With this concern in mind, I have decided to modify and reintroduce this capital gains legislation. The bill would now raise $600 million over a ten-year period.

Based upon revenue considerations, we have excised the Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 in several areas, none of which would affect the basic goal of substantially simplifying the taxation of capital gains.
in the House of Representatives

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Jack B. Critchfield, a good friend of mine. On June 30, 1998, Jack Critchfield retired from his post as Chairman of the Board of Florida Process Corporation, which is the holding company for Florida’s second largest investor-owned electric utility. Jack was born and raised in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Slippery Rock State College with a Bachelor of Science degree, then went on to the University of Pittsburgh for a Master’s Degree and a Doctorate. Jack also holds an honorary law degree from Rollins College, which is located in my district.

He began his career in academics as a history teacher and counselor at Rockwood High School in Pennsylvania, then went to the University of Pittsburgh as Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Aid. Asst. Chancellor and Associate Professor of Higher Education. After his accomplishments in Pennsylvania, he moved to Winter Park, Florida, where Jack was President of Rollins College. After devoting many years to education Jack decided to enter the business world. He began his pursuit as President of Winter Park Telephone, then joined Florida Power Corporation as Vice President. Jack moved to the Florida Progress Corporation, the parent corporation of Florida Power Corporation, as President of Energy and Technology, and was subsequently promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer. In Federal of 1990, he became Chief Executive Officer of Florida Progress Corporation, and a year later was named as Chairman of the Board.

Jack is the past chairman and current director of the Florida Council of 100. He is the former director of Barnett Banks of Florida, and of Barnett Bank of Pinellas County. He is also associated with and has devoted much of his time to Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education.

Jack Critchfield also became very involved by dedicating time and energy as a member of the Governors Commission for Government By the People and was a remarkable Chair- man of the Commission’s Education Commit- tee. Dr. Critchfield also worked persistently behind the scenes to bring professional and major league baseball to the state of Florida. Jack has always been a highly successful man. Although he will continue his work in education, he will certainly be missed by the Florida Progress Corporation. I am sure Jack will spend more time improving his golf game and caring for his young daugh- ter. I just hope that he remains as active as he has been. Mr. Speaker, Jack Critchfield is a great friend and I would like my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack the best as he retires.

V-103 FM AND WGCI AM/FM UNITY DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas for the first time in Chicago his- tory, two competing radio stations V-103 FM and WGCI AM/FM have united to sponsor “Unity Day 1998,” a community oriented event in Washington Park;

Whereas “Unity Day 1998” will bring to- gether hundreds of thousands of people to collectively focus on family values, the power of hope, self-discipline and the strength of a united people;

Whereas Unity Day is a daylong celebration highlighted by a festival of fun, entertainment, education and leadership from the community. V-103 and WGCI AM/FM are presenting special awards to several community social and cultural organizations; and

Whereas the DuSable Museum of African American History, HDRI, Inc., Old St. Paul Church, Westside Cultural Center (Douglas Park), and the Soul Children of Chicago are worthy of the Unity Day Awards; and

Whereas the Soal Children of Chicago, founded in 1981 by Walt Whitman exemplifies Unity Day 1998 by promoting self-esteem, leadership and good moral character among our youth; and

Whereas the Westside Cultural Center, Douglas Park works to develop camaraderie, friendship and exposes our inner city youth to cultural and youth development activities; and

Whereas Old St. Paul Church provides spir- itual guidance and support to our communities and support families, the power of love and hope; and

Whereas Marv Dyson, President and General Manager, WGCI AM/FM and Donald T. Moore, Senior Vice President and general manager, V-103 should be commended for their contributions and support of our communities; and

Whereas V-103, an award winning radio station consistently provides the best hits and diversity primarily the African American com- munities; and

Whereas WGCI AM/FM, winner of many awards, “Plays the Hits” and “All Dusties
HONORING MARIA OSUNA VALDEZ
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maria Osuna Valdez for being an outstanding citizen and exemplary woman.

Maria was born on March 6, 1914, in San Ignacio, Sinaloa, Mexico. She was the fourth of five children to Eufemio Osuna and Magdalena Escobosa de Osuna. After her parents death, Maria, then 16 years of age, went to live with her sister, Magdalena.

While living in the mining town of El Tumbor, Mexico, Maria met and married Miguel Arrellano Valdez. In 1946, after having worked in the silver mines for many years, Miguel, an American citizen, moved back to the United States. Miguel went ahead to begin working, and Maria, with the help of her children, moved to Tijuana, Mexico, to begin preparing for their journey to the United States. In 1957, after much work and sacrifice, the Valdez family moved into their home in Montebello, California. Maria, with the help of the older children, managed the family while Miguel worked in Los Angeles.

Maria was a homemaker who took care of their eight children. She supervised their activities and Miguel often worked double shifts. Their children were their pride and inspiration. They instilled in them the American Dream, strong religious beliefs and family values. All eight of their children graduated from institutions of higher learning and were exemplary citizens. After Miguel’s death in 1987, Maria continued to encourage their children and grandchildren and to instill in them the high expectations of the Valdez family.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 3, 1998, Maria passed away after a long illness at her home in Montebello, California. A 45 year resident of Montebello, Maria was devoted to her family, friends, and loved ones to remember, re-live, rejoice and to share. One such special milestone was the celebration of the fortieth wedding anniversary of Tom and Miriam Ryan, on July 25, 1998, in Chicago.

Forty years together in a union so timeless as that of marriage calls for a special sort of celebration. And for once time is not the enemy but the celebration.

The combined ages of those gathered here is testament to the influence of the union of Tom and Miriam that took place forty years ago. Their previous marriages to spouses who preceded them in their untimely union and whose memory they continue to cherish, along with the large number of children to whom they have given life and love, suggest that this fortieth anniversary is neither silver or golden, it must surely be considered platinum. And as is the case in the mining and processing of precious metals, the years have given Tom and Miriam the share of Gethsemane to remove the dross of selfishness and produce the kind of union that they have achieved. All things considered, time has always their marriage and has marked it as genuine.

A fortieth wedding anniversary reminds us that the marriage covenant is not an instant achievement. It may be for a day but the marriage is for a lifetime. Marriage calls for love, forgiveness, sacrifice, loyalty, faith and courage in shaping these virtues and through them the ongoing work in progress.

We live in an age however, when it is too easy to forget the constant faithfulness that the Lord required of marriage and the marriages that are needed to arrive at this hour of recognition and acclaim. Instant food and communications, the immediate availability of every convenience have caused us to forget the care and well-planned preparation and personal attention that the union of marriage demands. French fries are a long way from the patience and kindness of your mutual care. Today, as in the past, the notion of "french fries" does seem to be a contradiction in terms!

Tom’s dedication to Miriam too is a note worthy as his compassion as a lawyer and politician for the poor and those who suffer injustice in any way. This compassion of his does not flow only from the genetic heritage of his revered uncle Monsignor John A. Ryan, an unrequited Minnesota kind—Tom Ryan’s concern flows also from his unwavering commitment to the preferential place which the poor are meant to enjoy in the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church, most especially perhaps here in America. Something which the Church needs to reconsider in its list of priorities frequently.

In any case, keeping in mind that marriage is always a work of grace in progress, we are celebrating what is hopefully some experience of Mount Tabor for Tom and Miriam on this their fortieth anniversary.

In this regard, I am reminded of another anniversary where I was present. I was privileged to celebrate with my parents some seven years ago, a moment of quiet wonder and thankfulness for the blessings of their marriage and for every member of the family involved. For I have come to understand in which my parents seemed to be tolerant amused by all the fuss, sensing at times our tendency to celebrate them as trophies. After all their love life survived the raising of their own children to their own marriages in due course; a subject of their constant prayer I suspect.

Children it seems never really think of their parents as existing only from the time they have known them. Like my parents however, Tom and Miriam share times and secrets and memories that are theirs and only theirs. In Yeats’ words they too have found the best that life can give. Companionship in those mysterious things That woman’s soul/ itself and not some other soul.

And so, Miriam and Tom, in the words of Paul to the Corinthians—one of our chosen scriptures for your anniversary—because of the patience and kindness of your mutual love, its humility and forgiveness, your care and compassion for your families and for all of us, we know that the ageless Christ is with us here, joyful too over all that his grace and presence have worked in you. That miracle is surely encouragement and assurance to younger couples. They know they need it—That His grace is always sufficient to the fulfillment of their desires and dreams. Certainly, as the Gospel of John suggests, you have proved to some Christ’s special friends. You have been faithful to His trust and to each other’s.

We celebrate you and we bless you! Rev. Michael J. Lyons, Pastor.

TRIBUTE TO MOM & DAD

Once upon a time a widowed man of five children; they called him dad; and a widowed woman with seven children they called mom.

On October 4, 1958 they got married; soon there were two more children, becoming a blended family of 16. Through a lot of faith, dedication, hard work and love, the family thrived.

We are here today to celebrate the union of these two people and the beautiful example...
of love and family which is their legacy. There were 14 children, and so far 40 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren. One son, one grandson and one great granddaughter are half-brothers with us and they are the spirit of peace and love from heaven above.

Mom is known for her gourmet meals that always includes dessert and a table set for royalty. She would designate a "mummy" kitchen, which means everything in the refrigerator must go. These meals boasted of concoctions fit for kings and the presentations always to match.

Grocery shopping was always a major ordeal. Dad and Mary would often times go together. It became more ground breaking since we didn't have a lot of things to be specified. I would try to find places for it all at home was much like the politics we were thrown into. They shopped liberally and had to put it in a different order each time.

Speaking of politics, life with dad is always politically charged. I'm not sure if it's because he's a lawyer, his strong Irish Heritage, or he just loves talking. The more counterversial and politically charged the better.

There were always parades to walk with stickers and brochures to hand out, door knocking campaigns for dad or some other worthy candidate. It was expected of us much like a farmer expecting his children to help put out on the farm. A family our size has required us to cooperate, share and be creative. Family vacations and rides in the car were a real test of that. "If you learn to sit by the window, you're touching me, or you're in my space" were common grumblings ending up in pinching matches and angry words. Long trips required a cooler of sandwiches and beverages eating in the car on a stop at a roadside picnic area. Sleeping in the care required further division of the minimal car space for 3 and sometimes 4. It was usually by spinning dubs first! That was a real treat because you had twice the room of the 3 or 4 sitting behind you on the seat. But if you got pushy or crabby you ended up in front seat with mom and dad—that was really bad. By the way dad, you can get a smaller car now.

When we thought things were tough or unfair for us mom always told us "offer it up and you'll go straight to heaven". You can guess how much credence that held with five 6 to 13 year-olds. Then there was the now famous motto "When was the last time you did something she thought was really dumb. ... "Don't talk like a sausage". To give you an idea of the incredible wisdom we held as children was the occasion that saying marrying an adult as an adult did I wonder how a sausage sounded and how stupid we were to believe a sausage talked.

Weekend trips often include a caravan of family cars following our leader, Dad. He drives fast so he's hard to keep up with, but you can always count on catching up to him because he usually makes a Dairy Queen stop... his car seems to smell them out. He never hears a single complaint.

Through her mom tried to find ways to help with the clothing needs of so many young teenage girls. There was Beeline home clothing parties... no need to hire a model, all she had to do was bribe me with upcoming was that she thought was really dumb... "Don't talk like a sausage". To give you an idea of the incredible wisdom we held as children was the occasion that saying marrying an adult as an adult did I wonder how a sausage sounded and how stupid we were to believe a sausage talked.

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Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the entire text of the Robert Pear article be printed in the Congressional Record at this point.

Mr. Speaker, these are but two examples of flaws that may not be apparent on a quick read of the Republican Task Force bill but which become apparent upon closer examination.

I wish I could say that those are the only two provisions in the House-passed GOP managed care reform bill which—to borrow from the old TV ad—may taste great but is certainly less filling.

I think every Member of Congress would agree that the best health care bill is one that delivers the services they need, when they need them. Remedies such as internal and external appeals and access to the courts are needed backstops, but our first goal should be to require that HMOs provide needed care. On that count, there is no comparison between the two bills.

Here is a partial list of protections contained in the Patients Bill of Rights but which were not included in the Republican Task Force proposal:

First and foremost, the Republican Task Force bill could actually make the situation worse by creating Association Health Plans which will be beyond the reach of state regulation. For example, it is shown that they are not able to make the same gains that are shown to protect the public from unsafe drugs. They are not able to protect the public from unsafe drugs, and to deny payment for emergency services.

Mr. Speaker, the Patients’ Bill of Rights would ensure that consumers would not have to make that potentially disastrous choice.

A second key difference between the Republican Task Force bill and the protections already enacted for Medicare is that the Republican bill does not require any payment for services other than those necessary to maintain the health of the consumer.

After that, payment must be made only for additional services if a prudent emergency medical professional would deem them necessary. Moreover, the GOP bill added a new burden on emergency room doctors, requiring them to certify in writing that such services are needed. Talk about bureaucracy!

Robert Pear's New York Times article quoted Robert Scott of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Mr. Scott's comments bear repeating, because I think they illuminate the weaknesses of the Task Force bill:

We have more than a century of common law precedent interpreting the standard of a 'prudent lay person,' or 'reason-able man,' as it was used to be called. But this new standard of a 'prudent emergency medical professional' was invented out of thin air. It creates new opportunities for HMOs to second-guess the treating physician and deny payment for emergency services.

Mr. Pear's article also takes a hard look at the difficult issue of medical records privacy and concludes that "on this issue, took the details have provoked a furor."

He noted that privacy advocates were amazed to learn that the Republican Task Force bill authorizes the disclosure of information without an individual's consent for a broad range of purposes, including risk management, quality assessment, disease management, underwriting, and more.

And the Republican bill considers disclosure for "health care operations" permissible. This is a term so broad that critics say it would allow the transfer of patient information to companies marketing new drugs.

Commenting on these flaws, noted privacy expert Robert Gellman said that the Republican bill would weaken the appearance of providing privacy rights. But it may actually take away rights that people have today under state laws or common practice."

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the entire text of the Robert Pear article be printed in the Congressional Record at this point.

Mr. Speaker, these are but two examples of flaws that may not be apparent on a quick read of the Republican Task Force bill but which become apparent upon closer examination.

I wish I could say that those are the only two provisions in the House-passed GOP managed care reform bill which—to borrow from the old TV ad—may taste great but is certainly less filling.

I think every Member of Congress would agree that the best health care bill is one that delivers the services they need, when they need them. Remedies such as internal and external appeals and access to the courts are needed backstops, but our first goal should be to require that HMOs provide needed care. On that count, there is no comparison between the two bills.

Here is a partial list of protections contained in the Patients Bill of Rights but which were not included in the Republican Task Force proposal:

First and foremost, the Republican Task Force bill could actually make the situation worse by creating Association Health Plans which will be beyond the reach of state regulation. For example, it is shown that they are not able to make the same gains that are shown to protect the public from unsafe drugs. They are not able to protect the public from unsafe drugs, and to deny payment for emergency services.

Mr. Speaker, the Patients’ Bill of Rights would ensure that consumers would not have to make that potentially disastrous choice.

A second key difference between the Republican Task Force bill and the protections already enacted for Medicare is that the Republican bill does not require any payment for services other than those necessary to maintain the health of the consumer.

After that, payment must be made only for additional services if a prudent emergency medical professional would deem them necessary. Moreover, the GOP bill added a new burden on emergency room doctors, requiring them to certify in writing that such services are needed. Talk about bureaucracy!

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A second key difference between the Republican Task Force bill and the bi-partisan Patients’ Bill of Rights related to the way in which they deal with drug formularies. For reasons which may have more to do with financial discounts than quality medical care, many health plans have limited the coverage of prescription drugs to those on a "formulary." For many conditions and diseases, patients can be given any number of formulations of a drug—whether brand names or generic.

That is, however, not always the case. Often, that patient may have to pay for a particular formulation of a drug. That is especially true of narrow therapeutic index drugs, for which there is a very narrow window between efficacy and toxicity. Switching patients from brand name to generic drugs or vice-versa can be serious health consequences.

The Patients’ Bill of Rights recognizes this by ensuring that physicians and pharmacists have input in the creation of a plan's formulary. Moreover, the bill ensures that there is a way for patients to get a drug that is not on the formulary if their physician determines it is medically indicated.

By contrast, the Republican Task Force bill merely provides enrollees with information of the extent to which a drug formulary is used and a description of how the formulary is developed.

More specific information as to whether a particular drug biological is on the formulary is available only to those who ask.

A fourth key difference is that the Patients’ Bill of Rights guarantees access to clinical trials, something that the Republican Task Force bill does not do. For patients with some diseases, the only hope for a cure lies in cutting-edge clinical trials.

The Patients’ Bill of Rights would allow individuals with serious or life-threatening illness for which no standard treatment is effective to participate in clinical trials if participation offers a meaningful potential for significant benefit.

This does not require the health plan to pay all of the costs of the clinical trials. In fact, all that the Patients’ Bill of Rights, the bill I support, obligates a plan to do is cover the routine costs they would otherwise be required to pay. They are not forced to assume any of the added costs of participation in the clinical trial.

The Republican Task Force managed care reform bill, by contrast, contain no similar protections. That can be a major difference for someone with life-threatening illness who would rather use his strength to battle his disease, not to battle with the insurance company.
piece from The U.S. Capitol Historical Society

iors from providers who may get a financial Medicare regulations very explicitly limit the themselves if they want to purchase this enhanced Rights, lets the employees decide for them-
partisan bill I support, the Patients' Bill of fit.
that the costs might be higher.
tire added cost for the ability to obtain out-of-
bill, employees who are willing to pay the en-
successful task force proposal does not provide for on-
his life.

A seventh key difference between the two 

August 7, 1998

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for coverage of the clinical trial that could save 
his life.

A fifth important distinction between the competing proposals is that the Republican Task Force proposal does not provide for on-
going access to specialists for chronic condi-
tions. Many chronic conditions, such as Mul-
tiple Sclerosis or arthritis, require routine care from specialty-trained physicians, like neurolo-
gists or rheumatologists.

It is one thing to ask an enrollee to get a re-
ferral for an isolated visit to a specialist. But 
those with chronic conditions need a standing 
referral to those specialists or to be able to designate the specialist as their primary care provider. This protection is not in the Repub-
cican Task Force bill.

A sixth distinction between the two is that 
the Patients’ Bill of Rights does more to en-
sure that individuals are able to see the doctor of their own choosing. Both bills have a point-of-service provision that allows individuals to see health care providers not in their plans closed panel. And this needs to be only a theoretical increase. The bill allows health plans to provide an actuarial speculation that the costs would increase and they are re-
lied to have to offer employees this bene-
fit.

Perhaps more amazing is the fact that this exemption is triggered even if the employees selecting the point of service option if they could demonstrate that the separate coverage would be more than 1 percent higher than the premium for the closed panel plan. And this needs to be only a theoretical increase. The bill allows health plans to provide an actuarial speculation that the costs would increase and they are re-
lied to have to offer employees this bene-
fit.

Mr. Speaker, home health care allows so 

TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN SEWELL

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues’ attention to this feature piece from The U.S. Capitol Historical Society newsletter, The Capitol Dome. For 60 years now, Helen Sewell has been the manager of the snack bar in the Republican cloakroom and a mother to every member who has sat down to one of her hefty tuna salad sand-
wiches. Mrs. Sewell began working in the cloakroom while she was in junior high school and her father ran the snack bar. Since that time, she has served coffee and sandwiches to thousands of members, including several Members of Congress. According to some accounts, it was her cottage cheese with Worcestershire source that helped put Gerald Ford in the White House. Even today, when President Ford visits the House, he stops by for a visit with Helen. President Bush does the same. I think that my colleagues will enjoy this tribute to Mrs. Sewell. I did, and it is richly de-

Working in the cloak room over six de-
cades, Helen has witnessed much of the na-
tion’s history. She has a photographic mem-
ory and vividly remembers events such as the 
attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 when Congressmen fired several shots from the House Gal-
dery and wounded five Members of Congress. She has met many of the Members’ spouses and children, including the current President,

The recent deaths of Bill Emerson and Sonny Bono particularly saddened Helen. “I re-
member when Bill Emerson passed away,” Helen said softly. “It was an emotional day . . . I was very close to him,” she said of the Missouri Congressman she had known since he had been a House Page in 1953.

The巧合 of workup, Helen is a proud 
grandparent and is active in community life. Her two daughters and one son have given 
Helen nine grandchildren and five-great-
grandchildren. A life-long resident of Wash-
ington, she has strong ties to the Petworth Community where she attends the Petworth United Methodist Church. For more than thirty years Helen has been an active mem-
er of the Northwest Boundary Civic Asso-
ciation. For fun, she enjoys a good chuckle, and occasionally visits the casinos in Atlan-
tic City, N.J.

When the question of retirement comes up, Helen immediately says “no.” She plans to continue working for as long as she is phys-
ically able. Besides, who could make such great tuna sandwiches?

RECOGNIZING THE HOME HEALTH ASSEMBLY OF NEW JERSEY ON TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Home Health Assembly of New Jer-
sey, which is celebrating their twenty-fifth year of providing health care services to the care-
givers and citizens of New Jersey.

In the face of our nation’s every-changing healthcare system, the Home Health Assem-
by of New Jersey has served as a consistent and reliable source of information and advocacy for those who administer home health care and to those who receive it. As the state’s largest and most comprehensive pro-essional home care association, home care providers, hospices and associations have re-
lied on their knowledge and insight for a quar-
ter-century.

Mr. Speaker, home health care allows so 

many of our citizens to receive necessary health care in comfortable and familiar sur-
roundings. Equally important to the physical health care services which home health care providers offer to the elderly, the disabled, children and adults, is the emotional support they give. Offering a hand to hold and a shoul-
der to lean on makes one’s illness more man-
ageable and more hopeful.

Through their leadership and advocacy, the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey has truly achieved its mission of being “The Voice for Home Care in New Jersey.” I wish the As-
sembly continued success in the future years of service which it will provide to the people of New Jersey.
Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the T.L.L. Temple Foundation. Mrs. Georgia Temple Munz established this foundation in honor of her father, Mr. Thomas Lewis Latane Temple, in 1962. The T.L.L. Temple Foundation awards grants to a broad range of projects and causes in East Texas. The recipients include organizations in the areas of education, health care, and medical research, community and social services, and cultural arts and the humanities. In organizing the foundation, Mrs. Munz fulfilled her dream of enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the East Texas Timber Pine Belt through charitable donations. Since its establishment, the T.L.L. Temple Foundation has awarded more than $150 million to programs that support these causes.

One recipient of these grant awards that I would like to mention is the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) of Deep East Texas. The ADAC is a nonprofit agency that offers prevention, intervention and treatment services to the twelve counties of the Deep East Texas region. I am pleased to announce that the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year.

In 1982, the T.L.L. Temple Foundation awarded its first grant to ADAC for support of its prevention education programs. To date, the Temple Foundation has provided over $930,000 in grants in support of ADAC’s drug prevention education programs involving 33 school districts and 12 daycare centers in a twelve-county region of East Texas. Last year alone these programs reached 48,800 participating students and over 3,000 adults. Information was provided on how to maintain healthy lifestyles, how chemical abuse can ruin a life and how positive choices lead to positive results.

The T.L.L. Temple Foundation is unlike most U.S. foundations because the founding family still exercises an organizational presence. The members of the foundation’s governing board include: Mr. Arthur Temple, Chairman; Mr. Arthur “Rudy” Temple, III; Mr. W. Temple Webber, Jr.; Mr. Phillip M. Leach; and Mr. Ward R. Burke.

The T.L.L. Temple Foundation is located in Lufkin, Texas, and East Texas is fortunate to benefit from such generosity. I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor the T.L.L. Temple Foundation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a republic means a lot more than just free elections and representative government. It requires a commitment to the political process from not only the candidates for public office, but from activist citizens who participate in the process.

There are those who participate in the political process, with little recognition or publicity, without pay or perks, and with little regard for the cost to their personal lives in time and energy. They are political activists volunteers who are the heart and soul of every campaign, every election, and every contest between two visions for the future of our country. They are the kind of people who care deeply about what kind of country we live in, and care enough to get involved in that great American tradition, the political campaign.

Mac McCue is just such an activist. For years Mac McCue has been synonymous with Republican Chatham County politics. In fact, Chatham County Republicans could not even imagine an election without the services of Mac McCue. Some may think of Mac as a senior citizen, but those of us who know him cannot.

In campaign after campaign, Mac has shown so much energy he makes the candidates look only partially committed! And he brings the same excitement to a campaign as he did to his first campaign, back in the 1950s.

It doesn’t matter whether the race is school board, city council, county commission, state legislature, U.S. Congress, or President, Mac is there. It doesn’t matter if the candidate is a dark horse, an incumbent, a political veteran or a novice—If there’s a Republican who needs help, Mac will help.

It doesn’t matter if it’s putting up yard signs, stuffing envelopes, manning the phones, or going door to door—no job is beneath Mac if it needs doing.

Mac is a guy who knows all the ups and downs of a campaign—the pitfalls to avoid, the tricks to get press, and secret for getting 25 hours of work done in the last 24 hours of a campaign. When the chips are down and the dark days set in as they do in all campaigns, Mac stands faithfully by.

And on election night, if you fall a few votes short, Mac reminds you that there are other things—such as family—which are more important.

And when the election is over and the crowds have gone home, Mac even sticks around to pick up your yard signs.

In addition to all these talents, Mac can be the campaign humorist with one of his infamous limericks.

He had hundreds of them, and you could always tell when he was working on one in his head, for he had that little smile that suggested that he was up to some clever mischief.

One of them goes to the tune of “Home on the Range.”

Oh give us a home—
Where the flounder can roam—
With trout and with bass on display,
Where seldom are heard the economy word,
And our taxes go up every day.

It’s hard to believe that he’s not in the Poet’s Hall of Fame!

As you can see, he’s a guy who can make a serious point, even when he is just having a little fun.

Voters who encounter Mac on the campaign trail invariably come away with a positive feeling about the candidate he is supporting.

He is so upbeat, so obviously committed to his beliefs, and so sincere in his enthusiasm, people naturally conclude that Mac is on the right side of the issues.

Whether through politics or not, Mac has always loved and served his country.

In the 1940s, he was in the South Carolina National Guard.

He served in the Army during the Korean War; 20 years later he served in the Reserve.

Mac along with his beautiful wife Millie have always made public service a part of their life because they care passionately about what kind of country we live in, and what kind of country their children and grandchildren will live in.

Mac didn’t care whether you were a longshot or not, and he didn’t care if the media totally ignored you—but if he believed in you, he was behind you 100%.

Mac worked to help elect Lamar Davis to a state representative office, the same Lamar Davis who has since gone on to take a position as our U.S. bankruptcy judge.

Former Savannah mayor Susan Weiner is another one of Mac’s success stories, as are County Commissioner Ed Silas, State Senator Eric Johnson, State Reps. Anne Mueller and Herb Jones, and many others.

Young at heart and dedicated to the core, Mac McCue is a friend and mentor to all the young people on their first campaign, and he is a tribute to our democratic system of government.

Mac, we salute you, and we thank you for all the truly fine work you have done all these many years.

Mike, we salute you and thank you for sharing Mac with us.

You two are an inspiration to all people in government—so many who are now in office with your help—who believe that politics is important to people’s lives and who believe that ideas are worth fighting for.

You are great Americans!

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long-awaited completion of the four-laning of U.S. Highway 72 in northern Alabama.

On Friday, August 7, we will dedicate the final section of the highway to be completed from the city of Stevenson to the city of Bridgeport at the Alabama-Tennessee state line.

Our community has worked toward this day and waited for this day for a very long time. For the first time ever, people will be able to travel on four lanes of Highway 72 from state line to state line. It will be a better highway and, most importantly, a safer highway. This last section of Highway 72 has been a dangerous, narrow stretch of road. Tragically, we have lost lives on this highway. The completion of this road is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the completion of Highway 72, I would like to pay special recognition to Congressman Bob Jones, without
whose work this day would not have been possible.

Congressman Jones represented north Alabama in the House of Representatives with distinction and honor for 30 years. A native of Jackson County, Congressman Jones was the chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee. The four-laning of Highway 72 is part of the enormous legacy that Congressman Jones left the state of Alabama. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Jones passed away last year at the age of 85. We deeply regret that Congressman Jones will not be with us at Friday’s dedication, but we know he will be with us in spirit.

When I first came to Congress, I knew that the completion of Highway 72 had to be one of my top priorities, for the sake of the people who travel on 72 and the sake of the groundwork laid by Congressman Jones and my immediate predecessor, Congressman Ronnie Flippo. I want to thank all of my colleagues in the House who voted for the $25 million I proposed for the completion of Highway 72. With this money, the Alabama Department of Transportation was able to finally finish the highway.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all Alabamians of all races who poured their time and effort into the four-laning of Highway 72. The dedication of this last section of the highway is a major milestone for our people and our community.

IN SUPPORT OF S. CON. RES. 105

HON. SUE W. KELLY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 105, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia.

Let there be no doubt about the cause of much of the death and misery in Bosnia and Kosova; Yugoslav strongman Slobodan Milosevic has carried out an ongoing campaign of genocide, a campaign that is proceeding with deadly purpose, as we speak; hundreds of ethnic Albanians have been brutally massacred and over 200,000 have been burned and shelled out of their homes since he launched his offensive in Kosova earlier this year.

Despite urgent appeals for peace, and urgent appeals for self-determination for the Kosovan people, Milosevic continues his campaign of genocide;

Humanity cannot allow this to continue. As I have said before, Milosevic no longer responds to words and condemnation. He will respond to force, and I believe that we have reached the point where force is necessary. It’s time that NATO act against Milosevic. The world community should make every effort to apprehend this criminal and bring him to trial;

This resolution today is important because it expresses the sense of Congress that Milosevic should be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. We cannot turn a blind eye any longer, and I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE CLARK’S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS, LOCAL 455

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate George Clark upon his retirement from 35 years of service to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 455 in my home state of New Jersey.

Since 1965, George worked for and with his fellow carpenters. Described as “pride to be a working man and very proud to represent working men,” George applied this deeply-held conviction to the work he did each day for the past 35 years.

George served as business manager of Local 455 for 23 years, winning re-election to this post by his fellow carpenters for eight consecutive terms. That George was, and still is willing to do anything for the members of Local 455 illustrates the selflessness which he has embodied throughout his life.

George applies this same dedication to his family. He and his wife Barbara have been happily married for 35 years and have three sons: Shawn, Kevin and Brian. Upon his retirement, he looks forward to being his new job as “babysitter” to his five grandchildren and to doing daily carpentry work on his house.

Mr. Speaker, the strong work and family ethic which George Clark has embodied throughout his life are things which all of us strive to achieve each day. I wish to thank George for being a great American and hope that his retirement is filled with good health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 5, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 389. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.” Please place this in the appropriate place in the Record.

SIGNING OF THE CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is scheduled to sign H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act, into law tomorrow, August 7, 1998, at 10:15 a.m., in a private ceremony in the White House Oval Office. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151, I rise today to praise Congress, the Clinton Administration and the credit union community for working together in a bipartisan manner to enact this important legislation.

With the enactment of H.R. 1151, the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act will be amended to preserve the ability of all Americans to join the credit union of their choice, and to ensure that the 73 million Americans who are currently members of credit unions in no way have their membership status jeopardized. Today, we celebrate a true victory for middle class Americans who need affordable financial services. Credit unions represent democracy in the work force. This bill improves consumer choice and allows for greater competition in the financial services sector. Now, working people and consumers in turn to have access to the affordable financial services that credit unions have always offered.

Mr. Speaker, on this historic occasion, I would like to recognize the California Credit Union League and Arrowhead Credit Union of San Bernardino for the vital role they have played in the national advancement of H.R. 1151. Without their extraordinary grassroots efforts, a swift congressional approval of H.R. 1151 would not have been possible. They have every reason to celebrate this victory, and I praise them for their continued efforts to reach out to the underserved and to expand their contributions to the economy.

As a long-time supporter of credit unions in the United States, I am honored to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151 and to have been able to join the credit union community in efforts to enact a bill that will preserve the rights of millions of Americans to join and continue their access to credit unions.

YOUTH ISSUES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS
OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from my home state of Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today.

RACHEL SALYER. My name is Rachel Salyer. I am a senior at the Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans.

I think there are so many issues surrounding the youth of today. If we had a choice— if we became pressured to succeed in life, whether that is monetarily, or just self. And the adults in the community don’t seem to be helping very much. When adults, parents and other adults alike through Vermont and the nation characterize teenagers as all being troublemakers or all being people who drink or party, then they are sending a message to the youth of the community that they don’t care about our future, because it is our future, and they are not going to be around for it, and it is our own fault, basically.

These stereotypes are wrong. Not all youth in Vermont are people who like to drink, people who like to do drugs, people who go to parties every weekend. That’s why organizations such as Green Mountain Prevention Project are such an important part of Vermont youth, because they sponsor programs like the Green Mountain Teens, which is a group of teens who have gotten together, who try to make other teens aware that there are all these issues surrounding them, that parents and adults have this image of us, and we want to try and change it.
CARL HALBACH. First off, thank you for inviting us here. The point we are trying to prove today is, we have changed our community outlook and image from a negative to a positive outlook.

MARK BOYLE. A lot of groups here are talking about how we would like to add things that they think need to be done, or processes they need to do. We would like to prove that it works. We did a lot of community service and we got help from a lot of the community members in order to enhance what we enjoy. And this is one of those things that a lot of these groups out there need to do, and this is how they need to do it, just like get a lot of help from the community and be able to follow the guidelines that the adult world uses, and not drown in the fact that they need to let us do what we want to do, because we are going to do it anyways.

RICHARD GONZALES. Basically, I looked at the St. Albans area and I seen that they don't recognize extreme sports as one of the big issues, as like physical activities, and, you know, we just took it upon ourselves to build our own park and raise money, and do stuff like that, try to help our city out.

JOSH LEMIEUX. Right now, we are building a new skate park. We just got done. It ran for like five years, and was getting too small. Right now, we are moving and expanding to a bigger skate park, and doing this by ourselves. And we have a grant from a couple of companies and just raising money everyday right now. We have the communities behind us, just trying to.

CARL, did you want to add something?

CARL HALBACH. Yes.

Congressman SANDERS. Are we talking about St. Albans?

CARL HALBACH. Yes.

Congressman SANDERS. Mark, did you want to add anything? We have done this all by ourselves. We have guidance or some outstanding citizens in our community, Miss Gridner, City Council; the Sheriff; Miss Doucette. We have a number of adults that don't work for us, but they help organize stuff, because not all community members are going to be totally accepting of a bunch of kids doing it. Right now, we are doing some work for money so we can do this, or can we have community support, and she helped us work through the right channels and we appreciate it.

Congressman SANDERS. This is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY ERIKA HEPP, MICHELLE PATTERSON, AMANDA BRUCHS, RYAN BAGLEY, KYLE LYNCH AND PAUL BERRY REGARDING COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RYAN LEBEUR. Hello. My name is Ryan. I am a junior at Milton High School. We are presenting later today. Jessica is now going to tell you why there is a need for our teen center in Burlington.

JESSICA WALTERS. Hello. My name is Jessica Walters. Yes, there are other teen centers in Burlington, but there are many reasons why they do not meet our needs.

RYAN LEBEUR. Increasingly, more and more, colleges are straying from giving out Merit money to basing their need on financial need. This year, at our school, we had 108 seniors, only 21 of which received any merit-based money. College are giving out more scholarships money to athletes than to students. Out of the 60 scholarships in this VISA scholarship pamphlet, only 21 of them are not based on financial need. Of those 21, only 17 are open to high school students, most of which are for such a small amount of money, they don't even put a dent in the cost of college.

ERIKA HEPP. With the cost of college becoming more expensive, there is also not as much motivation for students to do well in school. We have always been told that hard work would get us a college education, but that is not always the case. I am the victor of my class, and the rest of the students with me are in the top ten percent, yet none of us have been rewarded financially. We will be paying back for years after we graduate. Merit money to basing their need on financial need. This year, at our school, we had 108 seniors, only 21 of which received any merit-based money. College are giving out more scholarships money to athletes than to students. Out of the 60 scholarships in this VISA scholarship pamphlet, only 21 of them are not based on financial need. Of those 21, only 17 are open to high school students, most of which are for such a small amount of money, they don't even put a dent in the cost of college.

MICHELLE PATTERSON. These high costs make it very difficult for those of us in the middle income bracket to finance our college education. In many cases, our parents make too much money to qualify for scholarships. The tuition is so high, even if the most talented students receive limited funds. We are left with an abundance of costs for which we must find money to pay. Our parents do not make enough money to help us. We are forced to take out loans we will be paying back for years after we graduate.

RICHARD GONZALES. Basically, I looked at the St. Albans area and I seen that they don't recognize extreme sports as one of the big issues, as like physical activities, and, you know, we just took it upon ourselves to build our own park and raise money, and do stuff like that, try to help our city out.

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CARL, did you want to add something?

CARL HALBACH. We basically went around asking for donations, seeing who would like to help us. A lot of the times, we worked for the money, instead of having it worked for us. This is a sliding hill near our town. And we decided to go clean it up and put up all new fences and paint the buildings and take them down and rebuild them again, so they can have a better condition, and made the sliding hill much more safe.

Congressman SANDERS. Are we talking about St. Albans?

CARL HALBACH. Yes.

Congressman SANDERS. Mark, did you want to add anything? We have done this all by ourselves. We have guidance or some outstanding citizens in our community, Miss Gridner, City Council; the Sheriff; Miss Doucette. We have a number of adults that don't work for us, but they help organize stuff, because not all community members are going to be totally accepting of a bunch of kids doing it. Right now, we are doing some work for money so we can do this, or can we have community support, and she helped us work through the right channels and we appreciate it.

Congressman SANDERS. This is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY JESS WALTERS, AND LINH NGUYEN, AMANDA BRUCHS, RYAN BAGLEY, KYLE LYNCH, PAUL BERRY REGARDING COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RYAN LEBEUR. Hello. My name is Ryan. I am a junior at Milton High School. We are presenting later today. Jessica is now going to tell you why there is a need for our teen center in Burlington.

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where they won't have to go five different places to look for a job, they can just go there and have one place to look.

We feel that it should have a computer room, with Internet access. A lot of people work right after school, and they have to be there around 3:30, including us. And we don't have the time to go after school and work on the computer. So, this essay done, we feel that it should have computers where it will be available for us after work.

We think there should be recreational rooms, including a gym, a game room. Also special events, such as, once a month, a dance or some sort like that. We also think there should be a lounge so that we can relax and watch TV.

Congressman SANDERS. Good, Linh, do you want to begin?

LINH NGUYEN. My name is Linh Nguyen. We would like to ask for continued support in finding out how we should embark on this teen center and after school program. We strongly believe this would make the Old North End a better place for teens, and not only the teens, but the community as a whole. We would, as well, be a model to replicate in the rest of Vermont.

Congressman SANDERS. Thank you very much. Thank you all very much.

TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL OF DEEP EAST TEXAS

HON. JIM TURNER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) of Deep East Texas as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary. The ADAC has served the communities of my congressional district and surrounding areas for years, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such an outstanding organization.

The ADAC is a non-profit agency committed to providing intervention and treatment services to children and adults in the Deep East Texas region. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Deep East Texas was formed in 1978 with one office, located in Center, Texas, and a staff of only two. The ADAC now has offices in seven counties and serves all twelve counties of Deep East Texas.

When the ADAC opened its doors in 1978, it was the only facility of its kind in the area. No other treatment services were available in Deep East Texas. With the help of funding from the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, Temple Inland Foundation, Angelina and Nacogdoches County United Ways, Hender-son Foundation, Texas Criminal Justice Divi-sion, local Community Supervision Depart-ments, Angelina, Nacogdoches, Jasper, Polk, Houston, Newton, San Jacinto Commissioners Courts and other sponsors, the ADAC has been growing and expanding their services to meet the needs of the Deep East Texas area.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council's mission is to promote the philosophy that alcohol and drug abuse often leads to chemical depen-dency. The ADAC believes that chemical dependency is treatable and offers its educa-tion and intervention services to the chemi-cally-dependent and those people vulnerable to such a dependency. Countless individuals have benefited from these services.

The ADAC has become a true advocate for young people over the years. Prevention educa-tion has been provided to approximately 200,000 school children. Intervention serv-ices are provided to 6th, 7th and 8th graders, an age at which children are under great pres-sure from peers, and counseling has been provided to more than 4,000 individuals.

I am grateful to the ADAC for its dedication to treating chemical dependency, and I congratu-late the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Deep East Texas on the celebration of its 20th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO WILBUR WALLACE

HON. MARION BERRY
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wilbur Wallace, a great friend and an even better hunter and fisher-man. Mr. Wallace and I share a long and close friendship that we have enjoyed since I was in high school. Wilbur has devoted his life to the outdoor life and has been an inspiration to many of us in his technique, his ability to locate highly productive areas to succeed in these pursuits.

He has been instrumental in teaching genera-tions of young people about hunting and fishing. His skills with a gun are as legendary as they are with a rod and reel. In addition to his techniques, his ability to locate highly pro ductive areas to succeed in these pursuits is almost instinctive.

I may be the only public official that he receives with good humor, for he has a low tol-erance for too much government interference, an attitude shared with most of the residents of the First Congressional District.

He has been a regular at the Rice Paddy Motel Coffee Shop for breakfast for all the years I have spent in my hometown of Gillett, from where he will happily chassile me to the breakfast crowd if he believes that I am not performing up to the appropriate standards.

Wilbur is a man's man, a great friend, a bet-ter hunter and fisherman, and the kind of indi-vidual that makes the heritage and culture of the First Congressional District so special.

Happy Birthday Wilbur.

THE NEW TERROR AGAINST THE BAH'A'I IN IRAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the long and brutal campaign of terror against the Bah'a'i in Iran is unfortunately not a new issue to this House. Congress has passed resolu-tions on any number of occasions condemning the vicious persecution of the Bah'a'i at the hands of the Teheran regime, but the persecu-tion continues.

In the last month the persecution has inten-sified, resulting in the death by execution of at least one man, Ruhollah Rowhani. The law under which he was convicted—which makes it a crime to convert a Muslim to the Bah'a'i faith or any other faith—is a clear and flagrant violation of the God-given and internationally recognized right to freedom of religion. Other Bah'a'i prisoners, who like Mr. Rowhani are guilty of nothing other than the nonviolent ex-ercise of their faith, are now believed to be in grave and imminent danger. Since the current regime took power in 1981, over 200 Bah'a'i have been executed on account of their reli-gion.

Many were executed for the spurious and absurd crime of "Zionist Baha'i activities," others for apostasy, conversion, or various charges that boil down to "disagreement with the regime."

The Bah'a'i are a peace-loving community, members of a religion that had its origin in Iran but that has adherents the world over, includ-ing many Americans. The extremist re-gime in Iran considers the Bah'a'i religion to be a kind of heresy or group apostasy, and so it persecutes them even more severely than it persecutes Christians, Jews, and Muslims who are not in accord with the views of the extremest Bah'a'i leaders. The Bah'a'i students, organize schools, or conduct other religious activities. The elected assemblies which had governed the religious community were disbanded by government order in 1983. All Bah'a'i cemeteries and holy places were seized soon after the 1979 revolution. Under the law now in force in Iran, Bah'a'i students may not attend universities or even graduate from high school. Bah'a'i marriages and divorces are not recognized, the right to inherit is de-nied, and contracts with Bah'a'i are not legally enforceable. And now the government has gone back to murdering them.

Ironically, the latest crackdown comes at a time when Western government officials had been prematurely congratulating themselves on the emergence of an ostensibly "moderate" regime in Iran. As often turns out to be the case in such instances, we have now learned either that the moderates are not really in charge or that they are not really so very moder-ate after all.

Mr. Speaker, the White House reacted to the execution of Mr. Rowhani with a statement noting that "[t]he world had[b] been encouraged by the recent statements from Iranian leaders about the need for rule of law and the rights of individuals." The White House statement correctly noted that "[s]uch words have little meaning so long as the rights of the Iranian people, including the right to worship freely, are not upheld." Our government must take care, however, to head its own advice. The best words in the world can be rendered meaningless by inconsistent actions. A gov-ernment that commits such gross forms of persecution on account of religious belief and practice as have been perpetrated against the Bah'a'i must not be accorded the privileges of membership in the community of civilized na-tions. The United States interests of its position in the world, and of its relations with Iran, must be consistent with this principle, and must encourage other nations, international organizations, financial institu-tions, and other public and private entities to do likewise.
CONGRATULATING NATIONAL JEWISH MEDICAL AND RESEARCH CENTER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado on its recent accolade in U.S. News & World Report.

National Jewish was ranked the number one respiratory hospital in America in a guide published by U.S. News in July, 1998. National Jewish is truly deserving of this honor, and I believe this hospital’s dedication to respiratory illness merits the recognition of the U.S. Congress.

National Jewish has built a rock solid reputation in patient care since its inception as the Frances Jacobs Hospital in 1899. At that early time in Denver’s history, National Jewish engaged itself thoroughly in battling tuberculosis through emotional, rehabilitative, occupational and recreational care. In fact, my family settled in Denver in the 1930s to pursue asthma treatments at National Jewish for my Great Grandmother, Esther Rosen. Since that time, the hospital and research center has diversified its range of health care services to include the study and treatment of respiratory, allergic and infectious diseases, psychological care, and education courses. Despite this notable expansion, which now demands the work of 105 physicians and scientists, National Jewish has clearly maintained a commitment to the best possible patient care. This most recent ranking in U.S. News distinguishes National Jewish from a field of 6,400 candidates, all of them esteemed institutions. Simply stated, National Jewish is the best respiratory hospital in America.

Also published in U.S. News was a far more telling ranking—a reputational score tabulated by a random survey of 150 board-certified specialists. Once again, National Jewish clearly distinguished itself from all candidates, receiving an impressive score of 58.1 percent. Of all the facilities which treat respiratory illnesses, doctors all around the country consistently recognized the excellent reputation of National Jewish as the best. Currently, National Jewish operates a prestigious fellowship program in pulmonary, immunology and allergy training which has trained 500 fellows in 47 states and 17 countries. Its positive influence on the treatment of respiratory illnesses is not only international, but also unprecedented.

CRISIS IN SUDAN AND NORTHERN UGANDA

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. McKinney. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Assistant Secretary Susan Rice along with the other witnesses. I look forward to their testimony.

Twelve years ago Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni marched a 20,000-strong rebel army to Uganda’s capital, Kampala, and liberated the Ugandan people from the reign of two of the most oppressive dictatorships the world has ever seen. During their successive regimes Amin and Obote murdered over one million people. While the United States and the Western Powers did nothing, Museveni took action.

Since then, the story of Uganda is nothing short of phenomenal. President Museveni immediately formed a Human Rights Commission to investigate the atrocities committed under the former dictators. Today, the Commission is chaired by a judge and overseen by Mission as his High Commissioner. The mandate of the organization is to serve as a watch-dog by monitoring government activities, and to educate the public about respect for human rights. After the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, President Museveni began assembling judges, lawyers, and other scholars for the purpose of drafting Uganda’s Constitution. His administration actively solicited the involvement of men and women at the grassroots level. Several thousand Ugandans submitted memorandums offering suggestions. An important component of the Constitution is a provision institutionalizing the Human Rights Commission.

Perhaps most astonishing has been Uganda’s economic growth under President Museveni. Real GDP growth has averaged 6.7% over the last ten years. Inflation has been reduced from 250% to 6%. The country has liberal current and capital accounts, so there is no restrictions on foreign exchange. To ease the concerns of foreign investors, Uganda now offers insurance to investors through the Multilateral Insurance Guarantee Agency of the World Bank. Under Amin, Ugandans of South Asian heritage were stripped of their properties and forced to leave the country. President Museveni has allowed them to return, and has given back their businesses and land. To encourage American tourists and investors, citizens of the United States no longer need visas to travel to Uganda.

Understanding that an exclusively government breeds its own opposition, President Museveni held elections and has an administration that reflects the diversity of Ugandan society. In 1987 a reporter asked him how he could afford to have such a large and diverse government. His answer was a simple one: “It is cheaper than war.”

Mr. Chairman, this is what President Museveni has built in just twelve years. But even more important than what he has done for Uganda, President Museveni is perhaps the first of a new breed of leader on the Continent. He has proven that African leaders no longer need to rely on their colonial masters to achieve success. Independence and security, Museveni has shown, are not mutually exclusive.

Unfortunately, all of this is threatened by an entity as evil as the world has even seen. Northern Uganda is plagued by a rebel insurgency known as the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony. The LRA is notorious for looting homes, and abducting and enslaving thousands of Ugandan children. Boys as young as 11 years old are forced to serve as soldiers and to participate in extreme acts of violence. Girls are often forced into wartime orders into sexual slavery. Nearly all of the children who escape from the LRA are found to be HIV positive. The UN Children’s Fund estimates that up to 10,000 youngsters have been victims of rebel atrocities. Backed by an oppressive and terrorist regime in Sudan, the LRA is a direct affront on the new Africa.

Mr. Chairman, it is time for Congress and the Clinton Administration to embrace President Museveni and Uganda as a partner for peace and stability on the African Continent. We must make a decision. Will the United States continue its centuries old neglect of Africa? Will it continue to support only the Mobutu Sese Sekos and Jonas Savimbis of Africa? Or, if President Clinton’s trip truly marked a new beginning in relations between the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, will we support those that are doing the right thing?

The current crisis in Northern Uganda poses this question. I, along the countless others who care about the future of Africa, await the answer.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LONG BEACH

HON. STEPHEN HORN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, when the House voted earlier this week to add $109 million in funding for the Legal Services Corporation, it was a victory for low-income Americans and our ideal of equal justice under law. The Legal Services Corporation plays a key role in the administration of justice for low-income Americans who cannot afford to pay the often high costs of civil legal assistance. It makes the ideal of equal justice under law a reality for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Legal assistance for the poor has made a real difference for many of my constituents. Funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation, the Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach has helped many of my constituents correct injustices in their lives. For example, one client, Rosa, had an estranged husband who often beat her. During a one-day, court-allowed visit, the husband took their children and fled to Mexico. He did not return the children for more than a year. After he again threatened to take the children to Mexico, Rosa tried unsuccessfully on her own to get a restraining order. The Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach helped her to get a restraining order prohibiting removal of the children from California and cutting off her ex-husband’s visitation.

In another case, five tenants in an apartment house in downtown Long Beach sought assistance from the Legal Aid Foundation when their landlord tried to evict them. The building had been cited multiple times for health and safety violations and had been illegally converted from six units to eleven. The tenants sought savings of $80 per month to pay moving costs and deposits at another apartment. The Foundation successfully defended the tenants in the eviction proceeding and worked with the City of Long Beach and obtained safe, habitable Section 8 housing for them.

These are just two examples of the good work of the Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach, and the work funded by the Legal Services Corporation. The House was right to
add funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Low-income Americans need this agency to ensure that justice does not depend on one’s ability to pay.

IN HONOR OF THE ALLIANCE OF POLES OF AMERICA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alliance of Poles of America on the occasion of its centennial year.

The Alliance of Poles of America has a long and proud history. Its history shows how hard its members are prepared to struggle for what they believe to be right for their community, and to preserve the traditions and culture of Poland. The Alliance’s early years were not easy, but the organization’s spirit carried it through. The entire Cleveland community has benefited from the enduring and successful presence of the Alliance of Poles, not only in the area of insurance, but also of charity.

After the challenge of its first, difficult years, the Alliance had to deal with the two World Wars. For Americans of Polish descent, it was very hard. Our countrymen suffered under the vicissitudes of war, and later the yoke of Communism. But the Alliance of Poles was steadfast in its commitment to democracy, and successfully strove to aid the people of their home country.

My fellow countrymen, on the occasion of its centenary, please join me in honoring this enduring and most worthy organization—the Alliance of Poles of America.

PROTECTING THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciated and supported the necessity to move quickly to pass H.R. 1151, the credit union field of membership bill, before the August recess. However, I remain troubled by one of the modifications the Senate Banking Committee made to the House version of the bill, which makes it easier for credit unions to become other types of financial institutions. I will continue to try to rectify this problem in other appropriate legislation. I also encourage NCUA to use every means at its disposal to prevent credit union members from losing their ownership in a credit union at the hands of a very small minority.

A brief history of the conversion issue will illustrate my concerns. Through its regulations, the NCUA has quite rightly kept a tight rein on the conversion process, requiring a majority vote of all members of the credit union before a credit union can convert to a mutual thrift. This is a difficult standard, and it is meant to be. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members. A credit union’s capital, unlike that of any other financial institution, belongs to its members.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I do not want to oppose such an important piece of legislation that I had worked so hard to craft. However, I did feel obligated to note my concerns with the conversion provision and strongly encourage NCUA to enforce this provision very strictly.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Monsignor Michael J. Allegrag as he celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Since his ordination in May 1973, Monsignor Allegrag has served the people of New Jersey in many ways. Upon ordination, he served as associate pastor of his childhood parish, Our Lady of Peace in Fords, New Jersey. He then served as vice principal of Saint John Vianney High School in Holmdel, New Jersey, as principal of Bishop Ahr High School in Edison, New Jersey, and on the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, New Jersey.

When the Diocese of Metuchen was established in 1981, Monsignor Allegrag held various leadership positions and was intimately involved in helping to increase vocations to the priesthood.
The community-at-large has also benefitted from Monsignor Allegrò’s dedicated service. Since 1990, he has served as chaplain to the men and women of the East Brunswick Police Department. He also lives by the command to "serve the least of my brothers and sisters" through his support of the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry. The countless hours which Monsignor Allegrò dedicates to those in need of clothes, food, emotional and physical support is an example which all of us should model.

Monsignor Allegrò’s humble work on behalf of the people of New Jersey earned him the title “Monsignor,” which was bestowed on him by Pope John Paul II in 1993. Today, he continues to serve the diocese’s spiritual life as pastor of Saint Bartholomew Parish in East Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa asked all of us "to quench the thirst of Jesus by lives of real charity." Monsignor Allegrò has done this throughout his life. I wish him many more years of selfless charity to all of God’s people.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole will continue to consider the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I commend Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Minority Member MOLLOHAN, the entire subcommittee staff, both Republican and Democrat, and the rest of my colleagues on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for their tireless efforts in producing this bill for NOAA’s Coastal Zone Management Program. The federal government has spent over $450,000 to conduct a study utilizing the expertise of Long Island’s university research programs, like those already in place at the State University of New York at Stonybrook, to initiate separate research on the impact environmental problems like Brown Tide have on the development of hard clam species in the South Shore Estuary Reserve on Long Island.

I am pleased that the Committee has increased the “Resource Information” account in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) budget to allow NMFS to provide support for work on the South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER).

The hard clam has been an economic and ecological cornerstone of the South Shore Estuary area, but harvests have dropped precipitously since the 1970s. While it has long been recognized that the decline is attributable to a number of factors, some evidence suggests that the situation may be further complicated by continued over-fishing our commercial and recreational fisheries off Long Island. NOAA’s Coastal Ocean Program, in collaboration with the New York Sea Grant Program operating out of Stony Brook University, has implemented efforts to improve management strategies for effectively reducing harmful algae blooms like Brown Tide. These efforts are a crucial first step towards developing a comprehensive, multi-agency, national capability for understanding and controlling algae blooms in our national coastal waters.

I am particularly pleased that the Committee directed NOAA to give maximum priority to continuing the focus they have given over the last three years to the Brown Tide problem in the Peconic, Moriches and adjacent Long Island bays and inland waterways—a program that has come to be known as the “Brown Tide Research Initiative” (BTRI). NOAA’s focus on the Brown Tide problem has resulted in $1.5 million over the last three years being devoted to the BTRI and I will work closely with NOAA to see that this funding priority continues to be addressed in this manner, as the committee has directed in this legislation.

I am particularly pleased that the Committee has increased the “Resource Information” account in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) budget to allow NMFS to provide support for work on the South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER).

The hard clam has been an economic and ecological cornerstone of the South Shore Estuary area, but harvests have dropped precipitously since the 1970s. While it has long been recognized that the decline is attributable to a number of factors, some evidence suggests that the situation may be further changing. A key aquaculture company in New York, Bluepoints, just announced that it will be discontinuing its hard clam production due to a catastrophic decline. Other recent reports indicate that natural hard clam recruitment (settlement, growth, and survival) is at an unprecedented low level.

Clam-related studies funded by New York Sea Grant Program in the early 1980’s gave the industry and managers much-needed knowledge, but conditions are evolving and a critical reexamination and new investigations are essential at this time. The SSER Technical Advisory Committee has identified the study, “Hard Clam Population Dynamics,” as its highest priority. We have provided funds in this bill for NOAA’s Coastal Zone Management program to preserve, protect and, where possible, restore and enhance our coastal resources, like Long Island Sound.

Yet despite these tremendous efforts, the U.S. Navy was allowed to dump over 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment into Long Island Sound. I have crafted the “Long Island Sound Preservation Act” (H.R. 55), to put an end to this practice that compromises the billions of dollars spent on environmental restoration and cleanup of Long Island Sound. It runs counter to public opinion that we should protect and conserve our oceans, coasts and beaches and counter to the intent of Congress to develop and implement comprehensive environmental protections.

First, it is unfortunate that I must mention my concerns about whether the terms of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement of 1994 and 1996 are being violated by one Japanese company involved in selling insurance products in Japan’s third sector insurance market. In a recent meeting, the US Trade Representative committed to several Members of Congress that she would hold an open, fair and complete interagency review of this matter. I understand that government officials outside of
the USTR are calling for a full 30-day investigation of facts raised in that meeting. I urge the USTR to heed the advice of other agency officials calling for a full investigation.

As Appropriators and as Representatives in the people’s House, we face enormous pressure to cut the federal budget. Republicans and Democrats have all given up on getting our deficit under control and balance our budget. This bill does not fulfill all of Long Island’s coastal and environmental needs, but it is a good bill and I hope that as we go to Conference, my colleagues will keep these priorities in mind.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 1998. This legislation will establish a Task Force that will look into all of the health care promises and representations made to members of the Uniformed Services by Department of Defense personnel and Department literature. The Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Congress which will contain a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions. This report will include legislative remedies to correct the great injustices that have occurred to those men and women who served their country in good faith.

Let us not forget why we are blessed with freedom and democracy in this country. The sacrifices made by those who served in the military are something that must never be overlooked. Promises were made to those who served in the Uniformed Services. They were told that their health care would be taken care of for life if they served a minimum of twenty years of active federal service.

But those military retirees served their time and expected the government to hold up its end of the bargain. They are now realizing that these were nothing more than empty promises. Those who served in the military did not let their country down in its time of need and we should not let military retirees down in theirs. It’s time military retirees get what was promised to them and that’s why I am introducing this legislation.

PRAYER FOR ROBERT JOHNSON

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives a most unfortunate accident that occurred two weeks ago and severely injured a young man in my Connecticut congressional district. Robert Johnson, a bright, energetic and very talented young man from Oxford, Connecticut was thrown from a pick-up truck as it struck an abandoned car that was left on the road in the darkness of night. Head injuries led to a coma that continues today.

We are all too familiar with accidents such as this that inflict injury upon the innocent, and the tremendous upheaval that results in the lives of not only those injured, but of course their families as well. Injuries are incurred, as well. We pray for the speedy recovery of Robert Johnson and that the strain of this accident be lifted from his family and friends.

As terrible as this situation is, it has also come to underscore the importance of the Family and Medical Leave擴on for federal employees passed by the 103rd Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. Because of this law, Robert Johnson’s immediate family are free to take unpaid leave from their jobs in order to comfort their son without the threat of losing their employment. We pass laws here with the hope they will work as we intend. The Johnson tragedy has brought home just how important the Family and Medical Leave Act is for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that every concerned individual keep Robert Johnson in their prayers.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF
HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I am inserting into the RECORD letters of support for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, an amendment providing critical protection for state and local soverignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization.

The amendment provides critical protection for state and local sovereignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization. Thirty states and cities have rights that cannot be ignored. As the World Trade Organization looks across the country urging you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, we support this amendment because it provides critical protection for state and local sovereignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization.

The amendment provides critical protection for state and local sovereignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH:


Hon. Dennis J. Kucinich,
United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Kucinich:

On behalf of the American Jewish Congress, I am writing to express our strong support for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill, which would protect the rights of various cities to sanction Swiss banks that continue to delay settlement of claims by Holocaust survivors.

The actions of the Swiss banks and government in dealing with Holocaust assets have been unconscionable, and if local authorities want to respond in ways they deem appropriate, they should be given the opportunity to do so. Local authorities have enacted laws which would not be ruled against such sanctions by American cities, the fact that the United States government would be obligated to litigate against the cities invoking the sanctions merely adds insult to injury.

We support this amendment because it helps to preserve the rights of communities and states to take a stand in support of democracy at home and human rights and belief taxpayers dollars should be used to emasculate our democracy at the local or state level or to prevent citizens from taking a stand in support of democracy abroad.

Sincerely,

Phil Baum,
Executive Director.

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY
Lincoln, MA, July 21, 1998

Dear Representative Kucinich:

The Alliance for Democracy voices its strong support for the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill which prevents U.S. government agencies from taking action against states or communities found by the WTO to be in non-compliance with international trade and investment agreements.

We support this amendment because it helps to preserve the right of communities and states to take a stand in support of democracy at home and human rights. We believe taxpayers dollars should be used to emasculate our democracy at the local or state level or to prevent citizens from taking a stand in support of democracy abroad.

Sincerely,

Ruth Caplan.

THE AMERICAN CAUSE

Re: Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to HR 4276
To: Members of Congress
From: Pat Buchanan and Bay Buchanan
We strongly support Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276.

The amendment provides critical protection for state and local sovereignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization. Dozens of categories of law passed or being considered by the legislatures of every state and many cities in the nation are vulnerable to being deemed “WTO-illegal.” Those laws include “buy local” requirements in state procurement, health and safety inspections of imported foods. State and local legislatures are permitted by the Constitution to make policy on these matters. Why should we allow the WTO to trump them?

Passing the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276 will protect state and local sovereignty. We hope that you will support it.

Aug. 3, 1998

Dear Representative, American Lands representing grassroots environmental groups across the country urges you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, the Commerce, State and Justice Appropriations bill.

Kucinich-Sanders would bar the use of federal funds to challenge state and local laws on the grounds that the laws violate international trade and investment agreements such as NAFTA, GATT and the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

One of industry’s interests in global trade agreements is to prevent the national, state, and local laws from putting conditions on trade. But what the industry
calls “barriers to trade” we may see as important safeguards to protect the environment, human rights, or other social values.

A New York City Council proposal to require that U.S. tax dollars be used to purchase sustainably harvested tropical timber has been stalled after the timber industry argued that such selective purchasing legislation is a violation of US trade laws. State restrictions on log exports are another example of laws that might be subject to challenge.

The Kucinich-Sanders amendment would ensure that U.S. tax dollars are not used to undermine legitimate efforts by states and localities to protect the environment.

Please support the Kucinich-Sanders amendment to H.R. 426.


Hon. DENNIS KUCINICH, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KUCINICH, as the Executive Director of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, I would like to express our support for your legislation to protect the environment, human rights, or other social values.

We firmly believe in selective purchasing legislation as a way to protect the environment, human rights, or other social values.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

SYDNEY M. CLEARFIELD.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS KUCINICH. We at Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX) believe that allowing state and local citizens to enact environmental, human rights, and other social value laws is essential for a healthy democracy.

We are writing to support your proposed amendment to H.R. 426, which would prohibit selective purchasing laws that are not consistent with WTO rules.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

ANDREW DAWOOD, Intern at CPPAX.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LOIS CAPP, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LOIS CAPP: We are writing to urge you to support the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Appropriations bill.

The amendment would prohibit selective purchasing legislation that is not consistent with WTO rules.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie Wainberg, Organizing and Policy Director.

Andrea G. Davis, Intern at CPPAX.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH, et al. We are writing to support your proposed amendment to H.R. 426, which would prohibit selective purchasing laws that are not consistent with WTO rules.

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Andrea G. Davis, Intern at CPPAX.

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Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie Wainberg, Organizing and Policy Director.

Andrea G. Davis, Intern at CPPAX.
the rights and desires of local taxpayers, while supporting local laws that support human rights. I look forward to the passage of this crucial amendment, and to your response.

Sincerely,

SACHIN CHHEDA.

FREE BURMA, BERKELEY, CA,

Representative NANCY PELOSI,
Via fax: 202-225-8259.

Dear Representative Pelosi: I would like to ask you to support the DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill. The amendment would deprive the Administration of funds to bring legal challenges to any state and local laws that the WTO finds inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements.

As an organization that works to promote democracy in Burma, we have been supportive of the US trade sanctions against Burma's junta and selective purging legislation. Trade sanctions are condened by Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and she has US companies to stop doing business with the current repressive regime.

Sanctions are never passed lightly on another country, the reasons for their implementation are mostly due to preventing the support of extremely repressive regimes. The WTO fight against sanctions is not based on looking at human rights abuses but simply to prevent observer laws to free trade. Free trade should not happen with unfair trade and respect for human rights. This amendment would prevent this kind of blind challenge to trade sanctions imposed on the promotion of human rights world wide. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

PAMELA WELLNER,
Campaign Coordinator.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF ILLINOIS— INDEPENDENT PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

Re: Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns Appropriations Amendment

The Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent Precinct Organization (IVI—IPO) joins with other grassroots groups in supporting adoption of the amendment to protect human rights laws from challenge under the WTO's jurisdiction. It is the proper role of Congress to withhold funds from policies that are injurious. This will put our federal government where it is supposed to be: defending local initiatives in support of our values against attack by corporations and banks that see those initiatives only as barriers to trade.

Over the past decade or so, U.S. citizens have persuaded a number of cooperations to support local laws that the WTO finds inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements. Other countries would tend to that certain laws amounted to disguised trade barriers. And that is exactly what they have done.

At the time of the debate, Illinois State Representative J anice Schakowsky (now a Democratic nominee for Congress) was trying to find cosponsors for a food labeling bill. She said she was working on a law that will never hold up under the World Trade Organization.

The test began more than two years ago, when Venezuela won a case involving export of oil that did not meet U.S. standards. The U.S. agreed not to enforce the Clean Air Act, rather than pay the penalty. Now, in 1998, we find human rights laws at risk.

We believe that every country that is party to the WTO has values worth defending, and should not be forced to sacrifice them to mere profit for the few. Governments must assert their role of balancing the rights of all, and not act on behalf of the powerful. The majority world needs effective and responsible representatives to protect their interests in an increasingly globalized economy. There must be far more.

The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment puts humane values above financial gain. It is a step toward blocking the local initiatives represented by the World Trade Organization and its rules. We ask our representatives to support all such measures.

Sincerely,

CONSTANCE HALL,
Chair, National Affairs Committee.


Re: Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment

To: Members of Congress
From: Ralph Nader
Date: July 22, 1998

I urge you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bills.

Central to the anti-democratic agenda of the corporate globalizers is to repeal or at least freeze local initiative in the consumer, health, safety, environmental, labor and other spheres. Through the authoritative World Trade Organization, the method is to have foreign nations challenge or threaten to challenge U.S. states, localities or tribal law, and then to use the WTO to force the government to turn against the states, localities or tribes and sue them to repeal their existing, longstanding laws. Moreover, even the threat of potential WTO challenge converts the state Department and other federal agencies into opponents of innovative legislative proposals in the states and elsewhere.

In Maryland, for example, State Department officials lobbied against a Nigeria selective purchasing bill. The amendment would halt the WTO-enabled encroachment on local, state and tribal sovereignty, providing an opportunity for the country to revisit the GATT folly. Do we really want to transplant our democratic processes and health and safety standards to the WTO?

I urge you to support the amendment.

OBLATE CONFERENCE,
Silver Spring, MD, July 29, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: We write in support of the Kucinich-Sanders-DeFazio-Ros-Lehtinen-Stearns amendment to the Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, which would prevent taxpayer dollars from being used by the federal government to overturn state and local laws that are allegedly not in compliance with international trade and investment agreements.

Our research on the impact of such international agreements on state and local sovereignty shows that, increasingly, corporations and foreign governments which seek to undermine local sovereignty and democracy must be confronted with the enforcement of such agreements as the WTO to overturn public policies that they could not
defeat at the ballot box. Recent examples include the campaign by European and the Japanese governments, together with transnational corporations, to overturn the sanctions of Massachusetts against the brutal regime in Burma; and attacks by the Swiss government and Swiss banks against states and cities in the U.S. which have sought to limit their business ties with banks that may have knowingly profited from the Holocaust and now refuse to pay adequate compensation.

Public awareness of the impacts of international trade and investment agreements is increasing, and yet unfortunately it is still the case that not only are many citizens unaware of the legal democracy in the United States is being undermined by these agreements; many local and state legislators are similarly unaware. Indeed, many legislators only become aware of these restrictions when they have passed or are on the verge of passing laws which are perceived by foreign governments and their corporate allies to be in violation of international trade and investment agreements. Then they may be contacted by officials from USTR, who insist that legislators repeal or vote against pending laws to avoid international trade and investment agreements that the local legislators were previously unaware that they were party to or bound by. If state legislators refuse the entreaties of federal officials, the U.S. government is required to sue state and local governments to force them to block funding for such lawsuits via this amendment.

It is surely a shameful state of affairs when the executive branch of our federal government becomes the advocate for companies that are accountable to us, their constituents, and yet from which we have no vote. The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-Stearns amendment ensures that U.S. tax dollars are not used to assist these unaccountable international bureaucrats attack U.S. democracy.

We are contacting you on behalf of the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the World Resources Institute, Amnesty International, the Center for International Environmental Law, and Public Citizen, to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-Stearns amendment. Recent examples when the executive branch of our federal government is being bullied into paying $14 million in legal fees and damages after the Ethyl Corporation used NAFTA provisions to sue the Canadian government for trying to pass a law that would prevent 10% of the country's gasoline market being contaminated with the poison Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), a dangerous contaminant that is more toxic than benzene or lead. Ethyl's challenge to the Canadian law was the first suit under NAFTA provisions that allow corporations in one country to directly sue the government of another country for cash damages, but it won't be the last. Remarkably, the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) includes a yet more expansive version of the NAFTA provisions Ethyl employed.

Protecting human rights is our duty as Americans, and state and local sanctions are a legitimate and honorable way to address that task. State and local governments have every right to deny their business to companies that fund dictatorships involved in human rights abuses. I am happy that the bill is co-sponsored by Rep. DeFazio, from Oregon. Here in Portland, earlier this month, the City Council passed a resolution purchasing onlygraphics regarding the brutal Burma military junta. Your bill will go far to protect our right to take such firm and effective actions.

Thank you very much for your continued concern about Burma and for all you have done for worldwide human rights. Your commitment to the cause of justice and freedom is most admirable.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Mirante, Project Manager

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Dear Representative: On behalf of the Sierra Club more than half-million members, I urge you to support an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill that would limit the funding for Administration legal challenges to local laws that the WTO doesn't like.

Local autonomy in making purchasing decisions is a key American freedom that is under attack by a very small group of corporate extremists and some unacceptable bureaucrats from the World Trade Organization. This amendment would prevent the Executive Branch from using federal funds to sue state and local governments to force compliance with international trade agreements.

Approval of the Kucinich Amendment is urgently needed. State and local laws are already under imminent threat under international trade rules.

In April 1998, the State Department pressured the Maryland House of Delegates to pass legislation to ban imports of timber from South Carolina's Apartheid regime in the 1980s, but are now considered "illegal trade barriers."

In March 1998, a timber industry representative lobbied the New York City Council to reject legislation requiring the City to buy only sustainably harvested tropical timber,
charging that local selective purchasing legis-
la
tion violates US trade policy. That legis-
lation has now stalled in the City Council.
Earlier this month, the government of
Venezuela threatened to complain to the
World Trade Organization unless the state of
Venezuela is allowed to pass legislation to
promote human rights and justice. Earlier
this year, the State of Maryland was consid-
ering passing a selective purchase law to
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that do business there. The
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The amendment you have proposed would
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Using taxpayer money to finance U.S. fed-
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an international organization to overturn
political decisions made by legitimate Ameri-
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the American people and the only one that is fully ac-
countable to them. Foreign governments and
international bureaucracies should play no
official or formal role whatever in these deci-
sions.

For more than 200 years, the American
people have looked to their own elected leaders
to safeguard national security and man-
age their international economic affairs.
They have never voted to delegate these re-
sponsibilities to foreign bodies, or give such
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an international organization to overturn
political decisions made by legitimate Ameri-
can officials and legislatures is not only unac-
thorpian but detracts from the legitimacy—
the political system in which citizens of
Massachusetts—or any other state or
now here we are, seven years after the war. We’ve financed 103 research projects, at a cost of $49 million dollars, and we’ve had a presidential panel study the veterans health problems. But DoD and VA have not answered the veterans’ questions about what caused them to get sick and when they will get effective treatment.

The veterans are frustrated, and rightly so. They still suffer from a myriad of illnesses like stomach disorders and painful muscles and joints, to name just a few of them. The veterans don’t want to hear the argument that their illnesses are caused by stress.

When I talk to the veterans, they tell me they do want to know what caused them to get sick, but they also want research to be done to find effective treatment into exposure to biological and chemical agents. That is what they believe is the key to the problem.

These are brave men and women who answered their country’s call at a time of need. They deserve a full accounting of how their lives and careers.

So based on the discussions I’ve had with Persian Gulf veterans over these seven years, I am pleased to have participated in negotiations to create a bi-partisan bill, HR 3980, “The Persian Gulf Veterans Health Care and Research Act of 1998” with Chairmen BOB STUMP, Ranking Member LANE EVANS, Health Subcommittee Chairman CLIFF STEARNS, and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Luis Gutierrez.

I don’t believe we have had a focused, coherent federal research strategy. HR 3980 will give the Persian Gulf Veterans confidence that priority is being given to researching their exposure to biological or chemical weapons, and the resulting effects on their health, so that effective treatment can be found and administered to fight the detrimental effects of this exposure on the veterans’ health.

Through this bill, we will ensure priority is given to exposure to biological and chemical weapons by setting up a Public Advisory Committee to advise the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board of research to target. I am pleased that members of this Advisory Committee will represent groups that were formed specifically to help Persian Gulf Veterans. Their active participation on the Committee will ensure that adequate, targeted research into exposure to biological and chemical agents will be done.

Physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and at the Pentagon, don’t have a training program to become updated on how to administer the latest treatment protocols as they try to provide support for their findings.

This is essential, and is badly needed. I am pleased that HR 3980 includes provisions to provide training to physicians at VA and the Pentagon, so they can give the best possible care to our Persian Gulf veterans.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a provision I sought to publish treatment protocols on the Internet and in peer-reviewed medical journals because many Persian Gulf veterans receive health care in the private sector. If we publish the research findings, private sector physicians who treat Persian Gulf Veterans will have access to those treatment protocols.

It is my hope that HR 3980, “The Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Care and Research Act of 1998” will restore the veterans’ confidence in our government’s efforts to make them well again, will give them a fresh start, and will take the needed steps to finally solve the Persian Gulf veterans’ health problems.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives on August 6, 1998 for rollcall votes 406 to 416. Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 406 “AYE”; Rollcall No. 407 “NO”; Rollcall No. 408 “NO”; Rollcall No. 409 “NO”; Rollcall No. 410 “NO”; Rollcall No. 411 “AYE”; Rollcall No. 412 “AYE”; Rollcall No. 413 “NO”; Rollcall No. 414 “AYE”; Rollcall No. 415 “AYE”; and Rollcall No. 416 “AYE”.

WHITE HOUSE REMARKS OF OFFICER GERRY FLYNN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1998

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the stirring and insightful remarks of Lowell Police Officer Gerry Flynn at a White House Rose Garden event yesterday, on the importance of preserving and strengthening the Federal Brady Law. Officer Flynn spoke eloquently about the price we pay as a society when guns find their way into the wrong hands and the need to extend the Brady five-day waiting period. I congratulate Officer Flynn for the honor bestowed upon him in being invited to speak at the White House in front of the President, and I congratulate him in seizing that opportunity to do the entire city of Lowell proud. I am submitting Officer Flynn’s White House remarks for the RECORD, so that his words may remain with all of us.

STATEMENT OF LOWELL POLICE OFFICER GERRY FLYNN AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE BRADY HANDGUN LAW

Good morning. As National Vice-President of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) and President of the Lowell Police Patrolmen’s Association, it is truly an honor and a privilege to be here with you this morning. On behalf of those of us in law enforcement, it gives me great pleasure to speak in support of one of such enormous importance as “The Brandy Handgun Law.”

Robert F. Kennedy once said, “It is a responsibility to put away childish things, to make the possession and use of firearms a matter undertaken only by serious people who will use them with the restraint and maturity that their dangerous nature deserves and demands. For far too long, we have dealt with these deadly weapons as if they were harmless toys. It is past time that we wipe this stain of violence from our land.”

Yet, thirty years after his death by a handgun, we are still attempting to wipe the stain of violence from our land. The stain of violence has now spread into the classrooms occupied by our children.
Today, in every city in this country, there are children in schools with handicaps. Children who are exposed to violence on a daily basis, children who feel they need protection more than they need an education. Children who should be enjoying life rather than taking one. “The Brady Handgun Law” provides hope for these children and their families.

For those who say “The Brady Law” is too costly to the American taxpayer, ask them what price they pay to ensure that their families would not have to endure what the families of Capitol Police Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and J. John Gibson have endured.

For those who say “The Brady Law” is too confining and restricts would-be gun owners; ask them what price would they pay to ensure that their families would not have to endure what the families of Capitol Police Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and J. John Gibson have endured.

In closing, I concur with Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) when he states, “We cannot allow the gun lobby to override those in law enforcement and endanger American families.”

We must continue to have a mandatory waiting period which allows local police departments throughout the country to conduct their own background checks. Currently, only 95% of these nation’s law enforcement officers use a system on a voluntary basis because we know the waiting period provision contained in the original “Brady Law” saves lives.

However, this November an amendment sponsored by the NRA, shall mark a change in “The Brady Law’s” waiting period. For those Lowell Police Department, this November shall also mark the hollow 20th anniversary of the last Lowell Police Officer killed in the line of duty. He too was killed by a handgun, while responding to an armed robbery at a pharmacy.

So, Mr. President, Members of Congress, on behalf of slain Lowell Police Officer Christos Korczynski, and my two fallen brothers from the Capitol Police, we urge you to support this legislation in order to extend “The Brady Law’s” waiting period.

Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

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WISCONSIN UNVEILING OF THE ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS POSTAGE STAMP

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. Speaker, on Friday, August 14th, the Wisconsin Donor Network, the Wisconsin State Fair, and the United States Postal Service will sponsor the Wisconsin unveiling of a U.S. postage stamp highlighting organ donation awareness. I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues the story of this unique partnership.

The Wisconsin Donor Network is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. The Network’s information materials and presentations to community and professional groups send a powerful message about the need for and effectiveness of organ donation, and its multicultural information programs address the distinctive transplant needs and donation concerns of metropolitan Milwaukee’s African American, Latino, and Asian communities.

Wisconsinites have answered the call for more organ donors, making an impressive commitment to give the gift of life. I am proud to note, compared to organ donation promotion efforts by similar organizations nationwide, the Wisconsin Donor Network ranked sixth in 1997, and fourth in 1996.

Our colleague, U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, of Ohio, proposed an organ and tissue donation stamp, in 1996. The Postal Service rose to the occasion and produced a beautiful and compelling design previewed last year at a Capitol Hill ceremony by then Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. I commend the Postal Service for its partnership in this important effort to raise our nation’s consciousness concerning the critical importance of organ and tissue donation.

The Wisconsin State Fair has also been a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Donor Network. The Network and tissue donation awareness booth at last year’s State Fair was overwhelmingly successful, reaching thousands of State Fair visitors, and the State Fair has welcomed the Wisconsin Donor Network back again this year. I can think of no better forum for the stamp’s Wisconsin unveiling than this year’s State Fair.

Mr. Speaker, the organ donation awareness postage stamp is a powerful symbol. It provides a daily reminder that a simple selfless act can make the difference between life and death for another person. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Wisconsin Donor Network, the Wisconsin State Fair, and Wisconsin donor families and transplant recipients, on the occasion of its issuance.

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IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL GARMON

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Mr. Paul L. Garmon, of Rockwall, Texas. Many Americans have served their country proudly wearing the numerous uniforms of our great armed forces, and more Americans continue to serve serving as civilians. One of these great Americans is retired Lieutenant Paul L. Garmon.

Last fall Mr. Garmon was honored as Fort Hood’s Honorary Retiree during its yearly Retiree Day activities in San Antonio, Texas. In his remarks at the retreat ceremony, Mr. Garmon reminded our nation that they have given to their country but reminded them that they can continue to serve by serving their community—through their local civic clubs, associations, churches and volunteer organizations.

Mr. Garmon also praised the modern-day army, “Today we have the best equipment that modern technology can produce,” he stated. “To man this equipment, we have the best educated, the healthiest, the most dedicated soldiers that we have ever had. We also have some of the greatest leaders among our general officers that we have had since World War II.” He paid tribute to three officers who had a great impact on his military career and his civilian life—Capt. Homer Kiefer (later Major General Kiefer), 2d Lt. Charles Brown (later Lt. General Brown), and Lt. William C. Westmorland (later General and Chief of Staff).

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and with respect for this great American, Paul Garmon, and let us conclude this session with Mr. Garmon’s closing prayer: “I pray that our nation will remain strong and free until the trumpets of the Lord shall sound and time on earth is no more. God bless all of you, and may God bless America.”

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A SALUTE TO MAJ. GEN. PAUL G. REHKAMP

HON. DAVID MINGE
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. MINGE, Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor Maj. Gen. Paul G. Rehkamp. Recently, General Rehkamp, of Marshall, Minnesota, retired from the Army Reserve after more than 35 years of service to our country.

In 1989, General Rehkamp assumed command of the 88th Army Reserve Command. He chose a new motto for the command: “The Right Place to soldier.” These words have followed the command ever since—and they also identify General Rehkamp's career.

While a part of the 88th ARCOM, General Rehkamp was Chief of Staff, and Deputy Commander, before becoming Commander in 1989. He was in command during key events that proved to be profound changes for the Army Reserve. He led units from the 88th Army Reserve Command as they were called to active duty for Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

For this, and other reasons, General Rehkamp's leadership shined through and allowed the 88th to survive downsizing of the Army Reserve.
After a successful tenure as Commander of the 88th in Minnesota, he moved on to the Pentagon. He was assigned to the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Mobilization and Reserve Affairs. In addition, General Rehkamp was named to the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB). The RFPB is represented by members of all of the uniformed services. Members of the RFPB are responsible for policy advising to the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to the reserve components. General Rehkamp was also a member of the Army Reserve Council. In that position he was advisor to the Chief, Army Reserve.

General Rehkamp’s faithful service to his country has been recognized on a number of occasions. During General Rehkamp’s career, he earned the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and numerous other commendations and awards.

In addition, during his civilian life, General Rehkamp served as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Airports Commission. As an at-large commissioner, it was General Rehkamp’s duty to advocate for all Minnesotans. Once again, he served Minnesota with great distinction.

General Rehkamp is the consummate citizen-soldier and has dedicated his career to soldiers and the defense of our great nation. We salute him in his retirement from a long and successful career and thank him for his contribution to maintaining the freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy.

WALLY MILLER EULOGY
HON. DAVID McINTOSH
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great remorse that I stand before you today to pay homage to a man who has worked to make a difference for the people of Indiana. Wally Miller was a man who to me epitomized that American dream and symbolized what our great country stands for. Wally Miller’s list of achievements and contributions to his community are overflowing due to his sincere determination to his God, family, friends, state, and country. He is a true citizen, philanthropist, and friend.

Wally Miller is a graduate of Purdue University and Ball State University. He spent the first ten years of his professional life working as an engineer in the industrial sector. In 1969, Wally began his work in the family health care business. He served as the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of Miller’s Merry Manor until 1989. Miller’s Merry Manor is Indiana’s largest independent operator of nursing homes with 32 facilities. Since 1989, Wally has spent much of his time working on behalf of the health care industry, and managing the family Property Company.

Wally Miller cared deeply about our children’s future. As a member of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Board, Wally has been a champion for the business community and has worked tirelessly to bring about real, meaningful, and comprehensive education reform in Indiana. Wally Miller has also served as a member of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute and he was a council member for the Boy Scouts of America.

Wally Miller is survived by his wife, June; children Beth Ingram, Aimee Riemen, Tom, Michael Miller, stepsons Ben, Andy Camp; mother Connie Conklin Miller; sisters Beverly Stevens, Barbara Miller, brother Richard, R. James Miller; and five grandchildren.

In closing, I can only begin to enumerate on Wally Miller’s long and distinguished list of contributions and achievements. To me what really makes a person truly great is the desire to help in the lives of the people around them. During his 61 years on earth, Wally Miller worked tirelessly toward this goal. For this reason, Wally we will miss you and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO GIBBY WALES
HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on April 12 and 13 of this year, American flags in the state of Michigan were lowered on all public facilities. Members of the RFPB are responsible for policy advising to the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to the reserve components. General Rehkamp was also a member of the Army Reserve Council. In that position he was advisor to the Chief, Army Reserve.

The efforts of MAP International represent the spirit of generosity of the American people; from the thousands of Americans who support the organization; to the fine American pharmaceutical companies who donate product for use among the poor; to the U.S. Government itself who assists many of the shipments with USAID funds. MAP has also cooperated with the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in responding to natural disasters here at home in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important occasion in the history of MAP International.

In honoring the memory of Gibby I feel there are a few things that I must call attention to, a few memories that, as I am sure, everyone who knew Gibby will agree with me on, must be mentioned. One of these was Gibby’s fascination with sports. Gibby was truly a sports fanatic. He seemed to enjoy it most, though, personally mentoring a child at his fine art of free throws or simply swapping the play of the day stories with friends and neighbors. I am inclined to believe that if Gibby gets his way in heaven, those Pearly Gates will open up into a basketball arena.

But Gibby was most renowned for his active role in local and state politics in Michigan. After he graduated from Stambaugh High School, he fought in World War II as a member of the Field Artillery. He then dabbled in local politics. But it wasn’t until he began working as a miner at M.A. Harrison Company in Stambaugh that his political career took off. Like many miners during that time, he was disappointed in the way his state representative was handling mining safety issues. Being a natural leader, Gibby decided to do something about it. He ran for a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives and was elected and reelected for five consecutive terms.

In 1990 I had the pleasure to personally consult with and work with Gibby on my own campaign. He was an active supporter of mine and he quickly became a good friend and mentor to me. On numerous occasions, I would seek advice from him on both a personal and professional basis. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have known such a wonderful individual and to be able to share with all of my colleagues my deep admiration for one of Michigan’s finest public servants. Although it is with a heavy heart that I give my condolences to his wife Verna, his children Wayne, Nancy, Peggy, and Sally, and his three sisters, it is with pride that I salute this outstanding citizen of our nation. Gilbert Wales will be missed.

ATTACKS ON U.S. EMBASSIES
HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we await news about the Americans and others killed and injured in the recent attacks on the United States Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, I know our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these men and women.

I have visited the embassy in Nairobi several times, and been to Tanzania as well. My humanitarian work has been hindered and endangered by the foreign service officers whose tireless efforts on behalf of our country often are overlooked.
The dedication of Americans who devote their lives to working to promote democracy and American values overseas never fails to impress me. Having visited our embassy in Nairobi just two months ago, I was again reminded by the caliber of the people who serve there—and struck by their dedication.

Our colleagues may not be aware of this, Mr. Speaker, but American support to the largest humanitarian airlift in history—large even than the Berlin Airlift 50 years ago—is being coordinated out of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

Two million people have died already in Sudan. A million more are threatened with starvation in the coming months. It is the worst famine I have seen since a million Ethiopians died a decade ago. Saving starving people is difficult, depressing, dirty work—and it could not be done without the support of the Americans who serve in Nairobi.

Our nation is diminished by the loss of these dedicated Americans, and we share their families' grief. America's embassies are bastions of hope in Africa, and we will not forget those who died today in service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JERRY WELLER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. WELLER, Mr. Speaker, today, according to the NFIB, one third of small business owners will have to sell outright or liquidate a portion of their firm or farm to pay estate taxes. Half of those who liquidate for this purpose have to eliminate 30 jobs or more. This is wrong, just plain wrong. With a $1.6 trillion dollar projected surplus and estate taxes accounting for one percent of annual revenues to the Treasury, the death tax is hardly justifiable in the face of devastation to families, their business and farms, the workers they employ or our nation's ability to compete in a global market.

If we want to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation, we must do more to address this critical issue than merely allowing the payment of death taxes over a few years. We must send a clear message to all Americans, that if they want to pursue the American Dream we will not punish their children, grandchildren or their employees at their death.

That is why I come to the well today to introduce the Family Business and Family Farm Preservation Act. My legislation says that your preservation act. My legislation says that your estate and job creation, we must do more to address our nation's ability to compete in a global market.

Mr. Speaker, as he is called, from his youth found music to be a consolation for the troubles of life and strove to bring gospel and blues to others as a gift of the spirit.

He started out singing spirituals in church playing in C natural, the first key he taught himself to perform in. There was no one willing to teach the young Walter Price how to play the piano. He had to overcome adversity and resistance from others to hone his skill to become the blues master that many of Houston's connoisseurs of the art appreciate.

His piano style is all his own, one that many musicians find difficult to follow. Walter Price began playing professionally in 1955, recording with Bob Tanner's TNT label out of San Antonio. This label was marketed to Hispanics and most of Mr. Tanner's artists recorded in Spanish. Bob Tanner signed Mr. Price in an effort to break into the ethnic record market, aimed at African Americans.

Walter's first recording with TNT was a novel tune called "Calling Margie." Which initially did very well in record sells until it suddenly stopped being played over the air. On the record Walter spoke to a white operator while trying to reach a girl named Margie. He used the word "honey" when referring to the operator which white southerners took offense to and the record was pulled from the air.

After World War II, the ethnic market was having huge successes, Walter Price recorded a string of successes with the TNT label before he was lured to Houston, Texas. He recorded for Don Robey at Duke/Peacock Records and it was there that his career developed with the million selling hit, "Shirley Jean."

Other songs Walter recorded at Duke/Peacock were "Gambling Woman," "Hello Maria," "You're the One I Need," "Just Looking For a Home," and "Pack, Fair and Square." Mr. Price went to Eddie Schuller at Gold Band Records on Lake Charles after Don Robey sold Duke/Peacock records. At Gold Band Records he recorded "San Antone," "Ramona" and "Here Comes the Bride."

Walter Price always loved gospel music, but his career was in blues.

Walter Price made Houston proud that he is one of our own. On behalf of the 18th Congressional District I would like to thank him for his contributions to blues.

CRUSADE FOR ESKIMOS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. Speaker, as he is called, from his youth found music to be a consolation for the troubles of life and strove to bring gospel and blues to others as a gift of the spirit.

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into the 21st Century equipped with the most modern and capable aircraft in the world. Bell’s commercial helicopters can be found all over the world, servicing offshore oil platforms, performing air medical rescues and carrying out humanitarian missions, and are known everywhere for their safety and reliability.

Committed to excellence in the U.S. aviation industry set by people like Webb Joiner, this country continues to be the world’s leader in aircraft. Under Webb Joiner’s leadership, those standards have remained especially high at Bell Helicopter and have kept this Texas-based company in first place in the international market.

The men and women who work at Bell Helicopter and those people around the world who operate Bell’s military and civilian aircraft join me in wishing Webb F. Joiner an active and enjoyable retirement. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to publicly recognize Webb Joiner. I want to congratulate him for his contributions to the American aviation industry and to American national security.

IN MEMORY OF MURPH WILSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a dear friend and wonderful American from Tyler, Texas—Mr. Murph Wilson, who passed from us on June 21, 1998.

Murph was born April 16, 1912, on land now called the Wilson Ranch near Overton, Texas, which his family owned for 150 years. Murph went on to earn his bachelor’s and law degree from the University of Texas in 1933. In that same year, Murph began a lifelong legal practice and a service to community. He was the founding member of the Wilson Law Firm now known as Wilson, Sheehy, Knowles, Robert son and Cornelius. In the legal arena, Murph was known for his expertise in many areas, particularly in mineral law. During his more than 50 years of active law practice, he was a member of the Texas State Bar and federal courts including the United States Supreme Court. He served the profession as a former president of the Smith County Bar Association and served for many years as a member of the Admissions Committee for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Murph was a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and he was honored in 1957 to receive the Justician Award from the Smith County Lawyer’s Auxiliary in recognition of his education and outstanding contributions in volunteer services to Tyler and Smith County.

A long and faithful member of Marvin Methodist Church, Murph served on numerous committees and as a former member of the administrative board. Being a man of strong faith, he will be remembered for the many lives he touched as teacher of the Chapel Sunday School Class for 22 years.

Murph Wilson was the mayor of the city of Tyler from 1947 and served on the City Commission. Further, in his community, in 1950 he was appointed to the board of the Tyler schools by the Tyler City Commission and was instrumental in the creation of the legal entity which is now Tyler Independent School District, serving 5 years on its board. He was president of the board when Lee High School was built.

Other services included trustee of the Stewart Blood Bank Foundation and a member of its board of directors for 9 years, a life director of the East Texas Hospital Foundation being its president in 1970, a charter member of the President of the East Texas Council on World Affairs. He also was a charter member of Sharon Temple in Tyler.

Accepting an appointment by Governor Buford Jess Sabine River Authority board of directors in 1949, Murph served for 7 years, during which time several well-known East Texas takes were designed and built. Later, he was instrumental in the arrangements for the construction of the present Lake Palestine by the Upper Neches River Authority.

As indicated by his record of service, Murph had an impressive political background. Over his career he served in varying capacities as key advisor, speech writer, and campaign manager for Lyndon Johnson, John Connally, Buford Hest and Ray Roberts.

In 1959, he was one of the organizers of Southside State Bank, serving 2 years as its initial president, 22 years as chairman of the board and then designated a lifetime appointment as chairman of the board, emeritus.

In 1938, Murph Wilson married the former Emily Hughes, who survives him along with one son and daughter-in-law, Maxie and Flora Wilson, and one grandson, Robert Hughes Wilson. He is also survived by one brother and sister-in-law, Walker and Winifred Wilson of Overton.

During his lifetime, Murph Wilson’s influence was felt throughout the community and across East Texas. Murph will be terribly missed. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late Murph Wilson.

DIGITAL MILLENNIUM COPYRIGHT ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. W. J. (BILLY) TAUZIN
OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. TAUZIN. Madam Speaker, today, we bring to the floor H.R. 2281, the WIPO Copyright Treaties Implementation Act. The Commerce Committee adopted amendments which addressed some of the very tough issues that had to be resolved despite passage of the bill by the Senate. The substance of these amendments were ultimately incorporated into the bill which we consider today.

Today, we take one more step toward final passage of legislation which will implement the WIPO treaties. It is indeed an historic moment. The United States is on the verge of setting the standard for the rest of the world to meet. Our content industries are the world’s finest, as well as one of this Nation’s leading export businesses. Our creative and intellectual property is recognized around the world as the envy of mankind’s greatest writers and thinkers.

By implementing the WIPO treaties this year, we can help to ensure that authors and their works will be protected from pirates who pilfer their way through cyberspace. As we rush to send a signal to the rest of the world, however, it is important that we not undermine our commitment to becoming an information nation—right here in the United States...inside our own borders.

The discussion generated by the Commerce Committee has been invaluable to finding the balance between copyright protection and the exchange of ideas in a world of ideas. The fundamental pillars upon which this nation was built. In our haste to produce legislation, we must not overlook the need to strike the correct balance between these two competing ideals. That is indeed the purpose of the legislative process—to debate, haggle, review and ultimately to hammer out what will be strong and lasting policy for the rest of the world to follow.

A free market place for ideas is critical to America. It means that any man, woman or child—free of charge!—can wander into any library and use the free materials in those libraries for free. He or she—again, free of charge!—can absorb the ideas and visions of mankind’s greatest writers and thinkers.

This bill contains an amendment that will protect fair use rights by means of a review by the Copyright Office at the time of registration. The amendment provided for an exception to the circulation provisions contained in the bill for legal encryption research and reverse engineering. In particular, these exceptions would ensure that companies and individuals engaged in work that is presently done behind closed doors and security testing and those who legally provide these services could continue to engage in these important and necessary activities which will strengthen our ability to keep our nation’s computer systems, digital networks and systems applications private, protected and secure.

Finally, I want to commend my colleagues, Dan Schaefer and Rick White for their efforts in reaching agreement on a provision which has been included in this bill to address the new use of the digital works this bill deals with. Under current law, it is difficult for webcasters and record companies to know their rights and responsibilities and to negotiate for licenses. This provision makes clear the rights of each party and sets up a statutory licensing program to avoid the need for piecemeal legislation. The international copyright treaty convention is a rare and infrequent event. We thus stand on the brink of implementing this most recent treaty—
the WIPO copyright treaty—knowing full well that it may be another 20 years before we can revisit this subject. From here, we go to conference with the Senate and then this bill will go to the White House for the President’s signature. Let’s make sure we strike the right balance. Copyright protection is important and must be balanced in such a way that we must remain faithful to our legacy, and our commitment to promoting the free exchange of ideas and thoughts. Digital technology should be embraced as a means to enrich and enlighten all of us.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH CENTER FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill offered this week to name the Central Intelligence Agency’s Headquarters after President George Herbert Walker Bush. Representative ROB PORTMAN, who served as Associate Counsel, Deputy Assistant, and Director of George H.W. Bush’s Office of Legislative Affairs under President Bush, introduced this legislation that pays homage to the only U.S. President that served as Director of the CIA.

President Bush devoted more than 50 years of his life to public service. His career began in the Navy. At the age of 18, he was the youngest pilot of his day. He served our country on active duty for 3 years during World War II. President Bush’s heroism was demonstrated on September 2, 1944, when anti-aircraft guns fired upon his plane during a bombing run over Japanese-held islands. Even after his plane had been hit and was on fire, President Bush finished his run before heading out to sea. For his courageous flying, President Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals.

Like many of his predecessors, President Bush led in the war on his time: George Washington led the Revolutionary War, Teddy Roosevelt in the Spanish American War, and Dwight Eisenhower demonstrated his leadership in World War II. For President Bush, though, it was the cold war.

President Bush also represented our great Nation in foreign affairs and served as a world leader in establishing international policies. Even though U.S. foreign intelligence activities were not officially coordinated on a Government-wide basis until after World War II, foreign intelligence activities began in the days of George Washington. Two hundred years later, in 1976, President Bush was appointed as the Director of the CIA. He shares with George Washington the unique distinction of having supervised our nation’s intelligence programs prior to being elected President. During his term as Director of the CIA, President Bush strengthened the national intelligence community and restored internal morale when there was public distrust of our Government.

The first responsibility of the President is to protect our national security from external threat. President Bush kept our families safe when serving as the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, and overseeing international affairs, including our intelligence operations.

For forty years, the external threats that were most ominous came from our cold war adversaries. Under President Bush’s leadership as both Vice President and President, communism collapsed, bringing about the end of the cold war. The cold war was a different kind of battle for this country; it was a battle of intelligence. President Bush’s knowledge and understanding of our opponents’ capabilities, acquired as head of the CIA, enabled him to successfully reduce the number of enemy warheads being produced. President Bush emphasized that intelligence remained a vital commodity in the post-Soviet world. Intelligence gathering protects the U.S. against terrorism and helps our policymakers understand emerging economic opportunities and challenges. The intelligence mission thrwarts those who would steal our technology or otherwise refuse to play by competitive rules.

President Bush pursued a foreign policy that ensured the security and economic prosperity of our country, as well as freedom and individual rights around the world. He had a proven track record of progress through lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with many countries, particularly with Asian countries. Although differences remained, President Bush was able to strengthen our alliances by successfully opening foreign markets to U.S. competition. In turn, his acts helped foster the continued growth of democracy and the strengthening of our alliances.

President Bush’s leadership proved critical to the resolution of some of the most daunting conflicts of our time. The CIA compound provides us an opportunity to honor our 41st President with a lasting tribute.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH CENTER FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full and complete support of the measure that would rename the C.I.A. headquarters after a man who has served this great nation tirelessly. To name the C.I.A. headquarters the George H.W. Bush Center is a high honor rightfully deserved by, fellow Texan, President Bush.

President Bush is a man of unblemished integrity. His leadership and commitment to the United States deserves any and all awards and accolades bestowed upon him. President Bush was charged with a sense of purpose to serve his country in every way. Not only was President Bush an important part of world policy, he also was a loving husband to his wife, Barbara Bush. President and Mrs. Bush are the proud and loving parents of six beautiful children.

Mr. Speaker, the young President Bush became the youngest person to become an aviator in the United States Navy during World War II. President Bush served on an illustrious military career where he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. President Bush also served our great Nation as a United States Representative for the 7th District of the great state of Texas, an Ambassador to the United Nations, and the Chief of the United States Liaison Office to the People's Republic of China. Throughout his career, President Bush continuously fought against terrorism and drug smuggling. President Bush was appointed to the position of Director of the C.I.A. on November 3, 1975, by President Gerald Ford. Upon his appointment, President Bush served the Agency with reverence and honor. President Bush has the unique distinction of being the only President to serve in this esteemed position. President Bush was an innovator during his stint as Director of the Nation’s premier intelligence organization. He helped draft strict orders aimed at preventing any violation of C.I.A. regulations. In addition, President Bush also drafted and developed similar federal and international laws.

On behalf of the 18th Congressional District, all Texans, myself, and the citizens of the United States of America I would like to commend and applaud a man whose tireless efforts and relentless pursuit to serve his country have provided many improvements for this country.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush brought a devotion to traditional American values and a determination to direct them toward making the United States a stronger and better nation. Coming with a tradition of public service, George Herbert Walker Bush felt the responsibility to make his contribution in both time of war and in peace. President Bush created strength and stability in the intelligence community and is widely credited with restoring the morale of the C.I.A. and I cannot see any better way to honor Mr. George Herbert Walker Bush than to place his name on C.I.A. headquarters.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my support for the Farr World Reform Act—H.R. 2183. This substitute advances the effort to reform campaign finance laws in the direction in which I believe we must ultimately go if we are going to restore credibility to the election process. The bipartisan support for Shays-Meehan is one reflection of the House’s deep desire for campaign finance reform. Last night’s victory illustrated the grassroots advocacy and public sentiment for limiting soft money contributions and transfers in federal campaigns before we adjourn. We owe these constituencies a debt of gratitude for not giving up on us. We owe it to ourselves to continue this fight by building on the reforms contained in Shays-Meehan.

Mr. Chairman, that’s why I support the Farr Substitute.
Mr. Chairman, the Farr Substitute sets a voluntary spending limit of $600,000 for each two-year election cycle. It also contains related limitations on large donors, political action committees and the use of personal funds. As important, the Farr Substitute provides candidates with direct, tangible public benefits. The 50% reduction in the candidate's and reduced postal rates proposed in this measure give office seekers a real incentive to voluntarily limit campaign spending.

Mr. Chairman, the Farr Substitute represents the next stage in campaign finance reform. My colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, join the gentleman from California and me in sending a resounding message of support for continuing and deepening the reform process by voting in favor of the Farr Substitute.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves towards consideration of this year’s foreign assistance appropriations, I would like to draw your attention to a highly successful international development program that benefits from federal funding dollars and which operates out of my district in Baltimore: Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

CRS is the official overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the United States. CRS assists persons on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality. Its first mission provided food and shelter for World War II refugees. In the 1960s, while continuing to respond to emergencies, the agency began to look for ways to help the poor overcome poverty, particularly in newly independent and developing countries. Emphasis shifted to the promotion of new farming techniques, loans for small business, and health and water projects.

The projects were designed to provide hope and dignity by allowing the poor to generate income from their labor. Since its inception, CRS has helped entrepreneurs participate in these programs to save an average of more than $250 per person. In countries where people live on $1 a day, this is the difference between surviving a crop failure, drought or flood or becoming a refugee in search of relief aid.

The Small Enterprise Development program is but one excellent example of the programs sponsored by CRS around the world with the help of our federal funding. I ask my colleagues to please remember CRS, its programs and its dedicated headquarters staff working in my district, when they vote on international development funding in the foreign operations spending bill in September.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE
OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, talk about “deja vu all over again.” I have been here many times before, speaking out on Campaign Finance Reform. By now, I hope all my colleagues believe that after all the hours of debate in the past several weeks that we have fully explored this issue in the House of Representatives.

My concerns with reforming the system remain as they were the previous times I stated my views. Our campaign financing laws need improvement, but I do not agree with taxpayer financing of campaigns nor limits on political speech. Increased disclosure will cure many ills in the system; and there are other reforms needed also.

During consideration of Campaign Finance Reform over the past several weeks, I have again required at least half of a federal candidate’s campaign funds be spent in the state in which he runs. I have voted to make individual’s contributions as important as those of political action committees. I have voted to make sure that only citizens vote and that only citizens can make campaign contributions. I have voted to ban soft money in federal campaigns. I have voted for increased and more timely disclosure of campaign contributions. I have voted to ensure that a wealthy candidate cannot use his personal funds to buy an election in a contest with a candidate with limited personal funds. And I have voted against any attempt to limit citizens’ right to political speech.

None of this is new to my constituents in Southern Arizona; I’ve made these same points numerous times.

In the final analysis, it is up to the integrity of the candidates and to the vigilance of our citizens to ensure fair and honest elections. No matter how many laws we pass, there is always a weak spot that can be exploited by those who will.

Today, I cast my vote both for the “freshman bill” and for the Doolittle bill because those two most closely reflect the changes I believe will improve our system. Neither is the total answer, but voting for the Shays-Meehan Bill goes against everything I believe in terms of preserving freedom of political speech. I may not like the fact that groups can “attack” me any more than I like having people burn the flag. But freedom to band together to criticize elected officials is a right that should not be taken away. The Supreme Court has already ruled on where the limits lie and I do not think we need to further limit speech. Nor can the advocates of Shays-Meehan expect the public to take seriously their effort when, in order to keep their coalition intact, they rejected all efforts to include in their reforms the largest single player on the political scene—labor unions.

In retrospect, we should probably look to creating a Commission with the powers given the Military Base Closing Commission. Since Congress has 535 “experts” in running campaigns, the Congress should create a Commission with the powers given the Military Base Closing Commission. Since Congress has 535 “experts” in running campaigns, the Congress should create a Commission with the powers given the Military Base Closing Commission. Since Congress has 535 “experts” in running campaigns, the Congress should create a Commission with the powers given the Military Base Closing Commission.
ranking Member, Mr. HINCHLEY, as well as the chairman and ranking member of the full Committee on Resources, for their help in bringing the bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1865 will provide permanent protection for about 18,000 acres of the San Isabel National Forest, including the two volcanic peaks known as the Spanish Peaks. There are many magnificent peaks in Colorado, of course, but these—the easternmost in the Rocky Mountains—are outstanding. The eastern slopes rise to 12,683 feet above sea level, while the summit of the western peak reaches 13,626 feet. The peaks can be seen for more than 75 miles. They were well known to Native Americans and were important landmarks for other early settlers as well as for travelers along the trail between Bent’s Old Fort on the Arkansas River and Taos, New Mexico.

So, it’s not surprising that the Spanish Peaks portion of the San Isabel National Forest was included in 1977 on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The area our bill will protect also has other outstanding resources and values, including a spectacular system of over 250 free-standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. These volcanic dikes form remarkable free-standing walls, up to 100 feet thick and 100 feet high, some extending for 14 miles. The area also includes winter range for bighorn mountain sheep and deer, and important habitat for elk, pine marten, and other species.

In all, it is a beautiful and unspoiled part of our Centennial State.

In the 1970’s, the Spanish Peaks were reviewed by the Forest Service in its “RARE II” review of roadless areas, and the Colorado designation considered including a wilderness designation for the area in the statewide national forest wilderness bill that was enacted in 1980. However, at that time there were concerns about the manageability of the area because of the non-federal inholdings. So, the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act instead provided for continued management of the Spanish Peaks as a wilderness area.

That same pattern was followed again in the most recent Colorado wilderness bill, which included provisions for long-term management of all the other wilderness study areas in our state’s national forests. But while the bill that passed the House in 1992 would have designated Spanish Peaks as wilderness, the Senate still had some lingering questions about the land-ownership pattern in the area.

So, once again, the final version of that bill included a requirement for continued interim management of the Spanish Peaks as a wilderness study area.

The committee bill included the Forest Service to report about the non-federal inholdings and the likelihood of acquisition of those holdings by the United States with the owners’ consent. We got that report in 1995. It indicated the wilderness study area included about 625 acres where the United States owned the surface but not the mineral rights, and some 440 acres more where the United States owned the surface but not the minerals.

Since then, United States has acquired most of the inholdings, by purchase from willing sellers—and we have drawn our boundaries so most of the rest are outside the wilderness. So, the way is now clear for Congress to finish the job of protecting this outstanding area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

That’s what this bill do, by adding the Spanish Peaks to the list of areas designated as wilderness by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. As a result, all the provisions of that Act—including the provisions related to waterways and roads to the Spanish Peaks area just as they do to the other areas on that list. Like all the areas now on that list, the Spanish Peaks area covered by this bill is a watersheds area, which for all practical purposes eliminates the possibility of water conflicts. There are no water diversions within the area.

The lands covered by this bill are not only striking for their beauty and value for primitive recreation, but also for their natural values. They fully merit—and need—the protection that will come from the enactment of H.R. 1865. We should all be proud that it has now passed the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give me a “no” vote on the rule before you. The rule is unworthy of a serious national legislature. The Congress has received a balanced consensus budget with a surplus no less from a local jurisdiction, the District of Columbia, containing only the city’s taxpayer-funded funds. Instead of minding its own national business and getting on with the mountain of work left for us to do, this bill has become an excuse for indulging the controversial social and financial whims of some Members of this body. That is unfair to you, it is unfair to me, and it is unfair to District residents. Defeat this rule, unless you are prepared to waste a lot more time in Washington on the smallest appropriation and the one least relevant to your constituencies.

I have the Administration’s Statement of Policy here. A litany of objections to this bill are listed by the Administration. Among them are three amendments which have been made in order, vouchers, the prohibition on adoption by married couples, and the prohibition on local funds for needle exchange, among others.

This rule reads like a who’s who of special interests. It nullifies a modest residency rule that the Control Board supports because the residency law strengthens the recovering District of Columbia economy. It puts this body through another vouchers fight not three months after the President has vetoed vouchers. It will make you vote on tricky social issues many Republican and Democratic Members would just as soon avoid.

Two provisions strike at the core of democracy. One gratuitously bars the use of local funds in cooperating with a pro bono voting rights lawsuit that hardly involves the city, anyway. The other defunds the advisory neighborhood commissions that get pitance amounts as elected neighborhood officials who attend to grassroots problems like assuring that parks and river banks do not accumulate trash or harbor crime. At the last minute, a Member got a bright idea, he decided that the District’s tobacco prohibitions might be strengthened but did not give me the courtesy of allowing me to ask the City Council to do it themselves.

When you vote on this rule, you will make a statement of where you stand on controversial social issues and where you stand on democracy and devolution. The D.C. appropriation is the place to take your stand on social legislation. The D.C. appropriation is the place to stand up for democracy. The way to do both is to defeat this rule.

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4380) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against reve nues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give me a “no” vote on the rule before you. The rule is unworthy of a serious national legislature. The Congress has received a balanced consensus budget with a surplus no less from a local jurisdiction, the District of Columbia, containing only the city’s taxpayer-funded funds. Instead of minding its own national business and getting on with the mountain of work left for us to do, this bill has become an excuse for indulging the controversial social and financial whims of some Members of this body. That is unfair to you, it is unfair to me, and it is unfair to District residents. Defeat this rule, unless you are prepared to waste a lot more time in Washington on the smallest appropriation and the one least relevant to your constituencies.

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Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, school vouchers are the original bad idea for the improvement of public education. We will hear from the other side that the establishment of school vouchers are the best way to reform and improve education.

This is basically what they are saying. If you provide 2,000 children the option to attend other schools, the remaining 75,000 will have their public education magically improved. The argument is like saying that the best way to improve health programs for everyone is to provide options for 3% of the population and by magic, the health care system will improve.

Public schools need our help and our criticism if it is appropriate. What we do not need is to have their resources taken away forever. There are people who like school vouchers because they want to take their kids out of public schools, not because they want to improve the schools, but because they don’t like public schools.

To avoid these provisions:

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To avoid these provisions:
have made America the great democratic nation that it is and which have made America the great economic power that it is.

Furthermore, if you want to experiment with these school vouchers, why don’t you do it at home? Why must we continue to use the District of Columbia as our pet laboratory for everything I don’t like back home. Leave such matters to the people of the District. They deserve better than to be told what to do and that their children are experimental subjects.

Defeat this bad idea.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the global persecution of individuals based on their sexual orientation. Yesterday, I chaired a briefing of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on this alarming situation. Mr. Speaker, I am especially grateful for the support and the participation of our distinguished colleagues, Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Congressman Barney Frank, Congressman William Delahunt, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

I initiated yesterday’s Caucus briefing because of alarming reports about the ongoing persecution of individuals based solely on their sexual orientation. These unacceptable violations of human rights have included arbitrary arrests, rape, torture, imprisonment, extortion and even execution.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday’s briefing was not a discussion of our own nation’s laws relating to homosexuality, transsexuality, or bisexuality. I have my own well-known views on this issue, which I have clearly stated a number of times in the last couple of weeks when the domestic legal implications of these issues have been considered by the House of Representatives. Other Members clearly have different views, and they have clearly stated those.

Whatever our views on our own domestic laws, Mr. Speaker, the Caucus and all Members of Congress should be standing together in decrying the persecution of individuals and the denial of human rights for any reason, including sexual orientation. The purpose of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing was to uphold the human rights that have been categorically denied all over the world to this persecuted minority.

If a government denies human rights to one group, then it is possible for that government to deny rights to any other group or every group. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people alone among all the world have been brutally punished both physically and mentally for exercising their fundamental human rights to freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of belief. Mr. Speaker, these violations fall squarely within the scope of international human rights law.

Nowhere have basic human rights been more comprehensively defined than in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and this year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historic document. Mr. Speaker, the Declaration guarantees the protection of human rights for everyone. This most assuredly does not mean so long as an individual shares our political views, our religion, the color of our skin, our sexual orientation or anything else.

The 1993 UN Human Rights Conference in Vienna stated it unequivocally by demanding: All Human Rights for All!

We heard exceptional testimony yesterday. The individuals who briefed the Caucus made statements that I wish officials would shoulder above the usual information that we receive at Caucus briefings. These outstanding witnesses were Cynthia Rothschild, Co-Chair of Amnesty International’s Members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns; Scott Long, Advocacy Coordinator of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; Regan E. Ralph, Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division, Human Rights Watch; and Serkan Altan, a brave young man who was subjected to extreme violence in Turkey because of his sexual orientation and who has now been granted asylum in the United States based on his homosexuality.

Mr. Speaker, these witnesses exposed the tragic fact that basic human rights are not applied everywhere and that they most certainly are not accorded to everyone. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that their statements be placed in the RECORD, and I urge that my colleagues give considerable attention to their striking remarks.

Cynthia Rothschild, Co-Chair, Amnesty International Members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

I am pleased to be with you today in this precedent-setting meeting. I’d like to thank Congressman Lantos and his staff for making this briefing possible, and I’d like to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to be here. I also want to acknowledge Serkan, who will share with us today his personal history as a survivor of human rights violations targeted because of his sexuality.

I am particularly glad to be able to contribute to a discussion on an urgent and often overlooked facet of international human rights law and activism—that dealing with human rights violations perpetrated because of sexual identity.

Documentation from around the world confirms that homosexuals, gay men and transgender people are killed, raped, assaulted, subjected to the death penalty, imprisoned, beaten, forced to undergo medical and psychiatric treatment designed to alter our sexuality, brutalized by other forms of torture and arbitrary deprivation of basic necessities because they are deemed to be part of our real “or perceived” sexual identity and behavior.

These abuses are often sanctioned by the state through legal decree, tacit acceptance (for instance, the refusal to investigate violations or to punish perpetrators) or through state actors (ranging from police to immigration, beheading, forced to undergo medical and psychiatric treatment designed to alter our sexuality, brutalized by other forms of torture and deprivation of basic necessities because they are deemed to be part of our real “or perceived” sexual identity and behavior.

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My argument here is quite simple—these abuses occur every day, they pose very real dangers to many people, they’re in violation of international law, they disrupt lives and sometimes take them—and they must be stopped.

In this presentation, I will offer an overview of human rights violations as they pertain to sexual identity and practice and I will delineate some of the more salient and compelling issues implied by these experiences. This information, as well as that included in Regan, Scott and Serkan’s presentations, is designed to be useful to you as human rights supporters and as concerned citizens.

Let me be very vague, let me first set context with a range of specific examples (and please note that I cite specific countries in these examples it should not be interpreted to mean that these violations don’t take place in many other nations/states).

The following information has been compiled and documented by Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch, the Magnus Hirschfeld Center for Human Rights and countless other local organizations.

Some of the more flagrant human rights violations, gay, bisexual and transgender people face include abuses in the following three general, and sometimes overlapping, categories: (1) rights to personal integrity, (2) freedom of association and expression, (3) discriminatory laws and discriminatory application of laws.

1. VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

A. Execution Codified by Law: Under Islamic “Sharia” law, homosexuality is seen as an offense against divine will and is punishable by death. This is true in nine countries, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Mauritania, and Iran. In the latter country, death can be administered by stoning or by burning. Even in Afghanistan, you may recall recent reports (carried in the New York Times) of men convicted of sodomy being placed next to standing walls and buried under rubble as the walls were toppled upon them. While intended as a form of execution, it is of interest to note that some people were not actually killed in this process—so having a wall collapse on a person becomes simply a form of torture instead of execution.

B. Extrajudicial Execution: Deliberate and unlawful killings by police (with the consent of the state): In Colombia, death squads—often consisting of off-duty police—have been known to target anyone gay, then congregate. As part of social cleansing efforts, victims of these death squads are gunned down in streets, or forcibly “disappeared.”

C. Other Forms of Torture and Degrading Treatment: In Saudi Arabia, male same-sex sexual behavior can be punished by flogging.

In a different but related note, Amnesty has noted that lesbians and gay men in the custody of government officials are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treated.

In the following information from an anonymous witness from Peru:

“In 1994, in Lima a very violent raid was carried out in the capital where about seventy-five lesbian women were beaten up and ill-treated by police. Prostitutes get a very rough time in jail. But the treatment of lesbians was even worse. Lesbians were beaten up because however degrading prostitution can be [perceived to be], it is still regarded as normal behaviour, whereas lesbianism is seen as too threatening to the status quo.”

[Alfredo Altan, a brave young man who was subjected to extreme violence in Turkey because of his perceived minority.]

My argument here is quite simple—these abuses occur every day, they pose very real dangers to many people, they’re in violation of international law, they disrupt lives and sometimes take them—and they must be stopped.

In this presentation, I will offer an overview of human rights violations as they pertain to sexual identity and practice and I will delineate some of the more salient and compelling issues implied by these experiences. This information, as well as that included in Regan, Scott and Serkan’s presentations, is designed to be useful to you as human rights supporters and as concerned citizens.

Let me be very vague, let me first set context with a range of specific examples (and please note that I cite specific countries in these examples it should not be interpreted to mean that these violations don’t take place in many other nations/states).

The following information has been compiled and documented by Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch, the Magnus Hirschfeld Center for Human Rights and countless other local organizations.

Some of the more flagrant human rights violations, gay, bisexual and transgender people face include abuses in the following three general, and sometimes overlapping, categories: (1) rights to personal integrity, (2) freedom of association and expression, (3) discriminatory laws and discriminatory application of laws.

1. VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

A. Execution Codified by Law: Under Islamic “Sharia” law, homosexuality is seen as an offense against divine will and is punishable by death. This is true in nine countries, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Mauritania, and Iran. In the latter country, death can be administered by stoning or by burning. Even in Afghanistan, you may recall recent reports (carried in the New York Times) of men convicted of sodomy being placed next to standing walls and buried under rubble as the walls were toppled upon them. While intended as a form of execution, it is of interest to note that some people were not actually killed in this process—so having a wall collapse on a person becomes simply a form of torture instead of execution.

B. Extrajudicial Execution: Deliberate and unlawful killings by police (with the consent of the state): In Colombia, death squads—often consisting of off-duty police—have been known to target anyone gay, then congregate. As part of social cleansing efforts, victims of these death squads are gunned down in streets, or forcibly “disappeared.”

C. Other Forms of Torture and Degrading Treatment: In Saudi Arabia, male same-sex sexual behavior can be punished by flogging.
New York City policemen while being held in a precinct. During the beating (in which a toilet plunger handle was shoved into Louima's rectum), police allegedly yelled "faggot!" as they kicked him in the attack. Other topics which fit into this category of abuses include:

- Forced psychiatric treatment to alter homosexuality.
- Rape and other sexual abuse.
- Arbitrary detention.

2. VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION

In Uganda: President Yoweri Museveni speaking to the press on July 22nd of this year. This year was an important one in African history: sometime ago I saw a rally of 300,000 homosexuals! If you have a rally of 20 homosexuals here, I would say it's one in a million!"

Abuse of "public decency" and "public scandal" laws: In China, homosexuality per se is not criminalized, yet gay men and lesbians are often arrested under charges of "hooliganism." In Romania, Article 200 is used to harass and imprison gay men and lesbians under "public scandal" laws. (Scott Long)

Other topics which would fit into this category of abuses include:

- Persecution of Human Rights Defenders;
- Prohibition of establishment of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work on issues of sexual orientation;
- Harassment of NGOs that do that work; and
- Abuse of surveillance laws.

3. DISCRIMINATORY LAWS OR DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF LAWS

In the United States, three states (Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas) have sodomy laws which target only same-sex sexual behavior—and in other states, facially neutral sodomy laws have been enforced for homosexual than heterosexual conduct.

In Austria and the United Kingdom, age of consent laws are higher for gay men than they are for heterosexual and lesbian couples.

Given the broad brushstroke citation of the range of violations we're talking about, I'd like to shift to the next main section of this presentation, in which I seek to name some of the more salient and complicated theories, 1995.

Not everyone we're talking about is "gay" per se. Many people are targets because of real or perceived sexual orientation. First, it is important to understand that many people who engage in same-sex sexual behavior do not necessarily claim the label of "lesbian" or "gay," nor can those terms be used to accurately describe same gender sexual conduct across regions and cultures. The sexual identities people claim often have little to do with how they are perceived.

Discrimination, labels and identities open up doors for arbitrary discrimination based on appearance. This discrimination could, and does, extend beyond law enforcement agencies to immigration officials. This is true both for women who appear "too masculine" or men who appear "too effeminate." A related point here is that sometimes it is the behavior itself which is deemed "deviant" and not, in fact, the appearance of the person engaging in it.

Effects include asylum claims being denied, rape in detention and cases of violence being ignored by police and governments.

Gender play a primary role in the enactment of human rights violations. Women often face different and additional obstacles due to sexist proscribed roles within a given society, including police treatment and discrimination, and due to the invisibility of women's sexual lives.

Women and men often have different legal and de facto access to public space, particularly since in many countries women are restricted by family and societal discrimination and violence by police or immigration officials. This is important to note that people who engage in sodomy or "public scandal" laws—in effect, their sexual expression is more "public" and more apt to be scrutinized by the state in particular ways. Sodomy laws have been used in China, Chile, Ghana and India, among other nations, to target only male same-sex sexual behavior.

While sodomy laws protect lesbians from persecution under these laws, in truth, it is clear that this is far from the case. Women are often harassed under these and other laws, are subjected to rape, sexual abuse and forced pregnancy, and ultimately suffer from sexism as well as homophobia in any given society. Sodomy laws are culture to culture, and within the U.S., from state to state. There are no fixed definitions of sodomy, no standard understandings of what it means to commit it. Sodomy laws mean that sometimes it is the behavior itself that would disperse it.''

In 1992 a lonely 17-year old placed a personals ad in a Romanian newspaper, looking for a lover. The ad was answered by a 21-year old; they met, and they fell in love. They were both men. They were reported to the police as homosexuals by the 17-year old's sister. They were both arrested and charged with "sexual relations with persons of the same sex." They were both held in prison for three months, pending trial. There they were raped, repeatedly, by inmates with the encouragement of the guards. They were finally freed, partly because of pressure from Amnesty International. But the older of the two, traumatized by what had happened to him, committed suicide.

In 1995 Mariana Cetiner, a woman living in a rural Romanian town, was arrested for asking another woman to have sex with her—which is legal in Romania. The other woman had reported her to the police. Mariana was sentenced to three years in prison for this crime. I interviewed Mariana in prison. She had enormous bruises; she had been physically and sexually abused by the guards. The prison doctor told us, "After all, she is different from other women. You can hardly expect the guards to treat her as if she were normal.

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Given the extent of human rights violations perpetrated because of sexual orientation, identity and conduct, the dialogue about this set of issues must become more prominent in human rights and law-making circles. Those working in NGO circles will work alongside us as we all face those who use laws and policies to criminalize, persecute and harass both victim and perpetrator, in order to make both visible and bearable to society.

This, after all, and at its core, is a matter of principle. As I've written in a paper in which all people recognize that human rights protections are indivisible and afforded to all people, we must work toward providing protection not only for those who are vulnerable to violence, but also for those who are vulnerable to sexual-based human rights violations. We must argue together that human rights violations enacted because of sexual orientation, identity and conduct are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, for inviting us to testify today.

I want to begin by telling three anecdotes from Romania—because I know them, and the people in them, well. In 1997 two 18 year old youths—boys were picked up by the police in Iasi, in Romania, and held in a police station, each other at night in a park. They were taken to a local police station and beaten, nonstop, for four hours. They were knocked out; they were knocked unconscious, and they were forced to clean out the police toilets and urinals with their bare hands. They are now free, but facing trial and five years in prison, the so-called "sexual perversion."
law because of their sexual orientation is wrong. In most countries in the world, two heterosexuals kissing in a park would not be sent to jail; a seventeen-year-old boy who fell in love with a girl would not be sentenced to a hell of rape and abuse in prison for it; and one heterosexual who simply asked another to have sex would not serve a three-year penitentiary term for it, as Ms. Altan believes, in Washington, D.C. To impose these punishments on comparable acts simply because they are committed by people of the same sex is wrong.

This principle of equality has been affirmed, as Ms. Ralph noted, by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which has made a landmark decision—Toonen v. Australia, in 1994—held that no state can allot discriminatory enjoyment of any right in the international area of human rights. LGBT Rights because of someone's sexual orienta-

This means that the Romanian legislation which permits the arrests I've just described, and imposes those punishments, stands in violation of international law. And so do similar laws wherever they are in force.

Yet this decision has a further and important ramification. In gauging the situation of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people, one is not enough to look at whether that country has so-called “sodomy laws,” or whether they are enforced. One must look at how that country's laws, and its customs, practices, and traditions, undermine or nullify the other basic rights of gays and lesbians. Do they enjoy the right to speak freely? To move about in the street freely? To gather together, to organize in a group? Can they hold jobs, can they survive economically, while being open and honest about themselves? Will the police and the state defend them against those that are_set against them? Can they vote, or be excluded? Can they want to refer back to Mr. Altan's testimony about Turkey: a country in which homosexual

ity is nominally legal, but in which there is in fact a culture of continual abuse toward sexual difference, enabled and reinforced by a culture of impunity. In many countries around the globe, police and officials harass gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people in constant, intrusive, and degrading ways. In Italy, in Albania, in Cuba, police raid gay bars and discotheques, check out addresses, and ostensibly just write down their names and addresses. In Thailand, the Ministry of Education tries to ban gay men from becoming teachers; in Bulgaria, gay and lesbian groups have threatened, punished, or closed down in Greece, in Russia, in Hungary. In Zimbabwe, where there is a tiny and beleaguered organization called Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, President Robert Mugabe has campaigned for years to eliminate that group and erase all traces of homosexual identity from his society—calling them the “Menaces of the Menaces,” “worse than dogs, and pigs,” and stating repeatedly that “homosexuals have no rights whatever.” What has been the result? Last month, Keith Goddard, a twenty-year-old gay and lesbian group went to the police to report a man who had been blackmailing him with false allegations. In a case that perfectly evi-

dences what Mr. Rahman has said about the denial of protection to gays and lesbians, when Mr. Goddard admitted to the police that he was homosexual, the police immediately arrested him. He now faces up to seven years in prison.

And why has the President of Zimbabwe devoted years to vilifying gays and lesbians? Who is to blame for this country's eco-

ic and social ills? Because he needed a scapegoat. As he flailed for support for his own corrupt and decaying regime, nothing was easier than to incite hatred against people who were, fortuitously, both invisible—unable to speak for themselves—and universally despised. This demonization of the different is familiar to us, or should be, from Nazi Germany. Gays and lesbians worldwide now seem to serve as a new, favorite victim of the power of human rights in our century, of a discourse, I believe, that it counters this demonization. Human rights

quries no sco-

ical labs, and it accepts no exceptions to the rule. If people cannot be
digned out: that no quality basic to a human being, be it her religious belief, the color of her skin, her ethnicity or sex or her sexual orientation, be used as a pretext to deny her the rights which should be enjoyed equally by all. Today, Mr. Chairman, members of the Cau-

cus, we ask you to join us. Let us insist togeth-

er.

In the United States Government work for an end to discrimination, persecution, and abuse based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status, around the globe.

In the United States Department spe-

cifically monitor sexual orientation as a cat-

ey in its yearly review of countries' human rights records.

In fact, the United States government has repeatedly refused to provide accurate information about violations of human rights around the world, including those against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.
But the rights of women remain under siege, particularly in the area of extending dignity and autonomy to them in their sexual lives. Here we come to another test of the universal nature of human rights because women—and men—also are subject to violence, coercion, and discrimination that is targeted at their real or perceived sexual orientation or identity. In countries throughout the world, lesbians and gay men are subject to discriminatory legislation, violent treatment, and persecution by police and other authorities.

Again the ugly argument that some groups are not actually entitled to enjoy their basic rights rears its head. But this argument is as wrong about sexual orientation as it was about women.

On the contrary international human rights law prohibits state-sponsored and state-tolerated violence and discrimination against individuals that attacks their sexual identity, sexual orientation or private sexual practices. The most basic human rights guarantees found in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—the right to life, liberty and security of the person, the rights to freedom of expression and association; the right to a fair trial; the right to freedom from arbitrary detention; the right to privacy, and the prohibition against discrimination—extend to all individuals regardless of their status.

In fact, the law condemns the denial of fundamental liberties to persons on the basis of qualities inherent to their individuality. These include, for example, religion, colour, sex, national origin, birth, political opinion, and other status. Sexual orientation, too, is such a quality, a deeply rooted and profoundly felt element of selfhood.

You have heard cases of the gross abuses perpetrated on gays and lesbians by individuals because of their real or perceived sexual orientation. Add to those the fact that many countries, including Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe, criminalize consensual sex between same-sex adults. In China, lesbians and gays have been harassed by police, jailed, and fined. In different countries, gay and lesbian organizations and activities are targeted with violence and harassment that has forced them to close their doors or end their activities.

At the same time, the principle of universality is being upheld. Flagrant violations of human rights, including sexual orientation and identity, both the national and international levels. South Africa's new constitution, for example, specifically prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. International human rights bodies have also declared discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or identity to violate human rights.

The European Court of Justice ruled last year that a transsexual whose breast implants were removed because she looked and acted like a girl, with things got worse when Rock Hudson had AIDS. Then my nickname became "AIDS". Still I had no idea what it meant to be homosexual.

Everywhere I went, I was followed, taunted, and insulted. The worst is when kids who would try to beat me up. I didn't fight back, instead I kept my distance from them. Even though I sat quietly in the corner, my hair was pulled, my head was kicked, my private parts were pinched. Some threw balls and objects at me. Some pushed me and tried to make me fall. There was almost no day for me to live my childhood with joy.

As the years passed by, I accepted the abuse. I knew I was going to hit and insult me, but I took it.

When I was 16, the head of the class forced me to be naked. She was known as one of the strongest girls in the school. Then he told every detail to everybody. While he became a hero, I was emotionally and physically abused. I was called a "man with no dignity," and "disgusting queer." Some spit on my food, and I was left alone in one corner.

Every time I tried to pick up something from the floor, I felt pencils, fingers trying to penetrate me. Things got worse and worse.

The school bathrooms were a place for the boys to gather and smoke and I was scared to go there. I had heard that other homosexuals had tied up their penises so that they did not have to go to the bathroom, so I tried to do the same. The walls and the doors of the bathroom were full with my name and telephone number. At night, I would try to wash it off and my hands would hurt.

Meanwhile, I was llamined as a "faggot". I only knew one particular picture of a transsexual whose breast implants were beaten out, covered all over with blood for the torture.

I knew what would happen to me if I admitted my homosexuality. I put books on my head so I could not look like a sissy. I cried day and night, I prayed day and night so that they would stop abusing me.

There were so many incidents that caused me a lot of pain. I started to cut my arm with a bread knife in the shower. I tried to check the skin.

In the school, many teachers including the president of the school knew exactly what was going on. But the president invited me to help him and asked me if I was mentally ill. She implied I was homosexual. I kicked, beaten, slapped in the face and insulted by her many times.

I prayed. I was the only one who openly prayed five times a day like Muslims do. While I was praying, I was kicked and just like me, gays in Turkey are raped often by the police and the society. The police arrest gays, beat them up with metal covered truncheons and torture them. The Turkish government approves of the torture and doesn't allow us to speak out. Gays are in fear all the time.

When I was 18, I came to the United States as a student. I started to realize what happened to me and what is happening to the others and is not supposed to happen. So I came to the point when I said, "The hell with culture, the hell with tradition."

I became an activist. The anti-terror law in Turkey says, "anyone who speaks against the country in or out of the country can be arrested by knowing that most writers, journalists, and human rights activists are imprisoned in Turkey, I decided to apply for a political asylum in the U.S. based on my homosexuality. Last year I was granted political asylum.

While seeking asylum, I researched and found a lot of information about the persecution of gay people in Turkey.

In 1989, during a police raid on the houses of homosexuals, a 17-year-old gay boy committed suicide by jumping from a sixth floor balcony in order not to be tortured by the police chief who had tortured him before.

A Turkish gay, Ibrahim Ceren, gave a press conference in 1990 and he said that he had heard that other homosexuals had tried to commit suicide. The police chief then threatened them that if they committed suicide they would be tortured even more. The Turkish government meanwhile does a great job of denying and covering up all this torture.

I tell the Turkish government that it is not OK to attack, torture, and kill anyone just because they are gay.